

The Sabbath Watchman

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2021

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Introduction

Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart. Psalm 119:34.

In the new birth the heart is brought into harmony with God, as it is brought into accord with His law. When this mighty change has taken place in the sinner, he has passed from death unto life, from sin unto holiness, from transgression and rebellion to obedience and loyalty....

Erroneous theories of sanctification, ... springing from neglect or rejection of the divine law, have a prominent place in the religious movements of the day. These theories are both false in doctrine and dangerous in practical results; and the fact that they are so generally finding favor, renders it doubly essential that all have a clear understanding of what the Scriptures teach upon this point.

True sanctification is a Bible doctrine. The apostle Paul, in his letter to the Thessalonian church, declares: "This is the will of God, even your sanctification." And he prays: "The very God of peace sanctify you wholly" (1 Thessalonians 4:3; 5:23). The Bible clearly teaches what sanctification is and how it is to be attained. The Saviour prayed for His disciples: "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth" (John 17:17, 19). And Paul teaches that believers are to be "sanctified by the Holy Ghost" (Romans 15:16). What is the work of the Holy Spirit? Jesus told His disciples: "When he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth" (John 16:13). And the psalmist says: "Thy law is the truth." By the Word and the Spirit of God are opened to men the great principles of righteousness embodied in His law. And since the law of God is "holy, and just, and good," a transcript of the divine perfection, it follows that a character formed by obedience to that law will be holy. Christ is a perfect example of such a character. He says: "I have kept my Father's commandments." "I do always those things that please him" (John 15:10; 8:29). The followers of Christ are to become like Him—by the grace of God to form characters in harmony with the principles of His holy law. This is Bible sanctification. This work can be accomplished only through faith in Christ, by the power of the indwelling Spirit of God. —*Maranatha*, 231

Ellen G. White.

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Beacon of hope, faith, and truth in a confused world.

We believe:

- The all-wise, loving God created all things in the universe by His Son, Jesus Christ; He is its Owner and Sustainer.
- He met the challenge to His loving leadership and authority by reconciling the world to Himself through the life, death, and resurrection of His Son, the Word made flesh.
- The Holy Spirit, Jesus' representative on earth, convicts of sin, guides into truth, and, when abiding in man, overcomes all unrighteousness.
- The Bible is the record of God's dealings with mankind and the standard of all doctrine; the Ten Commandments are the transcript of His character and the foundation of all enduring reform.
- His people, in harmony with God's Word and under the direction of the Holy Spirit, call all men everywhere to be reconciled to God through faith in Jesus.
- Bible prophecy reveals that earth's history will soon close with the visible return of Jesus Christ as King to claim all who have accepted Him as the world's only Redeemer and their Lord.

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The Sabbath
Watchman



“Consider it in thine heart”

Deuteronomy 4:39

By Tzvetan Petkov

Israel was facing the culminating event of its ancient history, it was about to enter the promised land. Behind were the 40 years of wilderness wandering and centuries under Egyptian rule. All hearts yearned for their own home and the peace in the land that had been promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, where “milk and honey flowed”, the land of blessings that was to be the reward of Israel. But all could not enter this land. A whole generation perished in the desert, due to its unbelief. “For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard [it]...” Hebrew 4:2.

Even Moses, the friend of God, the only one who had spoken face to face with the Lord, was not allowed to enter Canaan. He could leave Egypt, cross the Red Sea and guide the people for a long time across the desert and up to the border of the Promised Land, which he could contemplate from Mount Pisga. When he was in the eastern part of the Jordan, he wrote Deuteronomy 4:39. “Know therefore this day, and consider [it] in thine heart, that the Lord he [is] God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath: [there is] none else.” This message touches us in a special way because as The People of God in the time of the end, we are before the gates of our eternal home: the heavenly Canaan.

“Know therefore, and consider in thine heart”

The first thing the Lord wishes is that His people of the end-time has the knowledge of the truth. Exactly, when “there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if [it were] possible, they shall deceive the very elect.” Matthew 24: 24, the Lord needs a people that remains firm and that like a light in the darkness illuminates the way towards heaven.

“The prevailing spirit of our time is one of infidelity and apostasy—a spirit of avowed illumination because of a knowledge of truth, but in reality of the blindest presumption. Human theories are exalted and placed where God and His law should be. Satan tempts men and women to disobey, with the promise that in disobedience they will find liberty and freedom that will make them as gods. There is seen a spirit of opposition to the plain word of God, of idolatrous exaltation of human wisdom above divine revelation. Men have allowed their minds to become so darkened and confused by conformity to worldly customs

and influences that they seem to have lost all power to discriminate between light and darkness, truth and error. So far have they departed from the right way that they hold the opinions of a few philosophers, so-called, to be more trustworthy than the truths of the Bible.” —*Patriarchs and Kings*, p. 178.

The influence of the world and the fallen churches is felt more and more in our ranks. The enemy uses all his forces to destroy the unit of our family and our church. He tries by means of false doctrines and the compromise of the truth, to confuse the clear difference that exists between holy and profane, good and evil, light and darkness.

Only if we receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit, can we be protected from error. Only by the means of a daily communion with God and the deep study of His Word can we keep a clear spiritual vision and be able to show the way to others. Exactly in our days, God hopes that His people will make serious decisions and remain firm only in the truth. Each point of our convictions of faith must be deeply founded on the word of God. The source of all wisdom offers us, “My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee; so that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, [and] apply thine heart to understanding; yea, if thou criest after knowledge, [and] liftest up thy voice for understanding; If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as [for] hid treasures; then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God.” Proverbs 2:1-5.

Moses said, "Know... consider in thy heart." This knowledge must not be only intellectual, but it must be part of our life. It is not enough to be in agreement with the theory of the truth, to confess our faith in Christ and to be registered in the books of the church. "And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us." 1 John 3:24. "And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments." 1 John 2:3.

This is the guarantee of true conversion, "This is the genuine evidence of conversion. Whatever our profession, it amounts to nothing unless Christ is revealed in works of righteousness." –Christ's Object, Lessons, p. 129. "The cause of God in the earth today is in need of living representatives of Bible truth." –*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 158.

Do you also want to live this experience? Are you thirsty and hungry for the knowledge of God? God is love and He gives this experience to each one that comes to Him, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." Matthew 7:7. Even if a mother can forget her children, the Saviour never forgets His. He is our protection and shelter, our strength, our justice, our High Priest, the Lamb sacrificed for our sins. He has prepared us dwellings in the heavenly Jerusalem, where we will live together in eternity. Trust in Him and bring Him your worries and weaknesses in prayer to Him.

"The Lord he [is] God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath: [there is] none else"

Moses reveals another thing and exclaims: "Know therefore this day, and consider [it] in thine heart, that the Lord he [is] God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath: [there is] none else." He declares God is not only in heaven but also on the earth. The psalmist rejoices: "Unto thee, O God, do we give thanks, [unto thee] do we give thanks: for [that] thy name is near thy wondrous works declare." Psalm 75:1. Jeremiah warned, "Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not

see him? saith the Lord. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the Lord." Jeremiah 23:24.

If we think that God is in the earth, we will respect His authority and be obedient to Him. Jesus does not mention anything in vain in His prayer, "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as [it is] in heaven." Matthew 6:10. But the danger of idolatry lay in wait for the people of God at all times. The influence of other nations was a temptation for the heart of the Israelites of old. Often, God had to call for a reform to conserve the purity of the faith and the true knowledge of God. In spite of it, the Israelites always turned aside from the straight path. Which is our situation nowadays? The First Angel, in Revelation 14:7 calls with a loud voice: "Fear God and give him glory..."

One of man's favorite idols of all times has been Self. Egocentrism is so deeply rooted in our nature that we practically do not express any thought, word or desire that does not have the seal of our own interests. Consciously or unconsciously, our ego dominates our heart and its ambition robs Jesus of the place that He wishes to occupy in it. Self was what led a perfect angel, Lucifer to rebellion.

"... I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God... I will be like the most High." Isaiah 14:12, 14. "Though all his glory was from God, this mighty angel came to regard it as pertaining to himself. Not content with his position, though honored above the heavenly host, he ventured to covet homage due alone to the Creator. Instead of seeking to make God supreme in the affections and allegiance of all created beings, it was his endeavor to secure their service and loyalty to himself." –Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 35.

The continuous satisfaction of our ego leads to an ever deeper deformation of our character. Vanity, avarice, pride, envy, jealousy, cruelty and many other things, are the fruits of this satanic force. Many people who have let themselves be guided by their feelings of greed long enough undergo depression and psychological disturbances. For that reason, Jesus said to his disciples, "Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any [man] will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." Matthew 16:24.

Several are the ways in which the evildoer deceives the believers. For some, material things, such as the house, the car, fashion or amusements are a temptation. Especially dangerous for us Christians and professed Adventist Reformers is the so called "religious self." A temptation of our sinful nature, is to hide ourselves behind the ceremonial of religious services or a series of good works, to be imbued with a kind of righteousness that does not lead us to overcome sin, but that looks for its own honor and glory. He who has a spirit that sees all others as guilty and considers only himself to be righteous, has an attitude that is just another form of idolatry.

There is no hope to improve or to cultivate our ego. God gives only one solution: our ego must die and a new creature must be born. "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." Romans 6:3, 4.

Once Christ was crucified and died, the Roman soldiers came to verify if he was still alive. "But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs: But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water. And he that saw [it] bare record, and his record is true: and he knoweth

that he saith true, that ye might believe." John 19:33-35. The apostle Paul uses the death of our Redeemer to illustrate the death of our old man. The sharp spear pierced His side, but He did not feel anything. Only the water and blood gave testimony, as symbols of the cleansing of forgiveness and the truth of His sacrifice.

It would be interesting to see what would happen if one tried to hurt our ego with words and actions as sharp as spears. Would blood and water come out as a testimony of self's death or ugly and aggressive answers that testify that self is still alive and rules our heart and our behavior?

Those who worshiped Moloc, offered their children in the burning copper hands of this god. Surely, we get angry and say: How is it possible? But, is it not possible that we also sacrifice our brothers in the faith in the fire of selfishness, envy or ambition? How many disappointed and hurt souls do not attend the church any longer due to the bad example they have seen in us? Separation and rebellion are natural consequences of the glorification of Self.

The apostle Paul tells his experience, "I die daily" 1 Corinthians 15:31. "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." Galatians 2:20. Is it not wonderful to have a Saviour who can set us free from the tyranny of our ego? Jesus Christ "who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption" 1 Corinthians 1:30, will bring heavenly peace to your heart. He will heal your wounds. He will dissipate your offenses and bitterness. Don't you want to be a new creature? "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." Matthew 7:7. The love of money and wealth is nothing else but dangerous idolatry. "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon." Matthew 6:24.

The apostle Paul warns his friend and disciple Timothy, "But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and [into] many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But thou, O man of God, flee these things..." 1 Timothy 6:9.

Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve apostles, betrayed his Teacher because he had given part of his heart to avarice. Balaam, the prophet of God, could not overcome the temptation of the temporary wealth that was offered to him. His understanding was so darkened that not even the fact that his donkey spoke made him come back to himself. Finally, he preferred what was temporary to the unperishable wealth of God. Avarice is a disease that attacks the rich as well as the poor. The third temptation of Jesus in the desert, tested Him exactly in this aspect. Our Redeemer, who gave His life for us, wants each child of God to have sufficient means, not only for himself and his family, but also to help others. As God's property, we have that privilege. We can count on the promise, "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that [there shall] not [be room] enough [to receive it]. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts." Malachi 3:10, 11. Who can

be rich without Mammon taking hold of his heart? Only with the help of the Holy Spirit and a daily surrendering shall we be able to overcome this hard test. The Lord offers us a far more valuable wealth, "But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal." Matthew 6:20. Do you want to receive the reward of an unperishable treasure? Do you want the Lord to take possession of your heart and set you free from avarice? "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." Matthew 7:7. Moses remembered that, "the Lord he [is] God ... [there is] none else." (Deut. 4:35) The Apostle Paul states that some had chosen their belly as their god, "Whose end [is] destruction, whose God [is their] belly, and [whose] glory [is] in their shame, who mind earthly things." Philippians 3:19. The first test that our Saviour had to overcome, before beginning his mission as a man, was related to the appetite. "With Christ, as with the holy pair in Eden, appetite was the ground of the first great temptation. Just where the ruin began, the work of our redemption must begin. As by the indulgence of appetite Adam fell, so by the denial of appetite Christ must overcome." –*The Desire of Ages*, p. 117. The famous philosopher and Italian poet Leopardi (1798-1837), had a passion for the ice cream that the restaurant near his house prepared. This passion developed in such a way that every day he ate kilos of ice cream. After some years, his physician, said to him: 'Mr. Leopardi, you must give up eating ice cream because you are seriously ill. If you do not do it, your liver will be destroyed.' Leopardi's answer was, 'I prefer to die before depriving myself of this pleasure.' The case of this man is not the only one in the history of humanity. During its pilgrimage on the desert, Israel also had to fight against its idols. Many people who cannot let their desires dominate them, rebel or look for excuses. "Every true Christian will have control of his appetites and passions. Unless he is free from the bondage of appetite, he cannot be a true, obedient servant of Christ. The indulgence of appetite and passion blunts the effect of truth upon the heart." –*Counsels on Diet and Food*, p. 427.

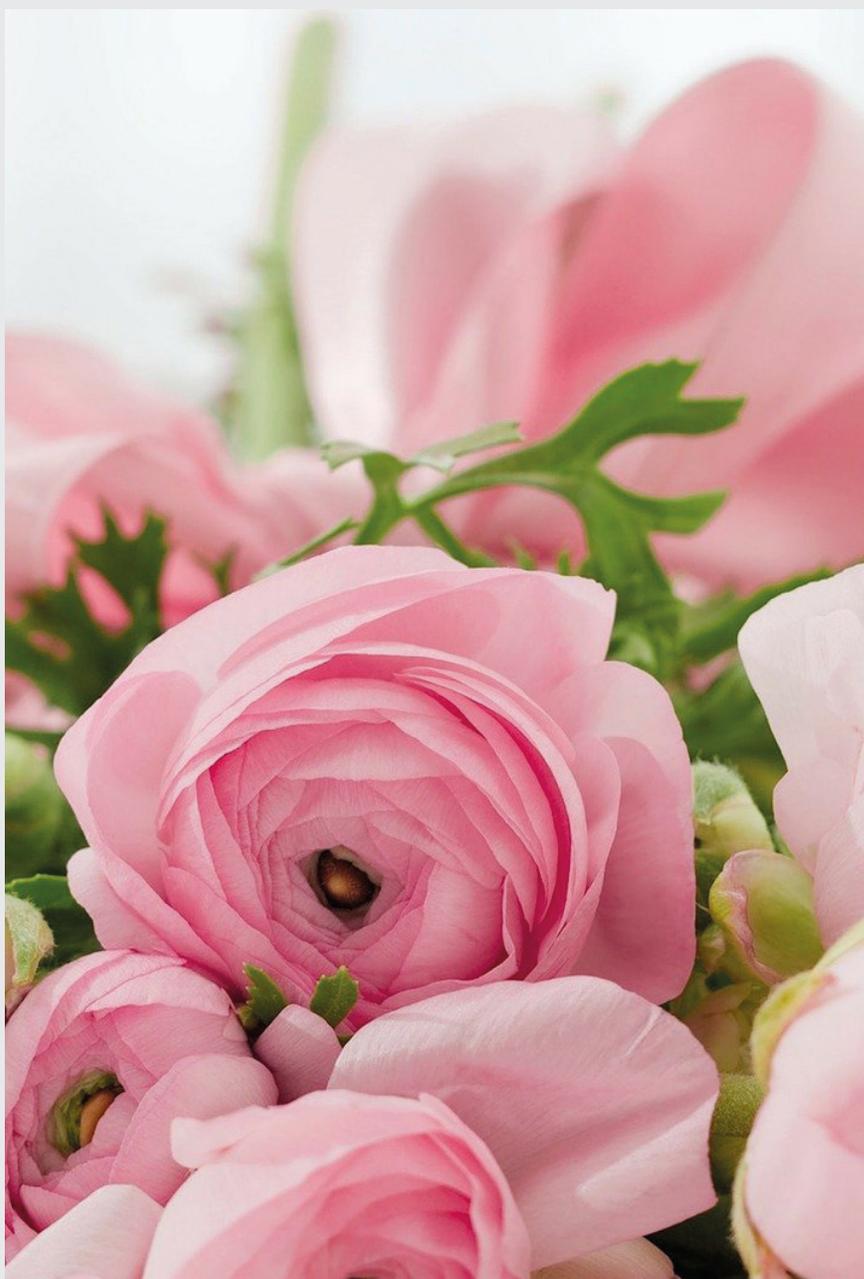
“The health reform, I was shown, is a part of the Third Angel’s message, and is just as closely connected with it as are the arm and hand with the human body. I saw that we as a people must make an advance move in this great work. Ministers and people must act in concert. God’s people are not prepared for the Loud Cry of the Third Angel. They have a work to do for themselves which they should not leave for God to do for them. He has left this work for them to do. It is an individual work; one cannot do it for another. ‘Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.’ Gluttony is the prevailing sin of this age.” –*Counsels on Diet and Foods*, p. 32. “Let the members of our churches deny every selfish appetite. Every penny expended for tea, coffee, and flesh meat is worse than wasted; for these things hinder the best development of the physical, mental, and spiritual powers.” –*Counsels on Diet and Food*, p. 402. When God takes the direction of our heart, He will also have our appetite, self and avarice under his control. The love of our Saviour leads us to obey Him with joy. Do we love our Saviour with all our heart, with all our strength and understanding or do we deceive ourselves?

The dangers of the gods we meet daily on our way are many. Nevertheless, the solution is not to concentrate the attention on our weaknesses, but in in the healing power that only comes from Jesus Christ. God said to Joshua, “This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.” Joshua 1: 8. Our eyes, thoughts and words do not have to concentrate on evil, but on what is holy. This food will give us strength to face the influence of the enemy. “Hence it is Satan’s constant effort to keep the attention diverted from the Saviour and thus prevent the union and communion of the soul with Christ. The pleasures of the world, life’s cares, perplexities and sorrows, the faults of others, or your own faults and imperfections—to any or all of these he will seek to divert the mind. Do not be misled

by his devices. Many who are really conscientious, and who desire to live for God, he too often leads to dwell upon their own faults and weaknesses, and thus by separating them from Christ he hopes to gain the victory. We should not make self the center and indulge anxiety and fear as to whether we shall be saved. All this turns the soul away from the Source of our strength. Commit the keeping of your soul to God, and trust in Him. Talk and think of Jesus. Let self be lost in Him. Put away all doubt; dismiss your fears.” –*Steps to Christ*, p. 71.

Jesus wants to deliver his people from all sinful habits. He wants to have on this earth a holy priesthood dressed in the mantle of his righteousness, He wants to prepare us for the outpouring of the latter rain. God invites us: “Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.” Matthew 7:7.

Do not wait until tomorrow. “To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation... But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.” Hebrew 3:15, 13. Today we can make the decision to live with Jesus and for Jesus.





"Secrets of Happy, Healthy Families"

By Henry Dering

Marriages are in serious trouble! The family structure is under attack, tottering, and rapidly falling to pieces. Today in the United States, as well as in countries such as England, Finland, Belgium, Austria, Canada, Australia, and Russia, there is an increase in marital separations, trial marriages, spousal abuse, and violence. The high divorce rates are a warning indicator that something has gone desperately wrong in society. Nancy L. Van Pelt, a certified family professional in the United States, wrote the following: "Although people like to get married, it is more difficult to stay married. Current divorce statistics run at about 50 percent. When both partners are under the age of 21 or have dropped out of high school to get married, the divorce rate soars to 80 percent. In spite of such dismal statistics, we continue to marry rapidly." —*Highly Effective Marriage*, p. 10.

Here is another quotation that may shock you: "MARRIAGE IS SLOWLY DYING IN SCANDINAVIA. A majority of children in Sweden and Norway are born out of wedlock. Sixty percent of first-born children in Denmark have unmarried parents. Not coincidentally, these countries have had something close to full gay marriage for a decade or more. Same sex marriage has locked in and reinforced an existing Scandinavian trend toward the separation of marriage and parenthood. The Nordic family pattern—including gay marriage—is spreading across Europe." —*Stanley Kurtz, The End of Marriage in Scandinavia*, www.weeklystandard.com.

Will the family structure survive the onslaught of the enemy? How do little children react to divorce? Are they psychologically damaged for life? Too often children are the ones who suffer the most. They are the losers! Will they also pattern their parents' example? Divorce is ugly and hurts the good and the bad.

There is a close relationship between the breakdown of the divine moral code and the untold misery and hopelessness of people today. Breaking God's law will always result in dire consequences. Is there any hope and solution for this menacing epidemic of marital failures? Happiness and fulfillment in marriage can be restored to couples who have wandered away from the divine marriage blueprint. Even Christian couples, including "Adventists" who may have seemingly sound marriages, could have better and healthier relationships. Where can one find proven counsel for a healthy, vibrant marriage? The answers are found in the Holy Bible. This "book of books" contains

the secrets to a fulfilling, happy marriage. They are within your immediate reach.

General principles within the family structure

As you consider the ideal relationship between husband and wife, remember that their love for each other is symbolized by the love between Christ and His bride—the church. This love is unselfish and boundless, seeking always the good and the happiness of the other.

THE WIFE. The apostle Paul wrote in the New Testament: "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and He is the Saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing." Ephesians 5:22-24. "But it was not the design of God 14 Readings for the Week of Prayer that the husband should have control, as head of the house, when he himself does not submit to Christ. Neither the husband nor the wife should attempt to exercise over the other an arbitrary control. Do not try to compel each other to yield to your wishes. You cannot do this and retain each other's love." —*The Adventist Home*, pp. 117, 118.

THE HUSBAND. "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it; That He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That He might present it to Himself a glorious

church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself." "For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh." Ephesians 5:25-28, 31.

As Christ loves the church, so the husband is to love his wife. In truly loving her, he will be richly blessed. What is true love? Is it infatuation? NO! Ellen White writes: "True love is a high and holy principle altogether different in character from that love which is awakened by impulse, and which suddenly dies when severely tested." –*The Adventist Home*, p. 50.

Love is a precious gift which we receive from Jesus.

In 1 Corinthians 13, the apostle Paul described the wondrous gift of love in the following richly descriptive and moving words: "Love is patient; love is kind and envies no one. Love is never boastful, nor conceited, nor rude; never selfish, not quick to take offense. Love keeps no score of wrongs; does not gloat over other men's sins, but delights in the truth. There is nothing love cannot face; there is no limit to its faith, its hope, and its endurance. Love will never come to an end." 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, New English Bible.

THE CHILDREN. "Children are the heritage of the Lord, and the plan of redemption includes their salvation as well as ours. They have been entrusted to parents in order that they might be brought up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, that they might be qualified to do their work in time and eternity....

"In childhood and youth you may have an experience in the service of God. Do the things that you know to be right. Be obedient to your parents. Listen to their counsels; for if they love and fear God, upon them will be laid the responsibility of educating, disciplining, and training your soul for the immortal life." –*The Adventist Home*, pp. 280, 298.

Practical suggestions for a successful married life

Watch your words. The wise Solomon wrote: "A soft answer turneth away wrath,

but grievous words stir up anger." And "He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city." Proverbs 15:1; 16:32. Do not hurt each other by a sharp look or an angry word. Do not bring up mistakes made in the past. It really doesn't solve today's problems. Never go to sleep with unresolved anger. If you are both angry, the sparks of passion may burn you. An unkind word under any condition cuts deep, and it is hard to repair the damage. It usually leaves a scar. It can be forgiven, but it is hard to forget.

Years ago, the prophet for the last days wrote the following: "When about to speak passionately, close your mouth. Don't utter a word. Pray before you speak, and heavenly angels will come to your assistance and drive back the evil angels." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, p. 82.

"Let all take Christ for their example, who never spoke a hasty, discourteous word, or performed a rude action." –*The Signs of the Times*, May 7, 1894.

Many marriage counselors consider the failure of proper communication between husband and wife to be a major cause of family problems. Take time for communication. Take time to understand your partner. Take time to speak in LOVE. Proverbs 16:24 says: "Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones." Isn't this a wonderful truth? A kind word will go a long way toward a happy solution. Take time also to be a good listener. Determine to accept your mate unconditionally, even as you discover some weaknesses or character defects. The secret of a successful marriage lies not in having the right partner, but rather in BEING THE RIGHT PARTNER!

Make a goal of saying something complimentary and loving to your partner at least once a day. Your sincere expressions of love and appreciation will strengthen and enrich your marriage.

Keep up the courtship, and don't let the fire of love go out.

In order to succeed in this regard, husband and wife need to contribute to the happiness of each other. There are many ways to make your spouse happy. About a hundred years ago, Ellen White wrote: "Continue the early attentions. In every way encourage each other in fighting the battles of life. Study to advance the happiness of each other." –*The Adventist Home*, p. 106. This is the key to a good marriage. Surprise each other from time to time with little presents. Whatever gift you give, it is another way of saying, "I love you." Remember birthdays, anniversaries, and other special days. "It is the little attentions, the numerous small incidents and simple courtesies of life, that make up the sum of life's happiness." –*The Adventist Home*, p. 109.

Don't forget that some of the best presents are non-material—such as giving of yourself. Your wife may ask you to bring her a glass of water in the middle of the night. Your time is a gift of total commitment. Another example is the unselfish gift of praying for each other. About 2,000 years ago, the apostle Paul said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20:35.

ADMIT YOUR MISTAKES AND FAULTS. When you have done something wrong, be ready to admit it and ask for forgiveness. Simple words, such as, "I am very sorry," or "Please forgive me," make all the difference. Hurts can be healed if there is humility, honesty, and a willingness to admit a mistake. Be willing to forgive, as Jesus forgave His persecutors. On the cross, Christ said, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." Jesus showed love even for His enemies. The wonderful woman whom God has selected for the husband is not an enemy but a dear, beloved companion. If your wife makes mistakes, are you willing to forgive her? Wives, are you willing to forgive your husbands when they make mistakes, even 70 times 7? Put this into practice. To forgive is a sign of maturity and conversion.

DO THINGS TOGETHER AND SHARE RESPONSIBILITIES. This means working, eating, relaxing, visiting the discouraged, comforting the needy, being a blessing to your neighbors, and helping the family of God— together. Spend as much time as possible doing things together if you want to have a rich and fulfilled marriage. Let both help out with household chores.

LET THERE BE A PARTNERSHIP IN YOUR HOME. Your home needs to be clean, orderly, and attractive. This will take work. Then the angels will love to visit you. From the pen of inspiration we read: "Order and cleanliness is the law of heaven, and in order to come into harmony with the divine arrangement, it is our duty to be neat and tasty." —*The Adventist Home*, p. 254.

BE COMMITTED TO EACH OTHER FOR LIFE. MARRIAGE IS A COVENANT WITH GOD AND WITH ONE ANOTHER, AND IT IS A LIFELONG COMMITMENT. "What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." Matthew 19:6. Paul also wrote succinctly about the permanency of marriage. "The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord." 1 Corinthians 7:39.

DON'T GIVE UP WHEN PROBLEMS ARISE. Some days the sun doesn't shine; it's cloudy and stormy. Face the world together, and wait on the Lord. Don't ever say, "I made a mistake in my choice of a companion." "Though difficulties, perplexities, and discouragements may arise, let neither husband nor wife harbor the thought that their union is a mistake or a disappointment." —*The Adventist Home*, p. 106.

BELIEVE THAT GOD PUTS PEOPLE TOGETHER. God chose Eve for Adam. The marriage lasted hundreds of years. Was the marriage without problems? NO! They were evicted from their home. One son became a murderer. But they survived and were faithful to each other, because they were committed to each other.

MAKE JESUS CHRIST THE CENTER OF YOUR LIVES AND THE LORD OF YOUR HEARTS AND HOME. As the years come and go, the Lord Jesus will meet you in your joys and in your troubles, your laughter and your heartaches. There may be anxious days and uncertain hours; there may be circumstances which place you in a world of fear and seeming helplessness. God's promise to you, as you walk hand in hand through life, is that, when clouds appear, you will be secure forever in His love. A precious hymn says it this way: Under His wings, I am safely abiding; Though the night deepens and tempests are wild. Still I can trust Him, I know He will keep me. He has redeemed me, and I am His child.

WHEN CONFLICTS AND PROBLEMS ARISE, BE SURE TO GO TO THE RIGHT MARRIAGE COUNSELOR, THE LORD HIMSELF. He is the best One who is easily available. You don't have to spend much time to find Him or wait in His office for hours until your turn comes for an interview. And He doesn't ask you for money, either, as do marriage counselors. Furthermore, He has more wisdom than everyone else. He understands your particular problem much better than any person in the world. How do you find this Marriage Counselor? "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." Matthew 7:7. God's word clearly teaches that those who have problems can unburden themselves to Jesus. We can come to Him in faith, asking Him to untangle the tight knots of difficulty. "Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28. Come just as you are— weak, sinful, polluted, and unworthy—and depend only on the merits of Christ.

DO NOT FORGET TO HAVE MORNING AND EVENING WORSHIP WITH YOUR FAMILY. The children also need to remember their loving Saviour. This communion with God will strengthen the Christian. "Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind." Matthew 22:37.

It is good for husband and wife to pray together when in trouble, but it is better to pray together daily as a regular habit. Many families have established what they call the "family altar." Remember the saying, "The family that prays together stays together."

Remember also to worship on the Sabbath day and to meet together with believers of like faith. Love Jesus and worship Him in the congregation of the saints. As husband and wife draw closer to Jesus, they will also have greater love for each other. In other words, the love of Jesus in their hearts will automatically radiate out to their spouse and children. Our wonderful Lord and Saviour performs miracles by transforming people's lives.

If you make Christ the foundation of your home, if He is the first and last and best in everything, He will bless and uphold your marriage. May you behold Him constantly, and may your love for Him grow and deepen daily. May God bless our families, is my prayer.



"God's Work in Minneapolis, 1888"

By Raquel Orce

Every Adventist believer has heard or read about the General Conference session that took place in Minneapolis in 1888 and can appreciate the historical importance of this event. In this reading, we would like to consider in detail the doctrinal significance of that meeting and the reasons for its importance in relation to the present truth so that we may understand the work that God wanted do at that conference and that He still wants to perform for His people and the whole world in our days.

The Mission of the Advent Movement

The Advent Movement was called into existence by God, because He had a well determined purpose for it. Besides preparing a people for the Lord's coming, it was necessary to present to the world some aspects of the truth that were not so clear within the different denominations, such as the doctrine about the state of the dead, the validity of God's law, and the observance of the Sabbath day, that were like lost pearls under the heap of rubble of human theories. Therefore, from the beginning and for many decades, the Seventh-day Adventists presented to the world the solemn message of the Lord's soon coming and showed the need for the restoration of the true worship of God, that includes faith in Jesus' redeeming work and the obedience to His holy commandments (Revelation 14:12).

Nevertheless, as time went by, they insisted so much on the subject of the law that the message became one-sided and many lost sight of the light of justification by faith. Referring to the years before 1888, the Spirit of Prophecy often laments this situation.

The Doctrine of Justification by Faith Lost Sight of Jesus

"... The great Center of attraction, Jesus Christ, must not be left out of the third angel's message. By many who have been engaged in the work for this time, Christ has been made secondary, and theories and arguments have had the first place." –*The Review and Herald*, March 20, 1894.

"Many had lost sight of Jesus. They needed to have their eyes directed to His divine person, His merits, and His changeless love for the human family." –*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 92.

"The doctrine of justification by faith has been lost sight of by many who have professed to believe the third angel's message." –*Selected Messages*, book 1, p. 360.

"The exceeding great and precious promises given us in the Holy Scriptures have been lost sight of to a great extent, just as the enemy of all righteousness designed that they should be." –*Ibid.*, p.372.

"As a people we have preached the law until we are as dry as the hills of Gilboa that had neither dew nor rain. We must preach Christ in the law, and there will be sap and nourishment in the preaching that will be as food to the famishing flock of God." –*The Review and Herald*, March 11, 1890.

"The message of the gospel of His grace was to be given to the church in clear and distinct lines, that the world should no longer say that Seventh-day Adventists talk the law, the law, but do not teach or believe Christ." –*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 92.

A Most Precious Message

Considering the situation, the need to present and accept the message of Christ our Righteousness was ever more urgent. That is the reason why the Lord inspired two brethren to bring the message to the General Conference in Minneapolis, about which we read: "The Lord in His great mercy sent a most precious message to His people through Elders Waggoner and Jones.

This message was to bring more prominently before the world the uplifted Saviour, the sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. It presented justification through faith in the Surety; it invited the people to receive the righteousness of Christ, which is made manifest in obedience to all the commandments of God.... It is the third angel's message, which is to be proclaimed with a loud voice, and attended with the outpouring of His Spirit in a large measure."—*Ibid.*, pp. 91, 92.

"Messages bearing the divine credentials have been sent to God's people; the glory, the majesty, the righteousness of Christ, full of goodness and truth, have been presented; the fullness of the Godhead in Jesus Christ has been set forth among us with beauty and loveliness, to charm all whose hearts were not closed with prejudice. We know that God has wrought among us. We have seen souls turn from sin to righteousness. We have seen faith revived in the hearts of the contrite ones." —*The Review and Herald*, May 27, 1890.

"When the sinner believes that Christ is his personal Saviour, then according to His unfulfilling promises, God pardons his sin and justifies him freely. The repentant soul realizes that his justification comes because Christ, as his Substitute and Surety, has died for him, is his atonement and righteousness." —*Faith and Works*, p. 101.

It Is the Third Angel's Message

Christ our Righteousness is not only a message from God, but it is actually the heart of the third angel's message. That is what God's Word says, referring to the characteristics of the remnant: "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus" (Revelation 14:12). These are topics that the Spirit of Prophecy often emphasizes. "The present message—justification by faith—is a message from God; it bears the divine credentials, for its fruit is unto holiness." —*Selected Messages*, book 1, p. 359.

"Religion means the abiding of Christ in the heart, and where He is, the soul goes on in spiritual activity, ever growing in grace, ever going on to perfection." —*The Review and Herald*, May 24, 1892.

"Several have written to me, inquiring if the message of justification by

faith is the third angel's message, and I have answered, 'It is the third angel's message in verity.'" —*Ibid.*, April 1, 1890.

In the above quotations, the servant of the Lord presents the fundamental issues that God wanted to point out in 1888 and that had a vital importance for that time as well as for eternity. Below, we present a list of the main doctrinal subjects:

- Justification by faith.
- Christ's righteousness manifested in obedience to the commandments of God.
- The third angel's message.
- The outpouring of the Spirit.

Jesus had to be presented to the world in a clear, uplifted and saving way, since "Of all professing Christians, Seventh-day Adventists should be foremost in uplifting Christ before the world. The proclamation of the third angel's message calls for the presentation of the Sabbath truth. This truth, with others included in the message, is to be proclaimed; but the great center of attraction, Christ Jesus, must not be left out." —*Gospel Workers*, p. 156.

Once the meaning of the message of 1888 is understood, one can see the importance of presenting Christ as the center of the message in relation to the proclamation of the third angel. This simultaneously includes the truth about the Sabbath and a number of other truths related to it which are presented in Revelation 14:9-12, where reference is made to "the beast" (Roman Catholicism); "his image" (apostate Protestantism); "the mark of the beast" (the false day of rest—Sunday), and the end of God's patience. These fundamental truths in Adventism place us in the time and circumstances that will help us to understand and apply God's work in Minneapolis.

A Rejected Message

Considering the loss of light they had experienced and the spiritual condition of the Adventist people in 1888, one would expect that this message would have been accepted with much joy and praise, both by the delegates to the conference and by the leaders of the movement. Actually, if it had been accepted, this wonderful message would have been the solution to their different problems; but, unfortunately, it was not the case. The voice of God that spoke in Minneapolis was not heeded, but criticized and rejected by a great number of workers and leaders. An oppressive and wicked spirit was revealed. Some testimonies speak about this very painfully: "The spirit and influence of the ministers generally who have come to this meeting is to discard light." —*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 12, p. 364.

"In Minneapolis God gave precious gems of truth to His people in new settings. This light from heaven by some was rejected with all the stubbornness the Jews manifested in rejecting Christ." —*Ibid.*, vol. 11, p. 243.

"That men should keep alive the spirit which ran riot at Minneapolis is an offense to God. All heaven is indignant at the spirit that for years has been revealed in our publishing institution at Battle Creek. Unrighteousness is practiced that God will not tolerate. He will visit for these things. A voice has been heard pointing out the errors and, in the name of the Lord, pleading for a decided change. But who have followed the instruction given?"

Who have humbled their hearts to put from them every vestige of their wicked, oppressive spirit? I have been greatly burdened to set these matters before the people as they are. I know they will see them. I know that those who read this matter will be convicted." –*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 76.

"An unwillingness to yield up preconceived opinions, and to accept this truth, lay at the foundation of a large share of the opposition manifested at Minneapolis against the Lord's message through Brethren [E.J.] Waggoner and [A.T.] Jones. By exciting that opposition Satan succeeded in shutting away from our people, in a great measure, the special power of the Holy Spirit that God longed to impart to them. The enemy prevented them from obtaining that efficiency which might have been theirs in carrying the truth to the world, as the apostles proclaimed it after the day of Pentecost. The light that is to lighten the whole earth with its glory was resisted, and by the action of our own brethren has been in a great degree kept away from the world." –*Selected Messages*, book 1, pp. 234, 235.

An Urgent Need

In Minneapolis, some accepted the message sent by God; and others accepted it later on. Jesus' righteousness is the gift for which He sacrificed His life (Isaiah 53:10, 11); it is not an option that we may choose or not, according to our liking. Without it we remain dirty, dressed in filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6), and have no access to heaven. "The righteousness by which we are justified is imputed; the righteousness by which we are sanctified is imparted. The first is our title to heaven, the second is our fitness for heaven." –*Messages to Young People*, p. 35.

In one of His wonderful parables, as Jesus talks about the wedding gown, He tells us very clearly that without this gift we are not able to participate in the great final feast. "So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests. And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment: And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. Then said the king

to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Matthew 22:10-13). May each one of us be found wearing Jesus' pure and holy wedding garment.

The Message and the Latter Rain

"Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the Lord: His going forth is prepared as the morning; and He shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth." Hosea 6:3. If the message Christ our Righteousness is truly believed and lived each day, it is a great power for the faithful soul and for the church. Emphasized in Minneapolis in 1888, this wonderful message must grow

and will be the test of fitness to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit, just as it is described in the following quotation:

"The third angel's message is swelling into a loud cry, and you must not feel at liberty to neglect the present duty, and still entertain the idea that at some future time you will be the recipients of great blessing, when without any effort on your part a wonderful revival will take place. Today you are to give yourselves to God, that He may make of you vessels unto honor, and meet for His service. Today you are to give yourself to God, that you may be emptied of self, emptied of envy, jealousy, evil surmising, strife, everything that shall be dishonoring to God. Today you are to have your vessel purified that it may be ready for the heavenly dew, ready for the showers of the latter rain; for the latter rain will come, and the blessing of God will fill every soul that is purified from every defilement. It is our work today to yield our souls to Christ, that we may be fitted for the time of refreshing from the presence of the Lord—fitted for the baptism of the Holy Spirit." –(The Review and Herald, March 22, 1892) *Selected Messages*, book 1, pp. 190, 191.

We have wonderful promises, prophecies to be fulfilled, and great blessings that will be poured out upon all who are dressed in the royal garments of Jesus' righteousness. Through these people, a great work will be done to enlighten the world. Do you want to be one of these blessed ones? Jesus wants you to be one of them. May the Lord help us to receive this gift and be men and women of faith dressed in the garments of "fine linen, clean and white" when He shall appear in the clouds of heaven and receive us into His holy kingdom.





WORLD IN BRIEF

NEWS

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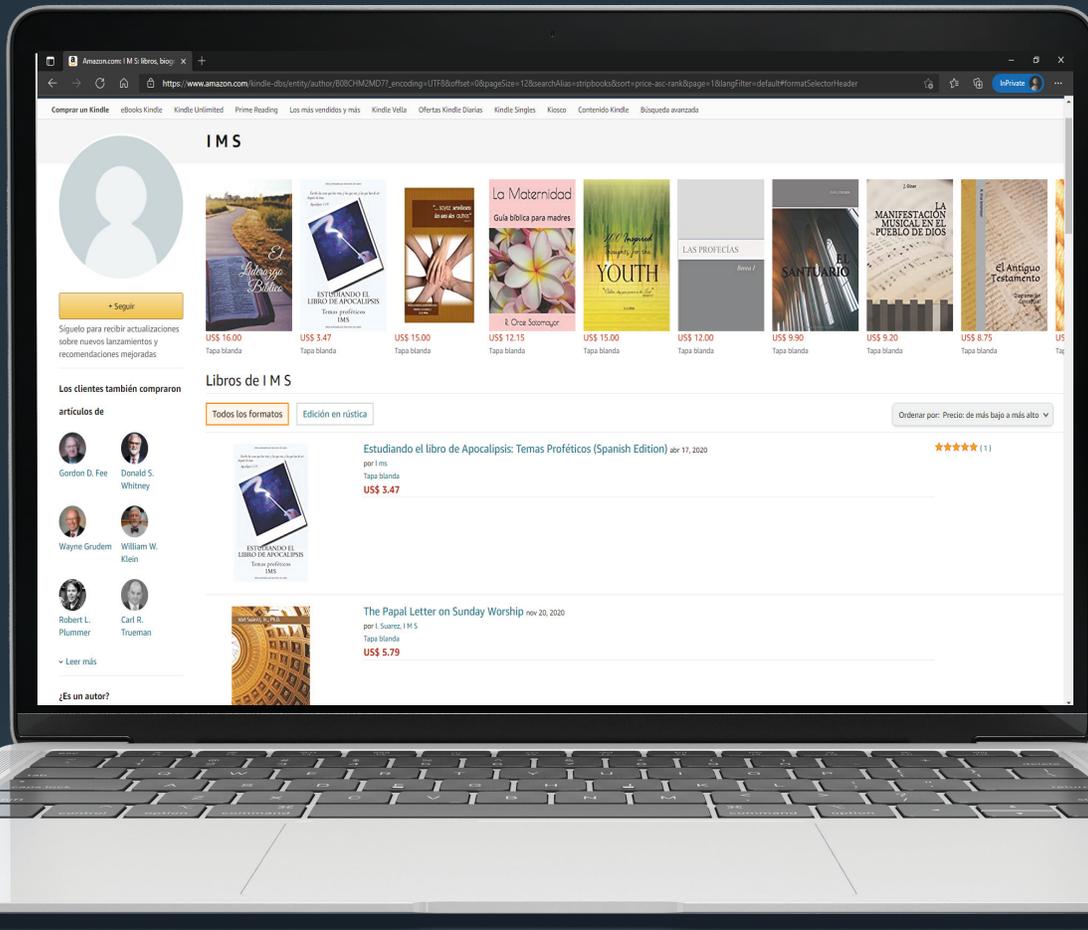
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Children's Special Sabbath

In the church of Barcelona, Spain, an activity focused on children was carried out: "JESÚS MI PASTOR", where the children were the ones who led with the help of the teachers and parents. Special songs, instrumentals, stories, Bible readings, and prayers were featured in this activity. It was a very happy and blessed Sabbath.





IMS KOREAN FIELD
"SABBATH FELLOWSHIP"

-THEME "Elijah's Message"

Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD (Malachi 4:5)

-November 6 .2021



Divine Service Guest Speaker
Pr. Douglas Francis
GC Secretary/Treasurer

India, SriLanKa : 6:30AM; Nepal : 6:45AM;
Bangladesh : 7:00AM; Myanmar : 7:30AM;
Vietnam : 8:00AM; Korea, Japan : 10:00AM;
China, Malaysia, Philippin : 9:00AM;

ZOOM <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83772268817?pwd=SnNjSmpkS1daczhZRU0xZCt4L0RjQT09>
Meeting ID: 837 7226 8817 Passcode: 756293



Facebook LIVE : <https://www.facebook.com/imsasiandivision>



YouTube LIVE : IMS Korean Field

SPECIAL SABBATH
KOREAN FIELD

In the Korean Field a Special Sabbath was celebrated, with the theme "The Message of Elijah", chaired by Pastor Douglas Francis

CONFERENCE
END OF THE YEAR

The American Union plans a Conference to be held from Friday, December 24, 2021 - Sabbath, January 1, 2022.



Preguntas y Respuestas
PROGRAMA VIRTUAL

Análisis en profundidad

TU PREGUNTA ES EL TEMA Martes 16 de noviembre
8:00 PM (EST)

¡Te brindamos la respuesta!

TEMA

"Matrimonio, divorcio y recasamiento"

SEGUNDA PARTE

Presentado por: Pastor Tzvetan Petkov
Presidente Asociación General

Pastor Humberto Avellaneda
Vicepresidente Asociación General

Sociedad Misionera Internacional
Asociación General

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Virtual Program Questions and Answers

The General Conference conducts the virtual program every Tuesday in Spanish, with interesting topics every week. We invite you to send your questions to:
info@sda1844.org

Q&A
Question and Answer Session

ZOOM ID
875 0506 4594

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International Missionary Society

Hosted by:

International Missionary Society
Seventh-day Adventist Church
Reform Movement,
General Conference

VIRTUAL PROGRAM
Monday, November 15, 2021
7:00 AM - 8:00 AM (EST)

THEME

"The Superstition"

Presented by

Pastor Tzvetan Petkov
General Conference President

Pastor Douglas Francis
General Conference Secretary

Questions may be sent to
ims.q-a@sda1844.org

www.sda1844.org

Virtual Program Questions and Answers

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The Sabbath
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