

YOUTH Messenger®

JULY-SEPTEMBER 2003



Much From Nothing

From Prison to Freedom


The victory was complete, the enemy defeated! The devil had tried everything to make Jesus sin at least by a thought, but nothing had worked. The Saviour's words resounded, "It is finished" (John 19:30). Now, in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathaea, the holy Son of man rested in perfect peace. Had the enemy gained anything by finally managing to kill Jesus? Could he keep Him in the cold prison of death? The Roman guards stood watching before the huge stone sealed with the seal of the most powerful human empire. What would be the result? As a perfect Conqueror, with the life which was in Him, the Lord came forth from the tomb, declaring, "I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death" (Revelation 1:18). This is the precious good news! Even a dead Jesus was more powerful than His living enemy. Perfect, precious victory for our Saviour!

What were the disciples doing as He rested in the grave? Were they in the Temple announcing the victory? Not at all! They did not even know what had been accomplished. They were "celebrating" with tears of sadness, behind the locked doors of the upper room. Instead of having joy, they were sunken in sorrow.

The glorious truth was hid from them; their understanding blinded.

But soon they would see Jesus alive and would recognize the keys to life abundant, to life eternal. How great would be their happiness, how complete their acceptance, their surrender! How sweet to partake of His sufferings! This victory is repeated again and again in the life of His disciples everywhere.

"And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou has sent" (John 17:3). "That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection" (Philippians 3:10), this is life! True life, life eternal! To know Him, "and Him crucified" (1 Corinthians 2:2). To know Him who has the keys of hell and of death, Him, the Conqueror—this is life! Contemplating Him, we are drawn out of the dark prison of sin, to experience the joy of walking with Him in the light of His righteousness! He has the keys! The prison is open! There is no need to remain in sin anymore. To embrace this means to pass from death unto life.

In this issue of the *Youth Messenger* you will find more about abundant living and the Holy Book which brings Him, "the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6) closer to your heart! May He richly bless you, as He opens for you the treasures of His glory! May your thirsty soul be continuously refreshed from the Fountain of Life. 

Contents

JULY–SEPTEMBER 2003

Vol. XXII, No. 3

Editorial

From Prison to Freedom. **2**

Much From Nothing

Is each one of us simply a "diamond in the rough?" **4**

Quick Bible Studies

God's Law. **10**

Words to the Young

Choose to serve God in your everyday life. **11**

Fruits and Veggies, Nuts and Grains

A great way to eat, a smart way to live. **14**

The Importance of Education—II

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" (Psalm 111:10). **19**

Trivia to Treasure (IV)

Bible names and places beginning with J, K, L, and M. **22**

Walk With the King

A poem showing the right way to go. **24**

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MUCH FROM NOTHING

by Rubens J. Araujo
Writing From California, USA

Dead dogs. Driving from my house towards downtown one afternoon, I noticed ahead of me an animal lying on the road. The poor dog had been killed—probably by another vehicle. Now its lifeless body lay just upon the yellow dividing line. As I drove by, I felt very touched. “Why do innocent creatures like this need to perish in such a tragic manner?” Of course, my natural instinct was to steer the wheels away from it. Even though it was already dead I didn’t want to inflict another blow upon it.

For the next few days the mangled canine corpse remained in the same spot I first saw it. After being rolled over several times, what remained nature took care of. No one, not even I, came to gather up the remains and perform an honorable funeral. Someone may say: “Get real, brother, dogs are like that. Nobody cares!” It is easy to understand why the phrase “dead dog” has become synonymous with nothingness. A dead dog is worthless.



Worthless life. How different would things be if “it” were “he” or “she”?—Maybe not very much. Authorities are very concerned about human behavior in this regard. It seems that we are becoming more and more apathetic towards each other’s needs, even when our lives are at risk. People are scared to “get involved in someone else’s business.” Each of us is tempted to be apathetic. We could easily excuse ourselves, stating that we are not our brother’s keeper anyway. Take homeless people, for example. It is sad to realize how many homeless people die every year during the winter season. Should we say that we are not accountable because they choose to live like that, or because they are the slaves of alcohol and/or drugs?

The reality is that life has almost no value today. It is hard to find one who cares, one who loves. No doubt we are living in that period predicted by Christ, “And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold” (Matthew

24:12). Just look at the news, and see how people kill each other, especially during wartime. Thousands perish without receiving a proper burial. They are gathered from the battle sites and thrown into communal graves. Humans vanish like dogs. No real difference!

Some friends who were dear to my heart have also perished on the road. They were among the thousands of car-accident victims. One of them was literally cremated and his remaining ashes were brought home in a small box. I shivered at the thought of how fragile life can be. Humanly speaking, we are nothing more than ashes or dust. Abraham was aware of this when he declared “I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord, which am but dust and ashes.” It was a reality that the Creator Himself had confirmed. “In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return” (Genesis 18:27; 3:19).

“Thou carriest them away as with a flood; they are as a sleep: in the morning they are like grass which groweth up. In the morning it flourisheth, and groweth up; in the evening it is cut down, and withereth” (Psalm 90:5, 6).

If we would conclude the matter at this point, we would be among the most miserable of humans. Without hope, without a future! However, we need to consider that all depends on who is holding these ashes. From one side, Satan is working harder than ever to possess them and, of course, keep them in that state forever. If it depended upon him, none would ever come

out of their graves again. Yes, he wanted to keep the body of Moses in the tomb forever. If the powerful Michael (Jesus) had not intervened on behalf of His servant, Moses would have no hope ever to be resurrected from death. The same was with Lazarus. The intention of the enemy was to continue the process of disintegration once started. In the case of Christ Himself, Satan instigated his agents to seal Jesus’ sepulcher with an enormous rock and watch over it with many guards. The whole intention was to stop Christ’s resurrection and, in doing so, close the door of eternal glory to all. No one should forget that. Satan is the very one that has brought death into our world, debasing mankind to the lowest level possible. He wants to hurt and destroy. Yet he is incapable of creating or even elevating the human race.

On the other hand, the Word reveals what God can do with the dust of the earth. “And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.” “And out of the ground made the Lord God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food” (Genesis 2:7, 9). He is capable of bringing forth marvelous works out of the dust and He is more than willing to use dust for His own good purpose. In His sight everyone is valuable. He “is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9). Wonderful knowledge that many fail to grasp!

On the right side. The notion of naught or zero revolutionized the

world of arithmetic. Adding zero to the left (negative) of a number results in division, while to its right (positive) becomes, multiplication. So it will happen in the spiritual field. The enemy's aim is to add to our mortal life as many left zeros as possible. In other words, he uses the operation of division or breaking down. Our heavenly Father works through an opposite process. He elevates us from nothing to much. This is the divine multiplication. "He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength" (Isaiah 40:29).

Placing ourselves on the right side of the One who knows all our troubles and needs, our nothingness is transformed in wholeness. The weak becomes strong, the poor rich, and the defeated conqueror. Indeed, as we accept this concept—that our own righteousness is worth nothing, and seek the power from on High, a great miracle will occur. The heavenly channels will be opened, and the salvation process begins to operate. Remember what happened to the Samaritan woman and to the thief

God wishes to take our fragile frames and transform them into His eternal and peculiar treasure.

on the cross. We don't even know their names, as it is often the case that a good name or reputation in this world can be without value. But the Saviour shall give them new names in His kingdom.

"It is the work of God in laying the glory of man in the dust, and doing for man that which it is not in his power to do for himself. When men see their own nothingness, they are prepared to be clothed with the righteousness of Christ. . . . Men who have lived nearest to God, men who would sacrifice life itself rather than knowingly commit a wrong act, men whom God had honored with divine light and power, have confessed the sinfulness of their own nature. They have put no confidence in the flesh, have claimed no righteousness of their own, but have trusted wholly in the righteousness of Christ. So will it be with all who behold Christ."—*The Faith I Live By*, p. 111.

The key word in this process is "behold." According to the dictionary, to behold means to "look carefully, continually." This definition brings to mind the story of a man that wished to die because he believed his life was not worthy to be lived. He felt so miserable that he wanted to end his life. Sharing his feelings with the king, the monarch demanded from him the following task: To fill up a spoon with oil and to hold the spoon's handle with his mouth. Like that, the poor man was supposed to go around the kingdom, without dropping anything from the spoon's content—not even one drop, otherwise he would be severely punished. With great attention and

carefulness he fulfilled his mission, without dropping the oil from the spoon. "What have you seen during your journey?" asked the king. "Absolutely nothing," replied the man. Even crossing through the market place, the villages, and busy royal roads, he couldn't mention anything about his journey. He was so concentrated with his task, that he was not distracted by anything else. He was saved! He discovered that by focusing on a goal, he could find the path of happiness.

Besides putting ourselves on Christ's side, we are urged in Hebrews 12:15 to look "diligently" unto Him. Nothing in this world should draw our attention away, unless we would sink, as Peter did (see Matthew 14:29, 30). Jesus is the foundation of all faith; therefore, the apostle advises us to keep our eyes on Him, "the author and finisher of our faith" (Hebrews 12:2). The great blessing of this contemplation is that by beholding Him we are changed (2 Corinthians 3:18).

From ashes to precious stones. Among the stones, diamonds are considered the most precious. But what are diamonds? Nothing more than crystals almost entirely formed of carbon. These molecules of carbon, when submitted to high pressure and heat for a good period of time, result in the formation of a very hard and valuable substance. Starting from this principle (Carbon + Pressure + Heat = Diamond), men of our days are capable of producing them artificially. Most surprising is the fact that they can be made of any concentration of carbon—peanuts for



example, or even ashes. Yes, diamonds from ashes! If men are capable of performing such a feat, how much more can the Almighty do with our mortal ashes? According to His agenda, He plans to plant us on higher ground. He wishes to take our fragile frames and transform them into His eternal and peculiar treasure. "Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ." "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people" (1 Peter 2:5, 9).

For me, chapter eleven of Hebrews is a trunk full of precious and faithful stones. In there is mentioned of a slave that was made prime minister (verse 22). There we find a harlot who was transformed into a heroine (verse 31). And there

is room in this box of faith for all the jewels of the past and the future. Certainly we could include there Mary Magdalene, the Samaritan woman, and the thief who was crucified with Christ. About these last two, we don't even know their names. But that's okay because the reward is given not according to good names (fame, prestige, honor, position), but according to God's will. There shall be many surprises! "Even unto them will I give in mine house and within my walls a place and a name better than of sons and of daughters: I will give them an everlasting name, that shall not be cut off" (Isaiah 56:5). Some even "were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; (of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth" (Hebrews 11:37, 38).

As I consider these last inspired words, immediately there comes to mind the persecution Christians suffered during the Dark Ages; how the Reformers sealed their faith with their own life. Certainly, they did not die in vain. Their Commander did transform their apparent defeat into victory.

"When the body of Huss had been wholly consumed, his ashes, with the soil upon which they rested, were gathered up and cast into the Rhine, and thus borne onward to the ocean. His persecutors vainly imagined that they had rooted out the truths he preached. Little did they dream that the ashes that day borne away to the sea were to be as seed scattered in all the countries of

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the earth; that in lands yet unknown it would yield abundant fruit in witness for the truth. The voice which had spoken in the council hall of Constance had wakened echoes that would be heard through all coming ages. Huss was no more, but the truths for which he died could never perish."—*The Great Controversy*, p. 110.

Heavenly citizens. "[The Lord] raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set them among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory: for the pillars of the earth are the Lord's, and he hath set the world upon them" (1 Samuel 2:8).

It is true that no polluted thing will enter God's kingdom. Therefore any reformation to be performed must occur prior to His coming. The good news is that He is prepared to perform this great metamorphosis in our life today. He is pleading with our conscience to allow Him to do so. He cannot work against our own will. If you feel reluctant due to your many past sins and mistakes,


do not procrastinate any longer. "When Satan comes to tell you that you are a great sinner, look up to your Redeemer and talk of His merits. That which will help you is to look to His light. Acknowledge your sin, but tell the enemy that 'Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners' (1 Timothy 1:15) and that you may be saved by His matchless love."—*Steps to Christ*, p. 36.

Never harbor doubt in your mind about what the power of God is able to do with the "ashes" of disappointments, resentments, and failures. Remember that all the great heroes of faith were not born perfect, but were people "subject to like passions as we are" (James 5:17). If the enemy comes to you with the suggestion that your condition is hopeless, run to the cross. You will find there not only the peace that results from pardoned sins, but hope of eternal salvation. It is there that all of us obtain the right to heavenly citizenship.

Dear friend, do you remember the old saying, "If life hands you lemons, make lemonade"? Some of us may think, "Oh, no! Not that advice again!" In a certain way your frustration is understandable. I don't like the idea myself, because it presents only a mere human solution to the problem. Many of us have turned into lemonade-making experts. But lemonade cannot stand eternity. God's miracle is far more rich and durable. He wants to place us on much higher ground.

"As the sinner, drawn by the love of Christ, approaches the cross, and prostrates himself before it, there is a new creation. A new heart is given him. He becomes a new creature in Christ Jesus. Holiness finds that it

has nothing more to require. God Himself is 'the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.' And 'whom He justified, them He also glorified' (Romans 3:26; 8:30). Great as is the shame and degradation through sin, even greater will be the honor and exaltation through redeeming love. To human beings striving for conformity to the divine image, there is imparted an outlay of heavenly treasures, an excellency of power, that will place them higher than even the angels who have never sinned."—*The Signs of the Times*, June 4, 1902.

As we live in this solemn period of history, it is our privilege and opportunity to strive and be part of a special group of redeemed souls. They are described in Revelation as having come "out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb" (Revelation 7:14. See also 14:1–4). They shall be tested or tried to their limits. No doubt they will be under high pressure and heat. Nevertheless, since they will have already washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb, no harm shall fall upon them. On the contrary, they will come out of this experience shining as the stars in the firmament. The worthless ashes will be transformed into diamonds. The nameless nobodies will shine forth with the glory of Heaven, for our Saviour has promised, "Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out; and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name" (Revelation 3:12). 

Quick Bible Studies

PART X

Sanctify 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!

God's Law

- Psalms 19:7-11** God's law is perfect, His testimony sure. Why would anyone want to change something that is perfect and sure?
- Romans 3:20** Its purpose is to give us knowledge that we might know when we are sinning.
- Ephesians 2:8, 9** We are saved by grace through faith, but not from keeping the law.
- Romans 3:31** However, that does not make void the law, but establishes it.
- John 17:3** Eternal life is to know God. How can we be sure we know Him?
- 1 John 2:3-5** We know Him, if we keep His commandments; anyone who does not keep His commandments and says that he knows Him, is a liar.
- Matthew 5:17, 18** Christ did not come to destroy the law, but to fulfill it. And how did He do this?
- John 15:10** He lived His Father's commandments.
- 1 John 3:4** Breaking any of the Ten Commandments is sin.
- James 2:10-12** And if you break only one commandment, you have broken them all.
- Matthew 4:4** We live, not by bread alone, but by every word that proceeded out of the mouth of God.

Words to the Young

***"Under whose banner am I serving?
Am I standing under the blood-stained
banner of Prince Immanuel?"***

by E. G. White

From the Youth's Instructor, March 9, 1893

Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life" (1 Timothy 6:12). There is a daily work for us to do in fighting the good fight of faith. We should seek God in earnest prayer, watching thereunto with holy endeavor that we may keep the way of the Lord. While thus watching we are not to keep worrying about ourselves, to keep looking at our weakness, and studying our inefficiency. We are to look away from self to Jesus, and put our trust in Him as our personal Saviour. We are to let Him take care of our growth; for the work is to be done, "Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts" (Zechariah 4:6). The Lord will attend to the growth of the seed, and we are to keep our minds stayed upon Jesus. He will send the bright beams of the Sun of righteousness into the soul, which will impart beauty and fragrance to the spiritual life. He will give to the character the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which in the sight of God is of great price.

Let every youth ask himself, "Under whose banner am I serving? Am I standing under the blood-stained banner of Prince Immanuel? Am I a faithful soldier of Jesus Christ, who has paid the ransom for my salvation by giving His own precious life? If I am not under the banner of Prince Immanuel, where am I? To whom do I belong?" You are either under the banner of the Prince of light or under the banner of the prince of darkness. Jesus has said, "He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad" (Matthew 12:30). It is important that we know whether we are on the Lord's side or serving on the side of Satan. He who ventures to use his God-given talents to become an agent of Satan risks his soul's salvation.

I entreat the youth who may read these words to place themselves entirely on the Lord's side. There is nothing that can keep you away from God but a rebellious will. Place your will on the side of

God's will. If you are in the service of the enemy, you are under the power of a hard master. For your own soul's sake, repent and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, that you may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness.

All who are on the Lord's side are to confess Christ. "Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord" (Isaiah 43:10). The faith of the genuine believer will be made manifest in purity and holiness of character. Faith works by love and purifies the soul, and with faith there will be corresponding obedience, a faithful doing of the words of Christ. Christianity is always intensely practical, adapting itself to all the circumstances of actual life. "Ye are my witnesses." To whom?—To the world; for you are to bear about with you a holy influence. Christ is to abide in your soul, and you are to talk of Him, and make manifest the charms of His character.

The fashionable religion of the time has so



molded character, that youth who make a profession of Christ scarcely mention His name to their associates. They converse on many subjects, but the precious plan of redemption is not made a theme of conversation. Suppose that as practical Christians, we should change this order of things, and show forth the praises of him who hath called "us" out of darkness into his marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9). If Christ is abiding in the heart by faith, you cannot keep silent. If you have found Jesus, you will be a true missionary. You are to be enthusiastic in this matter, and let those know who do not appreciate Jesus that you have found Him precious to your soul, that He has put a new song in your mouth, even praise to God.

My young friends, will you begin your Christian life as those whose hearts are warmed with the love of Jesus? You will never know how much good you may do by speaking tenderly sensible, serious words regarding their soul's salvation to those who do not claim to be children of God. On the other hand you may never know until the judgment how many opportunities to be Christ's witnesses you have left unimproved. You may never know in this world the mischief you have done to some soul by your little acts of frivolity, your cheap talk, your levity, which was wholly inconsistent with your holy faith.

It is true, you may feel a sort of anxiety for the souls of those you love. You may seek to open to them the treasures of truth, and in your earnestness shed tears for their salvation; but when your words seem to make but little impression, and



there is no apparent response to your prayers, you almost feel like casting reflection upon God that your labors bear no fruit. You feel that your dear ones have special hardness of heart, and that they do not respond to your efforts. But have you thought seriously that the fault may lie in your own self? Have you thought that you are pulling down with one hand that which you are striving to build up with the other? At times you have permitted the Spirit of God to have a controlling power over you, and at other times you have denied your faith by your practice, and have destroyed your labor for your loved ones; for your efforts in their behalf have been made of none effect by your practice. Your temper, your unspoken language, your manners, the repining state of your mind, your want of Christian fragrance, your want of spirituality, the very expression of your countenance, has witnessed against you.

I urge you, youthful Christians,

to think of these things most seriously; examine yourselves whether indeed you are a student in the school of Christ. Jesus says, "Learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:29, 30). Let all who associate with you see that you love Jesus and love the souls for whom He has died. Let it be made manifest that the precious truth sanctifies your life and character, and is to you a source of constant, unending joy. Let others see that the love of Jesus reaches from your heart through your whole life.

Never underrate the importance of little things. Little things supply the actual discipline of life. It is by them that the soul is trained that it may grow into the likeness of Christ, or bear the likeness of evil. God help us to cultivate habits of thought, word, look, and action that will testify to all about us that we have been with Jesus and learned of Him!

Fruits & Veggies, Nuts & Grains

by Lesley Johnson
Writing from North Carolina, USA

When I grate a carrot, it doesn't scream in pain. When I peel a potato, the eyes don't stare into mine pleadingly. When I cut into a beet, there are no severed blood vessels to drain out its lifeblood. When I shred a head of cabbage, there is no body left to bury. When I pick a tomato, the plant doesn't die—the more I pick, the more it produces. When I go to the garden, my veggies are not walking around; I do not have to pen them up. They do not make sounds or show emotions. They do not evoke love or hate.

If I should neglect harvesting, the fruits on the vines and trees would rot, the grains would go to seed, the nuts would fall to the ground and decay. But these plants continue to live,



to reseed themselves, to perpetuate themselves. The Bible speaks of "seedtime and harvest" (Genesis 8:22). It seems that their function is to share, and for this they suffer no ill effects from my feasting upon sumptuous meals prepared from their bounty. In fact, harvesting is a necessary part of the "life" cycle of fruits and vegetables, nuts and grains. Eat the present crop, and they happily reproduce—with a little help. God made it that way so we would continue to have food that nourishes, the right fuel for the human machine, and for every animal to function at peak performance. (Genesis 1:29, 30.)

Because men and women had strayed largely from the original plans that God had laid down for them, ancient Israel was chosen to be an example, so that all the world might observe and learn His curriculum for spiritual, mental, and physical well-being. One of those teachings was in regard to what was (and is) a proper diet for both people and animals (Genesis 1:29, 30). And so the first thing God did when He led Israel out of Egyptian captivity was to pour down from heaven "angels' food," "corn of heaven," "manna" (Psalm 78:23–25) that they



would learn to live upon and have the benefit of a non-flesh diet. He told them that if they were obedient to His commandments, statutes and judgments, "none of these diseases" would afflict them that had afflicted the Egyptians (Exodus 15:26). Unfortunately, the people proved to be poor examples; they murmured and complained until He gave them the "flesh pots of Egypt" (Exodus 16:3) that they craved—but a curse went with it (Psalm 78:27–31; 1 Corinthians 10:6). Flesh-eating was called "sin" (Psalm 78:32). In His mercy, the Lord specified which animals could be eaten to cause fewer problems and which were not fit for food (Leviticus 11). This was one of those "statutes that were not good" (Ezekiel 20:25). The lesson here is, be careful what you ask for when the Lord has already given instruction, as you may get what you insist on, but not for your best good.

In the sanctuary service ordered by God to be an object lesson of the plan of salvation (the sacrifice of the Lamb of God), the priests were at times to eat the sin offering, which of course was flesh (Leviticus 6:25, 26). When the chil-

dren of Israel sinned regarding the molten-calf-idol, Moses ground it to powder, sprinkled it on the water, and then made them drink of it. In each case, it was not a cause for rejoicing, a meal to look forward to, but a method of teaching them to abhor sin.

Down through the long ages, from Adam to modern man, the same murmuring and complaining has continued. The majority of people judge vegetarianism to be unappealing, and therefore reject it without taking the matter up for study, though science has proven that a vegetarian diet is perfectly healthy in every way, that it contains all the nutrients that the human body needs in correct proportions when well-balanced by utilizing a varied menu. On the current diet (at least in America), consisting largely of flesh foods and starches, our children have begun to reap a harvest in early onset of the chronic diseases of the civilized world that affect the heart and blood vessels. This diet is also suspect in the development of cancer, obesity, and related sicknesses. Did you know that Alzheimer's and Parkinson's are appearing at earlier ages also? There are strong clues that improper diet is a causative factor.

I encourage those who believe that a meal without meat is tasteless and unsatisfying to



patronize a vegetarian restaurant at least once. It will be an enlightening experience, and surprisingly delightful to your taste buds. I make this statement not only from personal experience, but because this is what I have been told by others who have also experienced it themselves.

I once heard a story about a young woman who had a pet cat of whom she was quite fond. One day, standing in front of a window with a friend, she saw her docile, sweet-tempered kitty attacking a field mouse, ripping its little body into several pieces and gorging on what, to the cat, must have been the tastiest parts, before abandoning the rest of the carcass. When the young woman expressed her surprise and disgust at this sight to her friend, the response she got was that what the cat had done with tooth and claw, she did with tooth and knife.

Can it possibly be healthy to feast upon dead carcasses? Can it possibly be humane?

There are blights, bugs, and worms that attack fruits and vegetables, nuts and grains, but they are visible and, if practicable, can be cut out and the remainder of the product is safe to consume; if the whole thing is affected, it can be relegated to the garbage can (or compost pile) with no problem. I might add that dogs and other animals do not attack your garbage can if all that is in it is plant residue. It is true that dangerous chemicals are used in the soil to produce bug-resistant plants; genes from animals are often inserted in the plant's DNA in order to generate bigger, flawless produce that has a long shelf life. This is not God's plan. Humanity has a way of



perverting the gifts that God has given as a blessing. But it is still safer to eat those foods listed in the "original diet," even when purchased from the supermarket than to consume flesh from any source. And it is safer yet to personally grow that diet of fruits and vegetables in small home gardens. Organic produce is available and is perhaps the answer for those who do not have the time or facility to grow a garden of their own.

But even though there is no perfect food presently available to us, such as manna from heaven, preventing the misery inflicted upon the animal kingdom, is a major reason to consider not eating flesh. Following are just a few of the facts that have been reported in the news:

Egg producers pack full-grown hens six to a cage, stacked eight cages high inside of a windowless building which houses perhaps as many as 50,000 hens at a time. They partially cut their beaks off so that they can't peck each other. The cage is so small that they cannot spread their wings. There they live out their lives doing nothing but laying eggs until they are unable to function anymore.

Chickens raised for meat are fattened artificially, slaughtered and immersed in water; thus their bodies soak up that water which adds to their weight which means more money for the seller. While they are soaking, the intestinal material contaminates the water and they literally marinate in their own excrement. Many workers in the chicken plants are understandably loathe to eat chicken.

Milk cows are separated from their calves a few days after they are born. The cows are then able to produce milk which is removed from them by machines that cannot perceive when the udder is inflamed or infected or that the cow is sick, and it is mixed in with the milk from healthy cows. The blood and pus from the sick cows is not noticed due to the volume of milk produced, and it is sent on to the consumer. Yes, it is pasteurized, at 140 degrees F. which kills some types of bacteria and not others; very seldom will viruses be affected. The cows are treated like machines until finally they are worn out and unable to produce anymore.

The young calves are then restrained in dark stalls where they are force-fed until they are of a proper weight to sell as veal. They never see the sunlight. The practice



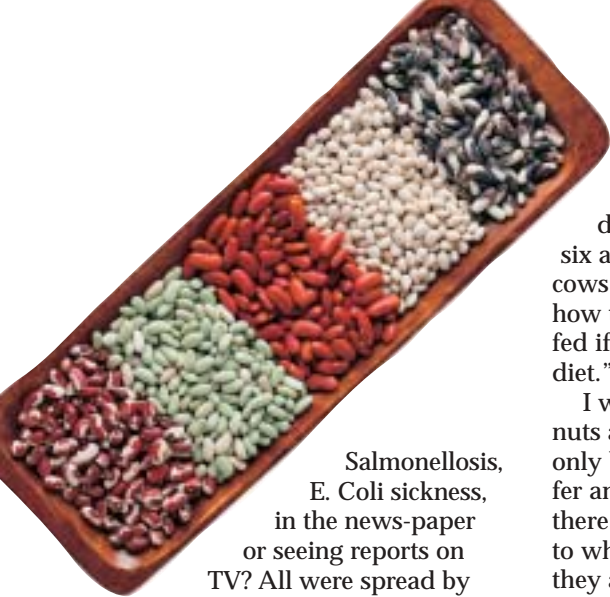
of adding hormones and antibiotics, while in question, has not been discontinued. This has been done to cows, sheep, chickens, and pigs. Have you wondered why children who eat large quantities of animal products, ingesting second-hand hormones, are maturing at an alarmingly young age?

Another procedure which has been largely in use throughout the world, is that of feeding meat by-products back to the animals, effectually making cannibals out of them. This has led to Mad Cow disease and has also affected sheep and pigs. The reason it was done was to utilize every part of the animal, which, of course, is economically practicable. But unfortunately, it has been found to be a perilous course of action for the human factor.

Dead carcasses of all types of animals found to have tumors, nodules, cancers, etc., are prepared for the retail meat case by removing those tumors, and the like, that are visible. From what we know of disease, it is most likely the whole body is contaminated, and the carcasses are teeming reservoirs of illness. The chopping blocks on which the bodies are severed have often been found to be moldy and unclean. There are not nearly enough meat inspectors to examine the facilities, the employees, and the carcasses adequately. Consequently, they are merely spot-checked and much escapes detection.

Two other animal diseases which can cause the human body serious problems (but are less often seen) are Hoof and Mouth disease and Anthrax, both very contagious.

Remember reading about septicemia, staphylococcal outbreaks,



Salmonellosis, E. Coli sickness, in the news-paper or seeing reports on TV? All were spread by meat-eating. We have already looked at some of the chronic diseases that are the long-term result of consumption of meat and meat products.


Sausages and hot dogs are nothing but meat by-products—the residue of butchering which cannot be sold as is, mixed in with other cuts of meat, ground together and forced into a casing usually made of animal intestine. Scrapple is a similar concoction. I asked a waitress one time what Scrapple was, and she commented that I wouldn't want to know. Certainly these "delicacies" fall into the category of "taste not, touch not."

It has been a policy of the court system in the past that those who slaughter animals at the packing houses were unfit for jury duty because they lacked compassion. We know that those who abuse animals have no reservations regarding the abuse of people.

Touching very lightly on the economic factors, flesh products cost comparatively twice as much as do fruits and vegetables and grains;

nuts and nut products are about equal in price. And the amount of land used to maintain one cow would produce food for up to as many as six adults. Multiply that by 1000 cows and it is readily foreseeable how the world could adequately be fed if they were to use the "original diet."

I will eat my fruits and veggies, nuts and grains, with "gusto," not only because they don't have to suffer and die for me, but also because there aren't any surprises in store as to what they are made of or how they are prepared—unless I eat out. I have control over this type of food to an extent that far surpasses that of flesh foods.

Christ suffered and died for me. There was a reason for it and although I abhor the fact that I, too, am responsible for what happened to Him, I can rejoice in that He is alive and will soon return. Vegetarianism helps to prepare us for that soon return, for in His kingdom there will be nothing that causes pain, misery or death to animals or humans. "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice's den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea" (Isaiah 11:6-9). 

The Importance of Education—II

Excerpts from an address delivered before the teachers and students of Battle Creek College at the time of the General Conference in Battle Creek, Michigan, November 15, 1883.

As published in the *Review and Herald*, August 19 and 26, 1884

by E. G. White

With Daniel, the fear of the Lord was the beginning of wisdom. He was placed in a position where temptation was strong. In king's courts, dissipation was on every side; selfish indulgence, gratification of appetite, intemperance and gluttony, were the order of each day. Daniel could join in the debilitating, corrupting practices of the courtiers, or he could resist the influence that tended downward. He chose the latter course. He purposed in his heart that he would not be corrupted by the sinful indulgences with which he was brought in contact, let the consequences be what they might. He would not even defile himself with the king's meat, or with the wine that he drank. The Lord was pleased with the course that Daniel pursued. He was greatly beloved and honored of heaven; and to him the God of wisdom gave skill in the

learning of the Chaldeans, and understanding in all visions and dreams.

If the students who attend our colleges would be firm, and maintain integrity, if they would not associate with those who walk in the paths of sin, nor be charmed by their society, like Daniel they would enjoy the favor of God. If they would discard unprofitable amusements and indulgence of appetite, their minds would be clear for the pursuit of knowledge. They would thus gain a moral power that would enable them to remain unmoved when assailed by temptation. It is a continual struggle to be always on the alert to resist evil; but it pays to obtain one victory after another over self and the powers of darkness. And if the youth are proved and tested, as was Daniel, what honor can they reflect to God by their firm adherence to the right.



A spotless character is as precious as the gold of Ophir. Without pure, unsullied virtue, none can ever rise to any honorable eminence. But noble aspirations and the love of righteousness are not inherited. Character cannot be bought; it must be formed by stern efforts to resist temptation. The formation of a right character is the work of a lifetime, and is the outgrowth of prayerful meditation united with a grand purpose. The excellence of character that you possess must be the result of your own effort. Friends may encourage you, but they cannot do the work for you. Wishing, sighing, dreaming, will never make you great or good. You must climb. Gird up the loins of your mind, and go to work with all the strong powers of your will. It is the wise improvement of your

opportunities, the cultivation of your God-given talents, that will make you men and women that can be approved of God, and a blessing to society. Let your standard be high, and with indomitable energy, make the most of your talents and opportunities, and press to the mark.

Will our youth consider that they have battles to fight? Satan and his hosts are arrayed against them, and they have not the experience that those of mature age have gained.

Satan has an intense hatred for Christ, and the purchase of His blood, and he works with all

deceivableness of unrighteousness. He seeks by every artifice to enlist the young under his banner; and he uses them as his agents to suggest doubts of the Bible. When one seed of doubt is sown, Satan nourishes it until it produces an abundant harvest. If he can unsettle one youth in regard to the Scripture, that one will not cease to work until other minds are leavened with the same skepticism.

Those who cherish doubts will boast of their independence of mind; but they are far enough from possessing genuine independence. Their minds are filled with slavish fear, lest some-one as weak and superficial as themselves should ridicule them. This is weakness, and slavery to the veriest tyrant. True liberty and independence are found in the service of God. His

service will place upon you no restriction that will not increase your happiness. In complying with His requirements, you will find a peace, contentment, and enjoyment that you can never have in the path of wild license and sin. Then study well the nature of the liberty you desire. Is it the liberty of the sons of God, to be free in Christ Jesus? or do you call the selfish indulgence of base passions freedom? Such liberty carries with it the heaviest remorse; it is the cruelest bondage.


True independence of mind is not stubbornness. It leads the youth to form their opinions on the word of God, irrespective of what others may say or do. If in the company of the unbelieving, the atheist, or the infidel, it leads them to acknowledge and defend their belief in the sacred truths of the gospel against the cavilings and witticisms of their ungodly associates. If they are with those who think it a virtue to parade the faults of professed Christians, and then scoff at religion, morality, and virtue, real independence of mind will lead them courteously yet boldly to show that ridicule is a poor substitute for sound argument. It will enable them to look beyond the cavalier to the one who influences him, the adversary of God and man, and to resist him in the person of his agent.

Stand up for Jesus, young friends, and in your time of need Jesus will stand up for you. "By their fruits ye shall know them" (Matthew 7:20). Either God or Satan controls the mind; and the life shows so clearly that none need mistake to which power you yield allegiance. Every one has an influence either for good or for evil. Is your influence on the

side of Christ or on that of Satan? Those who turn away from iniquity enlist the power of Omnipotence in their favor. The atmosphere that surrounds them is not of earth. By the silent power of a well ordered life and a godly conversation, they may present Jesus to the world. They may reflect Heaven's light, and win souls to Christ.

I am glad that we have institutions where our youth can be separated from the corrupting influences so prevalent in the schools of the present day. Our brethren and sisters should be thankful that in the providence of God our colleges have been established, and should stand ready to sustain them by their means. Every influence should be brought to bear to educate the youth and to elevate their morals. They should be trained to have moral courage to resist the tide of moral pollution in this degenerate age. With a firm hold upon divine power, they may stand in society to mold and fashion, rather than to be fashioned after the world's model. . . .

The future of society will be determined by the youth of today. Satan is making earnest, persevering efforts to corrupt the mind and debase the character of every young person; and shall we who have more experience stand as mere spectators, and see him accomplish his purpose without hindrance? Let us stand at our post as minute-men, to work for these youth, and through the help of God hold them back from the pit of destruction. . . .

Let us work for time and for eternity. Let us work for the youth with all the powers God has bestowed upon us, and He will bless our well-directed efforts. 

Trivia to Treasure

Bible ABC's



The following quiz will test your knowledge of certain Bible names and places which begin with the letters J, K, L, and M. Some answers are easy, others are more challenging. After you go through them all, pick out the ones you could not answer. Look up the verse prayerfully and read its entire context, asking God to give you greater spiritual understanding from what you find. Try to discover more about that subject and of God's love shining through it by using a concordance or Spirit of Prophecy index. It may take a bit more time, but this is what turns what might have seemed as only trivia into richer spiritual treasure. Enjoy!

J

1. One who prayed for protection from evil (1 Chronicles 4:9, 10).
2. Two who defied God in Moses' time (2 Timothy 3:8).
3. An early Christian whose house was assaulted by the Jews (Acts 17:5-7).
4. A king of Judah who feared the Lord (1 Kings 22:41-44; 2 Chronicles 20:1-3, 20).
5. A zealous, hypocritical king (2 Kings 10:13, 16, 28-31).
6. A harlot's son known for keeping his vow (Judges 11:1, 30-35; Hebrews 11:32).
7. A wicked queen, who lived a notorious life and died a disgraceful death (2 Kings 9:30-37).
8. The general of King David's army (1 Chronicles 27:34).
9. The father who accepted correction from his son, Gideon (Judges 6:24-31).
10. The godly mother of Moses (Exodus 6:20).

K, L

1. A Levite who helped with the restoration of Jerusalem (Ezra 3:9; Nehemiah 7:43).
2. Two of the sons of Ishmael (Genesis 25:13-15).
3. Three nations promised to Abraham (Genesis 15:18, 19).
4. Abraham's wife after Sarah's death (Genesis 25:1, 2).
5. A Levite whom God destroyed for rebelling against Moses (Numbers 16:1-3, 32).
6. Rebekah's brother to whom Jacob fled (Genesis 27:41-45).
7. One whom Jesus raised from the dead (John 11:40-44).
8. Jacob's wife whom, after her death, he buried with his parents and grandparents (Genesis 49:31).
9. The only faithful tribe in the golden calf crisis (Exodus 32:26).
10. A businesswoman with a heart open to the gospel (Acts 16:14).

M

1. Joseph's firstborn (Genesis 41:51).
2. The priesthood order for the New Dispensation (Hebrews 5:8-10).
3. An evil king of Judah who used taxation to keep Assyria away (2 Kings 15:17-20).
4. Jonathan's son to whom David showed kindness (2 Samuel 9:3, 6, 7).
5. The son of Enoch (Genesis 5:21).
6. A prophet during the reigns of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah (Jeremiah 26:18; Micah 1:1).
7. The original name of Meshach, the Hebrew worthy (Daniel 1:7).
8. A prophet in the time of Jehoshaphat (1 Kings 22:7-14).
9. Saul's daughter given to be David's wife (1 Samuel 18:27).
10. Hadassah's elder cousin who adopted her (Esther 2:5-7).

Walk With the King

*The time is coming when we all
Must stand before the judgment hall,
Where every eye is watching you
As your name is being called.*

*Have you washed your clothing
In the blood of God's own Lamb?
Did you set a good example,
Saying, "Lord, here I am?"*

*Did you speak a hopeful word
To strangers much in need?
Did you seek God's kingdom—
Spread His word, as a gardener's seed?*

*The moment soon will come when
Every deed shall be revealed.
Will you be found then wanting—
Or your name be forever sealed?*

*Christ is right now calling you
To come back to His home,
To come back to the Father
And to sit upon His throne.*

*He's waiting for everyone
With arms open wide,
He's been waiting for centuries,
To bring us to His side.*

*Oh, friend, will you allow Him
To come in your heart today?
Will it be just a short time—
Or forevermore to stay?*

*It really won't be long,
And we shall see the King in His glory,
Oh, how I want to be there
And to sing the old, old story.*

*I want to sing with millions
Of the angels from on high,
To sing the wondrous love of God
Resounding through the sky.*

*Time is short; we don't know what
Tomorrow will bring,
Be ready, be faithful,
And walk with the King!*

—Adina Paul

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