

# *Youth* **Messenger**



**DEATH  
AND SIN TO  
END**

JANUARY-MARCH 2001

VOL. XX, NO. 1

# A Real Beginning

**W**e have a special feeling when something is new in our lives. The joy of that new thing brings pleasure and a wish that the moment could last for eternity. . . . Upon receiving some new toy as babies, or buying a new house or car as grown-ups, we feel happy. It's almost as if we promise to keep it new forever.

Then time passes. After a while, the feelings change. The joy is no longer the same and the thing no longer means as much as it once did. Other things take our interest, and we start to think that if we could have those other things, surely it would be the greatest achievement and bring supreme happiness. But long-lasting happiness never comes.

My beloved young brothers and sisters, I pray that the Lord may impress our hearts now at the beginning of a new millenium. We may want to improve our lives and make a new start.


But haven't we promised before that we would change, only to realize later that our promises were in vain? Can we really be sure this new beginning will not be the same?

The Bible bids us, "Be still, and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10). We should seek the Lord, asking Him to show us our own hearts. The true reason for all our failures was that the gratification of self was our main concern. We may have been trying to run our lives in our own feeble strength, making promises that were like ropes of sand. But now is the time to stop and consider who is God in our life

and choose Him, trusting that He has enough power to change our heart and life and give us a new beginning, a new experience. He is able to do for us "in the twinkling of an eye" what we could never do. His creative power will give us a new birth, and in Christ we will have the chance to live as "a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17). The big difference between His new things and ours is that His **stay** new. This power is waiting to be experienced right now. "For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day" (2 Corinthians 4:16). Being renewed daily, we may live for His glory. Our motives will no longer be selfish. On the contrary, they will be based on a deep appreciation of God's love and His wonderful plan of salvation. Selfishness will die to make room for a resurrection to newness of life.

You are important in God's plans. The choice is yours. If you need any kind of spiritual help besides what you can get from the brethren where you live, if you have questions or thoughts you want to share with me, feel free to be in touch and it will be my joy to answer you as best as I can. I am happy to receive your thoughts, questions, suggestions or plans. Just contact me:

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May the Lord bless you to remain in His hands, "beginning" His life, day by day, moment by moment! 

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# The Sure End of Sin

By LESLEY JOHNSON  
From North Carolina, U.S.A.

**T**HE earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence” (Genesis 6:11).

Although this text refers to the world just before “the flood came, and took them all away” (Matthew 24:39), it also describes the time in which we now live. Such experiences were recorded “for our admonition” (1 Corinthians 10:11). Considering how similar was the earth then to the earth now, could it be that we, too, are on the brink of another momentous event—one even greater than the universal Flood? If so, we must prepare as Noah prepared. We must be with Christ, for He is our only ark of safety. We must be where His eternal truth is taught and practiced, where every “wind of doctrine” meets an impassable barrier, where the law of God written with His own finger upon tablets of stone is recognized as imperishable. His law is a hedge of protection. Having wisdom from above that reveals itself in obedience, God’s people will not be fooled by false teachings. The promise is in John 7:17, “If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God.”



One of the false doctrines that misleads many people nowadays is “My Lord delayeth his coming” (Matthew 24:48). This idea is not usually spoken in words, but it is shown by actions. The messages of the Bible have always urged immediate and full commitment to God, because the close of probation for individuals is often quick and unexpected. God has given us many signs to help us see that “it is near, even at the doors” (Matthew 24:33). There are, then, three reasons for the following study:

1. To point out the tremendous increase in sin which shows this age

to be “corrupt and filled with violence” just as it was before the Flood.

2. To urge each one of us to seek out and conquer personal sin through the power of Jesus now; to become a living example of belief in God’s word.

3. To cheer and encourage each Christian with Bible prophecies of that momentous event which is greater than the Flood—the second advent of Christ, and the sure end of sin.

**Visible, undeniable sin.** We live in a hostile environment where uncertainty is the norm, the working out of the curses that man has brought upon himself. Proverbs 26:2 warns that the “curse causeless shall not come.” In other words, every problem is caused by something, and if we want to avoid more of the same problem we should figure out why it is happening and take action against it.

Three curses were pronounced upon the earth very early in history: the first was the result of Adam and Eve’s sin; the second was caused by the murder of Abel; the third came as a result of the Flood. Since then, “the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now” (Romans 8:22). The environment has become an unsafe place to live.

We see pollution of the air, water, ground; our eyes and ears are polluted daily. Morality is practically non-existent. There is abuse of drugs, children, the elderly. Trust in business, government and education has been destroyed. Think about road rage, rage in the sports arena and among the spec-

tators, rage against family and friends.

The Word of God states that “men shall be . . . incontinent [unable to control themselves], fierce” (2 Timothy 3:2, 3). War surrounds the people of many nations, from individual acts of terrorism to full-fledged combat.

Consider the weather. Severe storms of every kind, increase in earthquakes, mud slides, crop failures and food shortages, smog, uncontrollable fires. Nature is expressing her outrage against the ravages she has suffered at the hand of man.

Most religions can offer no hope, as they have become part of the problem. The leaders are often greedy hirelings who divert the sacred use for which donations have been made to enhance their own personal fortunes. Deceitful doctrines are taught which delay preparation for Christ’s return and set the commandments of God aside in favor of the commandments of men. Immorality in dress, diet and church government prevail—and it seems that the people would have it so. But haven’t these things always been? Yes, they have. However, even though there is “no new thing under the sun” (Ecclesiastes 1:9), never since the Flood have all these factors occurred at once with such increasing frequency as today.

In the medical field illnesses have arisen which are beyond the ability of trained professionals to handle; contagious diseases are on the rise; medical costs are soaring.

The world is turned upside down—good is called evil and evil is called good; there is a woe pro-

nounced against whoever calls it so (Isaiah 5:20). It is a sad fact that most people do not understand that they are in rebellion against God. Man is bringing upon himself the seven last plagues, for he has sown the seeds of disaster. People are discussing with deep concern the problems confronting every nation of the world, but they fail to see that the basic cause of all these things is the broken law of God, which translates, "sin."

For many, money and what it can buy serves as a buffer between themselves and evil. But they cannot fully escape the unsafe streets, the unsafe schools, the unsafe relationships. Corruption reigns. Life is often ended abruptly. When it is seen that these problems are beyond human control, the next step will be persecution of those who are different; those who worship differently, who are not a part of the ecumenical "one world religion" movement, which—according to design—should make the world a secure and happy place to live. But can it really accomplish its goal if it goes contrary to the Creator of the universe and His law? Finally, those who are "different"—or as the Bible says of the faithful—"peculiar," will be blamed as the reason for all the problems in the world, since they will not be following the crowd as it marches on to its own destruction. And why do they refuse to follow the mob? Because they refuse to participate in sin, the ultimate communicable disease.

**Search and surrender.** If one could choose beforehand where he would be born, who would choose this planet in its present condition?

S - I - N. Remove the "I" which is the root of selfishness, and insert an "O" for esteeming others better, and you will have the SON, who is the only true cure for sin.

Here is a thought question: When you confess your sins to God, are you as ashamed as you would be if your sin were exposed before men? All sin is committed against God; His forgiveness is to be sought.

Deny self, shoulder your personal cross. "Our characters must be brought into harmony with the law of God, and every advance step in this direction requires self-denial" (*The Signs of the Times*, June 26, 1884).

What exactly is self-denial? It can be as simple as restraining ourselves from buying certain things we don't really need. But it is much broader in scope. It includes avoiding indulgence in anything self-centered. Temperance, abstinence, fasting, sobriety—these are the basics of self-denial and are methods of healing our tendency to self-indulgence.

Agonize over your sins and you will be secure in salvation. But how does one agonize?

"There will be manifested an earnestness, a perseverance, and a determination that can be properly represented as agonizing."—Ibid.

It is time to reconsider the seriousness of the era in which we live. Do we truly understand that the judgments of God are in the land as were the plagues in Egypt? Will these judgments continue until there is nothing left and we are destroyed? Exodus 10:7 says "knowest thou not yet that Egypt is destroyed?" Or will we savor each moment of probation as a blessing

from God, extending our chance to repent and prepare ourselves? What a tragedy to lose eternal life not because of choosing to sin but simply because of choosing to delay getting ready! God wants us to be perfect as He is (Matthew 5:48), and He wants everything to be perfect for us.

**Cheers.** Discovering how imperfect we are can be discouraging, but it need not be. We are to search out our sins and overcome them through the blood of Christ. We are not to dwell on them, for then they become idols. "Dwell on present truth, on Christ's second coming" (*Evangelism*, p. 624). There is much to inspire us with Christian joy within:

"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things" (Philippians 4:8).

Jesus in His own words has promised to return. Let us dwell upon this:

"The doctrine of the second advent is the very keynote of the Sacred Scriptures."—*The Great Controversy*, p. 299.

Jesus said, "I will come again, and receive you unto myself" (John 14:3). "When the Son of man shall

come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory." "I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom" (Matthew 25:31; 26:29).

Angels also proclaimed it:

"This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven" (Acts 1:11).

The writers of the New

Testament agree:

"The Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Wherefore comfort one another with these words" (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18).

"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works" (Titus 2:11-14).

*God has awesome plans for His church in eternity and is looking forward with joy to being reunited with His people.*

“Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God” (2 Peter 3:12). “Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him” (Revelation 1:7).

And the last written words of Jesus to His church, in the last book of the Bible, in the very last chapter, are:


“Surely I come quickly” (Revelation 22:20).

If ever anything was sure, this is it. He will return. Soon.

**Summary.** Sin has been well established in the earth and has become the way of life for most. It has infiltrated every aspect of society and has made its mark even on the tiniest atom in nature, causing mental, physical, and spiritual misery. It has grown to such proportions that it now equals the period when God had to destroy His creation with the Flood. It is sure that He will again take vengeance upon the earth for iniquity’s sake. He has made provision that sin will no longer exist (Nahum 1:9).

There has always been a church on earth that is obedient to God, and because this is so, His voice continues to call the believers to abhor sin and separate themselves from it. When all who will have answered the call of Christ, He will return. Therefore, it is within the church’s power to hasten His return (see *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 632–636).

God has awesome plans for His church in eternity and is looking forward with joy to being reunited with His people (Zephaniah 3:17). Seeing as all these things are true, it is now imperative for us to get ready for our appointment with Christ. We must put on—and keep on—the garment He has bought for us—His righteousness. Then we will be always prepared, no matter when probation may close for us.

Are you willing to leave everything behind and look forward towards eternity with Jesus and the whole universe of holy beings who already love you? The end of sin is sure, and near. 



# Reproof

By Mary C. Wilson

**F**or whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth” (Hebrews 12:6).


The natural heart is proud, and rises up against reproof. It is true that we acknowledge, in a general way, that we are sinners; but when individual sins

are pointed out, we often feel “hurt,” and assume the defensive.

But does not good judgment itself, aside from the word of God, teach us that this is a foolish way to do? To acknowledge that we are faulty is virtually to admit that we have faults and failings that, although we may be blind to them, are more or less apparent to others. Is it wise to become hurt and offended, and try to convince ourselves that these faults do not exist, thus retaining them in our nature, when a kind friend points them out

to us? Such a course can in no case make our faults fewer, or convince others that they do not exist. Would it not be far wiser to make the most of every opportunity to learn of our shortcomings, that we may be able to free our-

selves of those things which hinder our influence and, to a greater or less extent, shut off the respect of others for us? And even though our faults may sometimes be brought to our knowledge by the ridicule of our enemies, would not the wise course be calmly to view the situation as it is, and free ourselves from those defects which may be so successfully used against us?

To reject reproof of existing sins shows pride of heart; and God “resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble” (James 4:6). 

# Hebrews 12

The following wordsearch is based on Hebrews chapter 12 (King James Version). Read the whole chapter prayerfully and you will recognize many of the important words from it in this puzzle. In fact, there are sixteen (16) of them with five letters or more. The words may go in any direction—up, down, forward, backwards, or diagonally.

S	E	T	Z	O	V	D	E	T	C	E	R	R	O	C
C	S	L	R	S	T	R	A	I	G	H	T	W	E	A
H	C	E	B	U	F	A	C	I	M	M	V	C	N	S
A	F	N	N	A	M	L	J	Y	U	N	A	G	S	M
S	B	J	L	I	R	P	C	F	H	E	E	E	M	O
T	E	E	T	F	L	E	E	I	P	L	N	B	A	U
E	C	C	H	D	L	O	M	T	S	S	N	W	F	N
N	N	N	D	H	B	H	H	U	U	H	U	S	Z	T
I	E	E	R	N	Y	J	M	O	N	Z	A	R	A	A
N	R	I	A	J	J	O	E	C	E	N	C	I	Y	I
G	E	T	F	L	D	T	O	G	Q	N	I	J	A	N
W	V	A	K	G	H	G	S	V	H	O	D	D	Q	L
P	E	P	N	G	S	X	N	N	D	C	W	U	M	I
E	R	I	I	V	H	T	E	D	L	E	I	Y	R	L
P	K	R	W	I	T	N	E	S	S	E	S	X	H	E

P.S. The words to find are: witnesses, patience, chastening, endure, corrected, reverence, yielded, righteousness, holiness, peace, trumpet, mountain, innumerable, angels, kingdom, straight.

What is the secret of your life?" asked Mrs. Browning of Charles Kingsley; "tell me, that I may make mine beautiful, too." He replied: "I had a friend."

Truer words were never spoken. There is nothing that brings sunshine to our lives, takes us out of ourselves, and makes life really beautiful and worth the living, like a friend.

A true friend is heaven's choicest gift. And when we have such, let nothing separate us. Let us love them and cherish them, and above all, let us trust them. There may be actions and words that we do not understand and that pain us, but let our faith be stronger than these, and then nothing will separate us.

Joe Maniscalco



## I Had a Friend

Let us cultivate in ourselves what we long for in our friends—sweetness of character, evenness of temper, confidence, loyalty, patience, sympathy, and love.

Let us be kind, courteous, and true to all we meet; but let it be only the few—the choice ones—who come close to our hearts, sharing our deepest thoughts and inmost feelings, entering into the inner sanctuary of our lives.

Our rarest friend is He who said: "Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you." This Friend will make us worthy of friendship.

In eternity we shall know the friends we have loved here. "Friendships in Christ are forever. Those that live in the Lord never see each other for the last time."—Selected.



# Stranded in the Middle of a Burning Oil Field

By ADINA DODOS  
From Pennsylvania, U.S.A.

**W**HEN thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee” (Isaiah 43:2).

The promise is given to each one if we obey. The Lord will be with us if we pass through the waters; He will guide us. The waters will not drown us; and if we pass through fire, it will not burn us.


Do you remember the three young men that walked in the midst of the fiery furnace because they would not heed the king’s command to worship an idol? Were they saved? Yes, they were. My grandfather had a similar experience to that of Daniel’s three friends, but the difference is that he was not thrown in the fire by the king.

Many, many years ago my grandfather was working in Bucharest (Romania) in an oil field. There were many workers there. One night, my grandfather had a strange dream. He could not understand the meaning of it. In his dream, a man came to him and took him by the hand. They walked together about 60 miles and then the man left him. The dream ended as he woke up, so he did not think much about it, and just got dressed to go to work. But at work that day an explosion

occurred and the whole oil field was set on fire. My grandfather could see the people burning alive and there was no help. Out of 150 workers, only my grandfather and a man standing next to him were saved.

When the field ignited, a small wind started circling my grandfather and the man, and would not let the fire get near them. The place where they were standing was about 60 feet away from a forest. As they walked through the fire toward the forest, the fire opened up like two wings. Just as the Red Sea opened before the children of Israel on the left and right, the fire now stood aside until they entered the forest. Then it closed back.

A trial was held. My grandfather and the man were called to testify of how and what had happened. The judge asked, “From all the people that were in the field, how come only you two escaped from the fire? I don’t understand.” The man who was with my grandfather said to the judge, “Your honor, the only thing I can say is that the God of this man was the one who saved us.” This person was a worldly man who did not believe in God, but when this thing happened, he knew that only the Lord could have brought them out of that burning oil field.

Whenever my grandfather used to tell us the story, he had tears in his eyes. He always said, “The Lord keeps His promises all the time. He saved my life from sure death.” I am sure that when we get to heaven, the Lord will tell us about how we all have been saved from many different perils and may not have even realized it. 

# Just Surviving – or Really Living?

By RADU IONITA  
From Romania



**W**HY will ye die . . . ?”  
(Ezekiel 33:11).

You probably feel that this question is not for you! And I agree. It is really absurd for an intelligent human being to will to die. Especially when one is young! How could one arrive at such a level, to sink so deep into the depths of nothingness in life, so as to wish to die? No, it couldn't be! Maybe for a very old person, somehow, it could make sense (Ecclesiastes 12:1). . . . But you? Now, would that mean that this question found in the Bible is wrong? Or that it is only for others? You will agree that it would be dangerous to think so. God cannot err, and everything He tells us is very important for us, for you and me. And I believe together with you, that this question is just for us! How can it be? How can we find out what is really happening with us? How can we understand our true condition?

Praise the Lord that it can be done! We can check our spiritual thermometer.

Jesus, while on this earth, explained the same problem. In His sermon on the Mount of Olives, He said: “Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled” (Matthew 5:6). The truth is so large and deep. It's impossible for us to have what we do not want. In our physical life, we must eat in order to live. Otherwise, we will get sick. And if we go on without food, we will get weaker and weaker, until we lose all our strength and power and even any interest in living. And finally? We will surely die. This happens sometimes. A person has to be very ill to refuse to eat. Those who are sick, knowing their danger, eat even when they have no desire to eat because they know they must. They are afraid.

Let's try to understand it spiritually. Aren't there many who fulfill their spiritual “duties” only because they are afraid? They have no deep interest, no genuine desire to have Jesus with them, no hunger of the soul. Like the older brother in the parable of the prodigal son,

they serve the Lord only because it is a must, instead of as a heartfelt response to His infinite love. Could we call such a life a Christian one? “The man who attempts to keep the commandments of God from a sense of obligation merely—because he is required to do so—will never enter into the joy of obedience. He does not obey. When the requirements of God are accounted a burden because they cut across human inclination, we may know that the life is not a Christian life” (*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 97).

Do you feel yourself to be among this class? If so, do not be ashamed! You have made already the first step to actual life. It is not a shame to admit our true condition. To lie to ourselves, to close our eyes until we are blind, is the real shame. All we have to do is to cry for help, and to receive it. “Come unto me,”

Jesus said (Matthew 11:28). “If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water” (John 7:37, 38) This and only this is true salvation. We must drink from Him! To let Him enter and fully reign in the heart. And the result will be not only to “survive” spiritually, but to live an abundant life! And much more: to become a spring of water, from

which rivers shall flow. “He who drinks of the living water becomes a fountain of life. The receiver becomes a giver. The grace of Christ in the soul is like a spring in the desert, welling up to refresh all, and making those who are ready to perish eager to drink of the water of life” (*The Faith I Live By*, p. 99).

“True obedience is the outworking of a principle within. It springs from the love of righteousness, the love of the law of God. The essence of all righteousness is loyalty to our Redeemer. This will lead us to do right because it is right—because right doing is pleasing to God” (*Christ's Object Lessons*, pp. 97, 98).

How great is the power of the gospel! Jesus explains:

“Whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life”

(John 4:14). Furthermore, those are blessed who “thirst after righteousness.” How does this work?

“Jesus did not convey the idea that merely one draft of the water of life would suffice the receiver. He who tastes of the love of Christ will continually long for more; but he seeks for nothing else. The riches, honors, and pleasures of the world do not attract him. The constant cry of his heart is, More of Thee. And He who reveals to the soul its




necessity is waiting to satisfy its hunger and thirst. Every human resource and dependence will fail. The cisterns will be emptied, the pools become dry; but our Redeemer is an inexhaustible fountain. We may drink, and drink again, and ever find a fresh supply. He in whom Christ dwells has within himself the fountain of blessing—'a well of water springing up into everlasting life.' From this source he may draw strength and grace sufficient for all his needs."—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 187.

"'Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness.' The sense of unworthiness will lead the heart to hunger and thirst for righteousness, and this desire will not be disappointed. Those who make room in their hearts for Jesus will realize His love. All who long to bear the likeness of the character of God shall be satisfied. The Holy Spirit never leaves unassisted the soul who is looking unto Jesus. He takes of the things of Christ and shows them unto him. If the eye is kept fixed on Christ, the work of the Spirit ceases not until the soul is conformed to His image. The pure element of love will expand the soul, giving it a capacity for higher attainments, for increased knowledge of heavenly things, so that it will not rest short of the fullness. 'Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness; for they shall be filled' " (Ibid., p. 302). Let us try it! Let us start the new abundant life! "O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him" (Psalm 34:8). And then we will be "pressed" by the sweetness of His love, to continue

to drink! No more fear! No more "must"! And how far shall we be able to go? "Man, created for fellowship with God, can only in such fellowship find his real life and development. Created to find in God his highest joy, he can find in nothing else that which can quiet the cravings of the heart, can satisfy the hunger and thirst of the soul. He who with sincere and teachable spirit studies God's word, seeking to comprehend its truths, will be brought in touch with its Author; and, except by his own choice, there is **no limit to the possibilities of his development.**"

"With the word of God in his hands, every human being... may dwell in this world in the atmosphere of heaven, imparting to earth's sorrowing and tempted ones thoughts of hope and longings for holiness; himself coming closer and still closer into fellowship with the Unseen; like him of old who walked with God, drawing nearer and nearer the threshold of the eternal world, until **the portals shall open**, and he shall enter there. He will find himself no stranger. The voices that will greet him are the voices of the holy ones, who, unseen, were on earth his companions—voices that here he learned to distinguish and to love. He who through the word of God has lived in fellowship with heaven, will find himself **at home in heaven's** companionship" (*Education*, pp. 124, 127). [Emphasis supplied.]

This is "the Life"—everything else is worse than death. And because you hunger and thirst after life, and righteousness, you will be filled! Filled for ever and ever! 

## Had I Been There

Had I been there when Jesus prayed,  
"My Father, not my will but thine,"  
I might have seen the heavenly aid  
Received from angel hands sublime;  
I might have felt the Spirit's power,  
While watching through that solemn hour,  
Had I been there.

Had I been there when Jesus said,  
"Whom seek ye?" at the garden gate,  
I might have seen the Saviour led  
By murderers to a cruel fate;  
But this I never could have heard,  
From Christ, the slightest murmuring word,  
Had I been there.

Had I been there, on Calvary's brow,  
Upon the crucifixion day,  
I might have seen the blood-stained brow,  
And heard the suffering Saviour say,  
"Forgive them, Father, O forgive!  
They know not that by me they live,"  
Had I been there.

Had I been there around the grave  
Which Roman soldiers vainly kept,  
I might have seen the angels wave  
Their pinions o'er the One that slept;  
I might have heard them sweetly say,  
"The Lord, indeed, is risen today,"  
Had I been there.

—Harry Armstrong

# Young People We Have Met



*Young people of backbone.*  
*Young people who can say no.*  
*Young people who are unselfish.*  
*Young people who are teachable.*  
*Young people who don't know it all.*  
*Young people who are utterly frank.*  
*Young people who delight to "lift up."*  
*Young people who live in the sunshine.*  
*Young people who make home a heaven.*  
*Young people who are never behind time.*  
*Young people whose religious zeal glows.*  
*Young people whose consecration is complete.*  
*Young people who are better doers than dreamers.*  
*Young people who have snap, without being snappy.*



*Young people that you somehow like to have around.*  
*Young people upon whom a pastor can safely count.*  
*Young people who dare to do right anywhere and always.*  
*Young people whose faces were made on purpose for smiles.*  
*Young people who have reverence for sacred things.*  
*Young people who think more of character than clothes.*  
*Young people whose presence brings gladness  
wherever they go.*  
*Young people who do not know what it is to weep over  
the imaginary woes of the hero of a sentimental novel.*  
*Young people who are most tender  
in their treatment of old people.*  
*Young people who are interested  
in all departments of church work.*



# Quick Bible Studies

By Lesley Johnson  
From North Carolina, U.S.A.

**S**anctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear" (1 Peter 3:15). Here is a quick Bible study that you can give to anyone, if the chance should arise unexpectedly. Remember, if you pray for opportunities, the Lord will provide them!

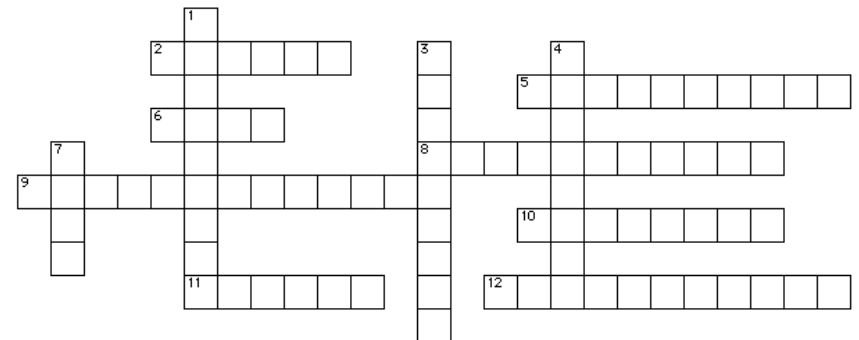
## IMMORTALITY

- Genesis 2:17 God said, "Thou shalt surely die."  
Genesis 3:4 Satan said, "Ye shall not surely die." Eve believed Satan. Whom shall we believe?
- 1 Timothy 6:16 We are told that only the Lord has immortality.
- James 4:14 In fact, we are as "a vapour." If, as many think, death is the door to eternal life (immortality), why do we fear it? Because:
- 1 Corinthians 15:26 Death is an "enemy," for when we die:  
Ecclesiastes 9:5 The dead "know not any thing." What happens after we die?
- Job 7:21; Daniel 12:2 After death we "sleep in the dust." Jesus verified this fact:
- John 11:11, 14, 25, 43, 44 As shown in the case of Lazarus, death is a sleep from which only Christ can awaken us.
- Romans 2:7 To have immortality, we must "seek for" it while still living.
- 1 Corinthians 15:51-55 When Christ returns for His people, they will "put on immortality."
- 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 This is the blessed hope "concerning them which are asleep."



# Life!

**T**he Bible gives a lot of insight on how to have a happy, satisfying life—one that is much more fulfilling than most people realize. The following puzzle provides those who seek a better life with a few tidbits of wisdom from the book of Proverbs (King James Version). The chapter and verse are mentioned after each clue.



### Across

2. The mouth of a righteous man is a well of life: but violence covereth the mouth of the \_\_\_\_ (10:11).  
5. Understanding is a \_\_\_\_ of life unto him that hath it: but the instruction of fools is folly (16:22).  
6. The ear that heareth the reproof of life abideth among the \_\_\_\_ (15:31).  
8. Take fast hold of \_\_\_\_; let her not go: keep her; for she is thy life (4:13).  
9. As \_\_\_\_ tendeth to life: so he that pursueth evil pursueth it to his own death (11:19).

10. The fear of the Lord is a \_\_\_\_ of life, to depart from the snares of death (14:27).

11. He is in the way of life that keepeth instruction: but he that refuseth reproof \_\_\_\_ (10:17).

12. He that keepeth his mouth keepeth his life: but he that openeth wide his lips shall have \_\_\_\_ (13:3).

### Down

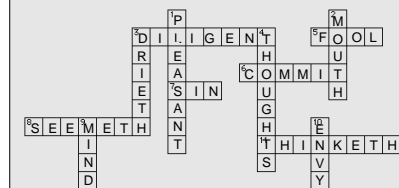
1. Keep thy heart with all \_\_\_\_; for out of it are the issues of life (4:23).

3. The fear of the Lord tendeth to life: and he that hath it shall abide \_\_\_\_; he shall not be visited with evil (19:23).

4. For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and \_\_\_\_ of instruction are the way of life (6:23).

7. A sound heart is the \_\_\_\_ of the flesh: but envy the rottenness of the bones (14:30).

### Answers to last issue's puzzle entitled, "Thoughts and Attitudes"



# A Journey to Remember



Joe Maniscalco

From *Life Sketches*, pp. 329–331 [1888 edition].

**D**EAR young people: Do you ever think that missionaries lead dull, uninteresting lives? The following report was given by Ellen G. White, telling of a winter missionary trip to the state of Iowa. You can see the great love, mercy, and dedication she exercised toward rebellious, bewildered souls. The report is followed by a letter written to her children during the same journey. How tender and devoted is her love for them, too!

“I was shown the state of some brethren who had moved to Waukon, Iowa. Nearly all of them were in darkness, opposed to the work of God. Their sympathy had been withdrawn from the *Review* Office, and from the church of God generally. Satan had planted the seeds of dissatisfaction, and the fruit was ripening.

“I saw that they needed help, that Satan’s snare must be broken, and those precious souls rescued. I did not see that it was our duty to go to them, but as I had been shown their condition, I felt anxious to go. It was a great distance, and in the winter. It was an exceedingly difficult and somewhat dangerous journey, yet I felt urged to go. My mind could not be at ease until we had decided to go, trusting in the Lord. It was then good sleighing, and preparations were made to go with two horses and a

sleigh; but, as it rained for twenty-four hours, and the snow was fast disappearing, my husband thought the journey must be given up. Yet my mind could not rest; it was agitated concerning Waukon. Bro. H. said to me, ‘Sister White, what about Waukon?’ Said I, ‘We shall go.’ ‘Yes,’ he replied, ‘if the Lord works a miracle.’ . . .

“Arriving at Green Vale, Illinois, we held meetings with the brethren there, and were delayed nearly a week by a severe snowstorm. At length we ventured to pursue our journey, and, weary, cold, and hungry, we stopped at a hotel a few miles from the Mississippi River. The next morning, about four o’clock, it commenced raining. We felt urged to go on, and rode through the rain, while the horses broke through the crusted snow at almost every step. We made many inquiries about crossing the river, but no one gave us encouragement that we could cross it. The ice was mostly composed of snow, and there lay upon the top of it about a foot of water. When we came to the river, Bro. H. arose in the sleigh and said, ‘Is it Iowa, or back to Illinois? We have come to the Red Sea; shall we cross?’ We answered, ‘Go forward, trusting in Israel’s God.’ We ventured upon the ice, praying as we went, and were carried safely across. As we ascended

the bank on the Iowa side of the river, we united in praising the Lord.

“A number of persons told us, after we had crossed, that no

amount of money would have tempted them to venture upon the ice, and that several teams [of horses] had broken through, the drivers barely escaping with their lives.”

Volney, Iowa, Dec. 24, 1857.

My Dear Children:

Here we are, twelve miles from Waukon. We have had a tedious time in getting thus far. Yesterday our horses for miles had to plow through snow very deep, but on we came, feeling confident that our mission was of God. Last Monday we could get no food that was fit to eat, and therefore rode in the coldest weather I ever saw, from morning until night, with nothing to eat but one apple. Oh, how thankful I shall be to see home, sweet home, again, and my three dear boys, Henry, Edson, and Willie.

Children, strive to do right, and love the Lord for His merciful kindness to you all. Obey those who have the care of you as you would your parents. Be kind to each other, and yield to each other’s wishes. Don’t become unsteady. Read the precious word of God.

You should be thankful for your comfortable home. We often suffer with cold on account of unfinished and open houses. Last night we slept in a chamber where there was an opening through the top of the stovepipe. If it had stormed, it would have come direct in our faces. Pray for us. Unless the Lord opens the way for us to return, we may be blocked in with snow, and have to remain all winter.

I hope, dear Henry, that you are a good boy, and are happy in doing right. Continue to strive to be faithful in all things. We received your letter, and were much pleased to hear from you. We think you have made improvements in setting type. Be faithful, children, in all things. The Lord will soon come and take the good and holy to Himself. We want you to live among the pure and holy angels in heaven, and wear a crown of gold, and eat of the tree of life. Trust in the Lord at all times. Listen to the voice of conscience. Love God and you will have His approving smile. What a thought, to have the great God, the maker of the heavens and the earth, to smile upon and love you. Dear children, seek for this, pray for it, live for it.

Your affectionate Mother

# The Land of "Pretty Soon"

I know a land  
where the streets are paved  
With the things  
we meant to achieve.  
It is walled with the money  
we meant to have saved,  
And the pleasures for  
which we grieve;  
And kind words unspoken,  
the promises broken,  
And many a coveted boon,  
Are stowed away there  
in that land somewhere—  
The land of "Pretty Soon."

The road that leads to  
that mystic land  
Is strewn with pitiful wrecks,  
And the ships that have sailed for  
its shining strand  
Bear skeletons on their decks.  
It is farther at noon that  
it was at dawn,  
And farther at night than at noon;  
Oh, let us beware of that  
land down there—  
The land of "Pretty Soon."

— Ella Wheeler Wilcox

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