



HOME CHURCH HERALD

“... To the church in thy house...” **Philemon 1:2**

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!” **Psalms 133:1**

February 2015

A Publication of Seventh Day Home Church Fellowships

Vol. 06 - Issue 01

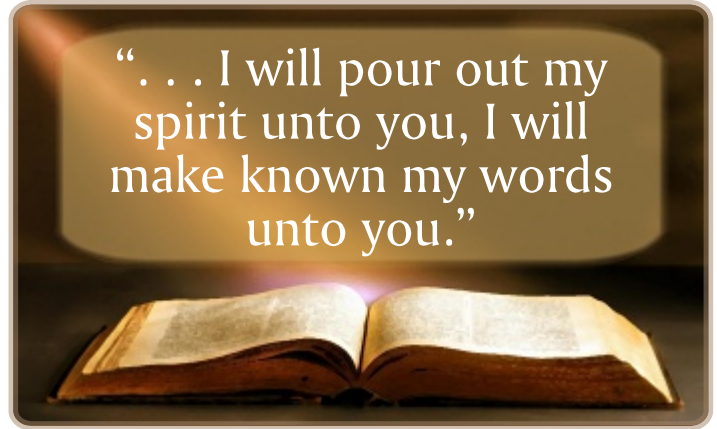
CHRIST IN YOU

by David Sims

I HAVE often been misrepresented as believing that Christ does not “literally” or “really” dwell in anyone. I chose to ignore this misconception for a time, but for the sake of souls and truth, I have decided to explain my position. Of course, I believe Christ is to really dwell in the Christian, but, in a sense, and not contrary to sense. Do I believe the indwelling is “literal”? If you mean by “literal” in the sense that it is to actually take place and that it is not symbolical, then yes, I believe that. But if you mean by “literal” in the sense that it is Jesus’ physical presence, then no, I do not believe that.

I do not believe that the flesh and bones of Christ dwells in us. I do not believe that his arm or leg or any physical part of Christ dwells in us. I believe that the Spirit of Christ dwells in the Christian. “But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his” (Romans 8:9). The spirit is not tangible, it is not physical.

The question really hinges then on what you believe the spirit of Christ is. If you are Trinitarian or a Tritheist you probably believe the spirit is some sort of intelligent entity independent from the body. I am a Seventh Day Adventist and thus, I do not believe in the immortality of the soul, or a spirit that dwells apart from the body. Therefore, I do not believe Christ or God have this kind of spirit, for we are made in God’s image. I believe that Christ dwells in us in the same sense that a rational mind can reasonably conclude that any person can dwell in someone else, and that is in thought, or mind. This is illustrated in Jesus’ words: “That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me” (John 17:21-23). Jesus here, likens our relationship with one another to his relationship with the Father, and our relationship with him. It is only our mind, our way of thinking, our thoughts, and our communication, which can dwell in someone else. Of course,



when speaking of Christ dwelling in us, it is much more than this, because Christ is much greater than us. Christ can communicate with us whenever and wherever we are. Christ communicates much more than thoughts, but power, life, etc., and there is a constant communication possible. And, he has left us his written word, a revelation of his will, his ways and character. These very real things are all intangible, non-physical things.

Christ dwells in the Christian by being in communication with us, by our listening to his voice speaking to our hearts, by our reading and listening to his word, and by thinking his thoughts. He can also impart energy and life to our decaying physical bodies, or energy to quicken our minds.

It is only through abiding in Christ that we can keep the law or do anything good. “Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not...” (1 John 3:6). “I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing” (John 15:5).

But how do we abide in Christ and him in us? Christ goes on to tell us: “If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you” (John 15:5-7). “Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him” (John

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14:23). Notice that having Christ and the Father abiding in us is dependent on us keeping his words. What words is Jesus speaking about? The words that he had spoken to the disciples, these include the words we have record of, and not just these words, but the whole Bible, for Christ's words are the Father's words (John 14:24). And the Father's words also include the Old Testament and New Testament. The apostle Paul admonishes: "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom . . ." (Colossians 3:16).

Brethren there is a connection here between the word of God and the abiding of Christ in our hearts. The dwelling of the word of Christ in us is synonymous with having Christ dwell in us. This is why Jesus said that we are sanctified through the truth and that God's word was that truth (John 17:17). This is not giving us a second way by which we can keep from sinning and being sanctified. It is saying the same thing as, "Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not . . ."

This is also the reason we are told in Ephesians 5:26 that Christ "might sanctify and cleanse it [the church] with the washing of water by the word."

Let us bear this thought in mind, that words convey someone's mind. And the word of God conveys the mind or thoughts of God. Christ is called the word in John 1:1-3, 14, this is because the living Christ is the expression and embodiment of the mind of God. When Scripture speaks of the word dwelling in us, it is not speaking of ink on paper, or phonetic symbols. It is speaking of the thoughts of God. Whether that is from the written word or spoken word, or the impressions of the Holy Spirit. It is a two way communication of the soul with God, for he says "Abide in me and I in you" Jn. 15:4. He tells us that his very spirit and life are in his words. "It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing; the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life" (Jn. 6:63).

This understanding explains why it is that God's word is a safeguard from sin and why David could say, "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee" (Psa. 119:11). Christ also used God's word as a defence from sin and the tempter (Mat. 4:3-11). Now consider this connection in the following verse: "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God" (1Jo. 3:9). That seed that remains is that incorruptible seed, the word of God, this is how we are born of God or born again. "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever" (1Pe. 1:23). The word of God harmonises beautifully. As long as we are connected to Christ we cannot sin, and the word and the spirit are essential for this connection.

The word of God is the means through which we abide in Christ and in the father.

I like to illustrate these truths with an example

from everyday life. When I have a video chat with someone from the USA while I am in Australia, I can see their image, hear their voice, and understand their thoughts. I can even read their body language. It could be said that their spirit is present with me. But that spirit is not tangible. It is not the plastic and glass and components making up my computer. Nor is it the airwaves by which it travels. In fact, the spirit is not the audible sounds that I hear. It is the thoughts that are conveyed by these channels or mediums. It is the image that is conveyed by these channels. The spirit of God is not the ink on paper forming words, it is not the audible sounds made when someone reads those words, it is not the angels which convey impressions or thoughts from God to the soul, neither is it any of the various mediums God uses. The spirit is intangible, non-physical. But is it real? As real as any communication from my son or daughter, whether that be a written letter, and email, a typing chat, or audio chat or video chat, or any other form of communication.

Dear friends in Christ,

It is with heavy hearts that we bring to you the news that the wife of Brother Ray Mendiola, Nars Mendiola, has fallen asleep in Jesus on January 11th, 2015. Her death was due to a previously unrecognized congenital condition called arteriovenous malformation. This is when the capillaries that should connect the veins and arteries from the brain are missing. This resulted in a fatal brain hemorrhage in her case. She leaves behind not only her best friend—her husband—but also three children and many family members and friends.



Brother Ray and his family have been a great blessing to the work in the Philippines. He has been a tireless worker for the Lord, with the support of his dear wife.

In my last conversation with Nars, she was excitedly telling me how much she had learned to appreciate God's principles of dress, and how she had been sharing these things with some friends. It was beautiful to see her so joyful to know and follow God's principles. Obedience to God from the heart, reveals genuine conversion.

Please keep this family in your prayers that they may keep strong in the Lord through this painful and deep trial.

ARE YOU A LEGALIST?

by Raquel Akens

SOME would have us believe that Seventh-day Adventism began as a movement with a wrong platform of too much focus on the law. That although this movement had many Biblical truths, “there was something fundamentally wrong with the emphasis of this group”.¹ The fact that the righteousness by faith message was given to the Seventh-day Adventist people in 1888 must lead some to conclude that the Adventist message was wrong all along regarding this matter, and that it had a legalistic religion from the beginning. They point to 1888 and say, See! Adventism started out with a wrong emphasis on the law that God decided to correct 44 years after its birth. But, is this necessarily so? Did the Adventist people begin on the wrong foot? Was the Adventist message wrong to restore the Sabbath commandment? Did it have a wrong emphasis on the law or a right one? Consider the following two points:

First, it was God who built the platform of truth for the Adventist people. God did not only raise up men and women who were lovers of truth, but also the very truths which were to define Adventism, were divinely established. The following statements make this clear (all emphasis supplied):

In 1844, when anything came to our attention that we did not understand, we knelt down and asked God to help us take the right position; and then we were able to come to a right understanding and see eye to eye . . . (Gospel Workers p. 302.1).

We are to be established in the faith, in the light of the truth given us in our early experience . . . We would search the Scriptures with much prayer, and the Holy Spirit would bring the truth to our minds. Sometimes whole nights would be devoted to searching the Scriptures, and earnestly asking God for guidance. Companies of devoted men and women assembled for this purpose. The power of God would come upon me, and I was enabled clearly to define what is truth and what is error (Ibid, p. 302.2).

As the points of our faith were thus established, our feet were placed upon a solid foundation. We accepted the truth point by point, under the demonstration of the Holy Spirit. I would be taken off in vision, and explanations would be given me . . . (Ibid, p. 302.3).

Secondly, righteousness by faith was not “new” to Adventism in 1888. The people at this time had lost sight of the realities of this beautiful truth, but it was not because God had left them in darkness regarding this matter, for Ellen White says that she had been presenting it to the people all along.

I have had the question asked, What do you think of this light that these men are presenting? Why, I have been presenting it to you for the last forty-five years—the matchless charms of Christ. This is what I have been trying to present before your minds. When Brother Waggoner brought out these ideas in Minneapolis, it was the first clear teaching on this subject from any human lips I had heard, excepting the conversations between myself



and my husband. I have said to myself, It is because God has presented it to me in vision that I see it so clearly, and they cannot see it because they have never had it presented to them as I have. And when another presented it, every fiber of my heart said, Amen.—Ms 5, p. 10. (Sermon, Rome, New York, June 19, 1889.) (Manuscript Releases, Vol 5, p. 219.1)

Taking into account point number two, we can see that the Adventist people had no excuse to be in the condition they were in, for the Advent message bore the truths of righteousness by faith. One of the problems with the accusations labeling Adventism as legalistic is that they make no distinction between the message and the people. These accusations leave the impression that because the people were wrong in 1888 then the message of Adventism must also have been wrong. But this conclusion does not necessarily follow in every case. We need to properly answer the following question: Is the message to be at fault or the people? When we read about the self-righteousness of the Pharisees and their legalistic religion, do we blame the message of the Old Testament? Or do we blame the attitude and hearts of the Pharisees that interpreted the Old Testament? The answer is plain; to blame the message would be to blame the author of the message, which is God. And this brings me to another point, to find fault with the message that God gave the Adventist people to bear to the world is to find fault with God. But what exactly was this message?

Our message is to preach the law and the gospel – This is the third angel’s message.

If we would have the spirit and power of the third angel’s message, we must present the law and the gospel together, for they go hand in hand. As a power from beneath is stirring up the children of disobedience to make void the law of God, and to trample upon the truth that Christ is our righteousness, a power from above is moving upon the hearts of those who are loyal, to exalt the law, and to lift up Jesus as a complete Saviour . . . (Gospel Workers, p.161.3).

The third angel, flying in the midst of heaven, and heralding the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus, represents our work . . . (Pamphlets 157, p. 22.2).

Many churches of fallen Protestantism, if not all, believe that having absolutely anything to do with “the law” should be considered legalism. Therefore, these find fault with the message of Adventism and thus with the Author of the message as well. You see, prot-

estants teach that legalism is not just the belief that salvation can be attained through keeping the law (works) but that it is also the belief that we need to keep the law to maintain salvation. This second definition of legalism leads protestants to accept the doctrine, "Once saved, always saved." You can clearly see this connection in the following quote found in a protestant website, Reformation Theology:

Legalism could be defined as any attempt to rely on self-effort to either attain or maintain our justification before God . . . Legalism always seems to have one thing in common: its theology denies that Christ is sufficient for salvation. That some additional element of self-effort, merit or faithfulness on our part is necessary. As an example, those who erroneously teach that a Christian can lose his or her salvation are, in essence, denying the sufficiency of Christ to save to the utmost. They believe sin to be greater than Christ's grace. But Christ's righteousness which he counts toward us is not only efficient for our salvation, but sufficient. His once for all sacrifice put away sin for all time in those He has united to Himself . . . We must, therefore, reject any and all attempts to maintain a judicial standing before God by any act on our part. Salvation is of the Lord.²

How sad to read this un-Biblical and extreme stance on the law and the plan of salvation from professed Christians! The apostle Paul makes it clear in Heb. 10:26-21 that those who sin after believing the truth will be judged of God. "For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries . . ." The apostle James plainly states to believers that if they break the law, they sin (Jam. 2:5-12), and we know that the wages of sin is death (Rom. 6:23). In 1Jo 5:2-3, the apostle John plainly teaches that a good judicial standing (the keeping of the commandments) before God is a sign of true love for God and our brethren among believers. And not only this, but Revelation portrays God's remnant people as law abiding (Rev. 12:17, 14:12), and those who partake of the tree of life and enter the holy city are those who do God's commandments (Rev. 22:14).

Why the emphasis on the law if it has been taken out of the picture by Christ? Well, it has not been and Satan would have us and the whole Christian world believe this lie, because he knows that the last great controversy will be over God's law. For this reason God raised up Seventh-day Adventism to warn the world of the coming conflict and to point to our only safety, Jesus Christ, the only-begotten of the Father.

And for this reason also, Satan, has been for a long time working hard to keep Adventists from preaching fully and clearly their God-given message. Notice how he has done it in the past and you can be sure, he is doing it now. The paragraphs below were written by a Seventh-day Adventist minister several decades ago, please take careful note of the methods that Satan used for he is using the same methods today.

Satan carefully programmed a preparatory campaign to make any protesting preacher [protesting against

compromise in the Church] appear as an enemy of righteousness by faith.

With great shrewdness, Satan gradually introduced among Sabbath-keepers, the subtle concept that any concern about careful obedience was tied to legalism. Many faithful pastors began to feel guilty about preaching sanctification, and a strange shift of emphasis began to alter the kind of Sabbath sermons being preached in Adventist churches.

Fewer and fewer messages dealt with the responsibility of the Christian of living a life of obedience to God's law. Before long the very law which is a transcript of the character of Jesus was coming across as an enemy of righteousness by faith. Some leading theologians began to deny the Bible definition of sin as "the transgression of the law," and declared that sin was not breaking the law, but "breaking a relationship." Such clever play on words, containing partial truth and partial error, led many actually to look with contempt upon that which was "holy, just and good." (Romans 7:12) Christians who still believed that obedience was both necessary and possible were chided as being "works-oriented," a nice sounding euphemism for "salvation by works."

With all the froth skimmed away, the substance of the sermons preached under this liberated theology gave recognition only to justification and the cross—never to the corresponding activity of obedience equally demanded by the gospel. Christ did everything for us, including obedience, and our part was only to believe and love . . .³

Notice some of the corresponding theology that follows this false message of righteousness by faith which was designed to undermine the Adventist message:

1) Sin is not really the breaking of the law, but rather "breaking a relationship". 2) The law is regarded with contempt and is an enemy of righteousness by faith. 3) Legalism is believing that obedience is required. 4) Christ did everything for us, we are only to believe. 5) Only justification is taught while sanctification is ignored. 6) Only the cross is recognized or the doctrine of only one atonement.

This false message of righteousness by faith sounds like a repackaged and refined gospel of the apostate, fallen protestant world! There is nothing new under the sun, and unfortunately many sincere Adventists today are accepting these erroneous views of the law and the gospel, which unfits them for the work that they are supposed to fulfill.

Dear friends, God raised us up as a people to give a certain and clear sound to the world. We are to continue the reformation which Protestantism failed to carry forward, but instead we see that many are in fact falling short of their calling and are returning to the doctrines of Babylon and her daughters. Let us not be deceived by the wiles of the Devil, but let us stand with the full armor of God and study to show ourselves approved unto God so that we can proclaim the true message of the gospel and righteousness by faith.

1 Open Face No. 95 March 2014

2 Reformation Theology

http://www.reformationtheology.com/2006/06/what_is_legalism.php

3 Reaping The Whirlwind, page 19, Joe Crews . copyright 1985



THE 8 LAWS OF HEALTH IN THE BIBLE

PART I

HAVE you ever wondered where the principles behind the eight laws of health came from? For those who may not be familiar with the 8 laws of health, they are the following: Nutrition, Exercise, Water, Sunshine, Temperance, Air, Rest, Trust in Divine Power. Are these just man made rules or opinions? I believe that God was the one who revealed these principles to his people in these last days because he knew that disease and decay would increase manifold. If this is so, then we can logically reason that the eight laws of health should be found in the Bible. And not just anywhere in the Bible, but in the very beginning, in Genesis, which is the book of origins. This book holds fundamental truths upon which everything else regarding humanity and salvation lies upon.

In the scene of creation, it makes sense that God would instruct his creatures of their purpose and design and how they are to take care of themselves. In other words, we can logically predict that God gave to man an "instruction manual" to instruct him on how to live a healthy life. Let us find the principles behind each law of health that we have listed above.

Nutrition – Before sin, God instructed what man should eat, Gen. 1:29: Grains, seeds, fruits, nuts. After sin God made an addition to man's diet Genesis 3:18: Vegetables. Let us make a note here, the food which God gives us does not come in plastic packages, or scrambled up in some fancy concoction. There is no such a thing as a tree that grows veggie-meats, or gluten steaks. Fruits and vegetables should be eaten in their natural state as much as possible, meaning fresh and raw. Grains should not be refined or bleached, but whole when made into flour or cereals.

The best rule for a healthy diet is to eat as natural as possible and to follow the diet which was given to us after sin entered the world. Avoid highly processed foods altogether, if possible. Aim to eat between 50 % to 80 % raw, depending upon the availability of produce. Living foods are what keeps us alive.

Another important point is that in order to keep or gain health, we must not only know the proper fuel to put in our bodies but we must also have an understanding of how our body works. We need to know

the answers of questions like: How much fuel does my body need? or how long does it take for the fuel to be used up?

Pure Air – Where was man put after he was created? "And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed" (Gen. 2:8). God put Adam in the garden of Eden, in the beauty of God's creation. This was the environment intelligently designed to meet man's needs physically, mentally, and spiritually. In examining the home which God created for man we will see his wisdom in providing for all of man's needs and there we can find many of the laws of health to keep man healthy and happy. We can be sure that in this garden the purest air ever filled its atmosphere. How does pure air benefit us? All our body parts need oxygen to be able to develop and grow properly. Pure, unpolluted air has the greatest percentage of oxygen. Oxygen cleanses the blood from wastes that result in processes, like exercise, or just the simple functions needed to be alive. We can go without food and water for a lot longer than we can without oxygen. This is why proper posture, and proper clothing, so that the lungs can breathe deeply, is important in keeping the body oxygenated and healthy.

Sunshine – God created the sun on day four (Gen. 1:16), and so we know that the home which he designed for man was meant to have plenty of sunshine, which would be available to man. How does sunshine benefit us? Science has recently found that Vitamin D plays a major role in the body – it affects the bones, the immune system and many other functions. Vitamin D is made in the body when sunshine makes contact with the skin. Sunshine is a purifier – it kills bacteria and fungus. Sun bathing has been observed to help regulate blood sugar, and high blood pressure.

Exercise – The home that God gave Adam required his time and energies. What was the work that God gave to Adam? "And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it" (Gen. 2:15). The work that God gave man involved good physical labor and he was to do it every day of the week, except on the 7th day, or the Sabbath. So here we find the principle of exercise and how often we ought to do it. The benefits of exercise are evident and could certainly take a long time to enumerate but we can mention a few: It strengthens every single part of our body, including our bones and therefore it prevents osteoporosis. Our brains are also strengthened! It increases the capacity of our lungs to breath in air. It keeps our joints lubricated and mobile, and it keeps us young!

Rest – In Gen. 2:1-3 we read about the Sabbath institution, which was not established because God was tired, or because Adam and Eve were to be tired in the



same way that we get weary, but it nevertheless shows us the principle of rest, both in spiritual and physical matters. When I mean spiritual, I am referring to the mind, our thoughts. We know that as God ceased from his works so are we to cease from our work.

Before sin Adam had no need for sleep, but after sin this all changed, as we are all well aware. The body needs appropriate sleep every night to heal and restore. Not getting proper sleep will injure the whole system. The brain, which is the communication center of the body, is affected the most.

The hours of sleep before midnight are the most beneficial. One hour of sleep before midnight equals to 2 hours of sleep after midnight. Meaning that the quality of rest before midnight hours are double than the hours after midnight. Certain hormones in the body are not produced when proper rest in the right hours are not maintained . . . *To be continued.*

MISSION REPORT

by Frederick Stefan Skucey

SEVERAL months ago, Brothers David, Morgan and the writer of this article were on their way back from a small camp meeting in Canada. We dropped David off at his son's home in northern California and proceeded on our way to Arizona, with the charge before us as it is written in 2 Timothy, we decided to stop along the way.

"I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine" (2Ti. 4:1-2).

We decided to stop in modern day Sodom and Gomorrah otherwise known as Las Vegas, the gambling capital of the world (Extenuation to Macao). After setting up our chart we began speaking to the passers-by. The chart is painted on canvass and depicts the following Scripture.

"So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH" (Revelation 17:3-5).

I was primarily speaking in English, but as the Koreans walked by I switched to Korean and as the Chinese came by, I began to speak in Mandarin. A young Chinese lady and her parents stopped to talk, they were surprised to hear Chinese and see the chart. After conversing for a few moments I told her, "I have a book for you," and gave her the book Christ Object Lessons. I spoke with her parents for a while, while she perused the book. She then said, "How much for the book?" I felt impressed to say, "Whatever you

would like to give will be fine." She looked in her purse and gave me one dollar. You may say, that does not even cover the cost of paper. But the week before I met a man named Dean in Apache Junction,

Arizona and said the same thing "Whatever you would like to give, sir." He gave me forty dollars for a much smaller book. So we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose. The Chinese woman may have lost all her money in the slot machines, who knows? At any rate, if she reads the book she can find the "pearl of great price". Pray for her. The Chinese woman lives in Idaho.

The police came and told us we had to move. So I asked Mark, the policeman, "Is there some place nearby where we can go to speak?"

He said, "Yes, down the street in the walk way corridor under construction." So we quickly moved on and set up our charts there.

Have you ever heard of 5 or 10 minute sermons? How about 5 or 10 second sermons?

As Jesus hung between heaven and earth on Calvary's cross many passed by.

"Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by? behold, and see if there be any sorrow like unto my sorrow, which is done unto me, wherewith the LORD hath afflicted me in the day of his fierce anger" (Lam. 1:12).

What can you say to passers-by in 5 or 10 seconds? God is love? Jesus only? God is a spirit? Have faith in God? Remember Lot's wife? Behold the bridegroom cometh go ye out to meet him? Repent?

Speaking of repent, on our way back from preaching to where we parked the car we walked through a lobby of a casino hotel and I noticed some T-shirts for sale. On the front of some it said "sin city" on others it said in big letters "Repent" with the second "e" crossed out with a red slash and an "i" instead "re-pint" in other words "another glass of wine please".

"Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine. Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder. Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things. Yea, thou shalt be as he that lieth down in the midst of the sea, or as he that lieth upon the top of a mast. They have stricken me, shalt thou say, and I was not sick; they have beaten me, and I felt it not: when shall I awake? I will seek it yet again" (Pro. 23:29-35).

Meanwhile back at the walk way corridor, Morgan was on one side and I on the other and scores of passers-by walking between us. What can you say in 7



seconds? I was trying to recall a terse verse to speak and a verse from the Psalms came to my mind, "The fool hath said in his heart there is no God". If God through His word says something it is momentous. If He says the same thing twice it is exceedingly momentous. (See Psalm 14 & 53.)

Like the third angel's message, "saying with a loud voice," I uttered the words, "the fool hath said in his heart there is no God". A black brother had just passed by and he turned around and looked at us with a look that language is inadequate to describe. If a picture paints a thousand words the look on his face portrayed 10,000 thoughts. As Lot's wife in blatant disobedience to the direct command of the angel looked back toward Sodom and became a pillar of salt this man also looked back, not in defiance of heaven but for some other reason. The look on his face was so unique. I reckon God granted us this token of his love for our encouragement in the great work of the three angels which brings such joy and blessing. Never while memory lingers, can I forget that look on his face. Even as I write now I am wondering if he may have been a black angel. Do angels only appear as Chinese? Of course not. Their physical appearance can be as from any nation kindred tongue or people. And . . . looking steadfastly on him, saw his face as it had been the face of an angel (Acts 6:15).

Remember in the book *Early Writings* the chapter on the "Shaking"? The conflicting looks on the faces of the saints!

I saw some, with strong faith and agonizing cries, pleading with God. Their countenances were pale and marked with deep anxiety, expressive of their internal struggle. Firmness and great earnestness was expressed in their countenances; large drops of perspiration fell from their foreheads. Now and then their faces would light up with the marks of God's approbation, and again the same solemn, earnest, anxious look would settle upon them (*Early Writings*, p. 269.1).

The brother in Las Vegas turned to look at us. It was a look of amazement, brevity, concern, desire, earnestness, firmness, gloom, haste, interest, jeopardy, keenness, lamentation, misapprehension, necessity, outrage, passion, query, retrospection, surprise, tenaciousness, non-ambiguity, vacillation, wonder, and a look of X = ten in Roman numerals and times in mathematics, so all the previous looks intensified ten times plus yearning and zeal.

How is that for a look? All from one sentence of Scripture. "The fool hath said in his heart there is no God." "One sentence of Scripture is of more value than ten thousand of man's ideas or arguments" (*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 7 p.71). In closing let me share with you a reference to the words, "the fool has said in his heart there is no God."



The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handiwork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night showeth knowledge. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard [Psalm 19:1-3]. Who can behold the wonders of God in the starry heavens, and yet deny that an infinite Power gave these jewelled lights their place, and upholds them there by his omnipotent arm? God has left his own witness upon the canvas of heaven and upon nature everywhere.

The story is told of an astronomer whose friend denied the existence of God. In order to show him the folly of his unbelief, the astronomer obtained a globe of the starry heavens, and placed it in the room where they were seated. On seeing it, his friend inquired where he got such a beautiful globe, and who was the maker. "It was not made," answered the astronomer, "it came into existence of itself."

"You are jesting," said his friend; "that is impossible."

The astronomer answered: "My dear sir, you will not accept my word for it that this small body originated of itself, or came by chance, and yet you contend that those heavenly bodies of which this is but an inferior representation, came into existence without a Master-power of design." As he pursued this line of reasoning, the atheist saw and acknowledged the absurdity of his own position.

"The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God," but he can advance no evidence to sustain his claims; he can only take the position of an objector to the purposes of an all-wise God. Atheism can shed no ray of light into the grave. It cannot restrain crime or quicken the moral energies. It has no power to elevate the character or purify the soul. On the contrary, it always tends to degenerate the human race; it leads away from purity and peace. An instance of this is given in the history of the French Revolution. That period, when the existence of God was denied, and his commandments were abolished, was the most revolting that is recorded on the pages of human history (*Youth Instructor*, December 24, 1896 par. 2-7).

The Lord make His face shine upon thee.

There is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets. (Dan 2:28)

Peruvian-Russian Potato Salad

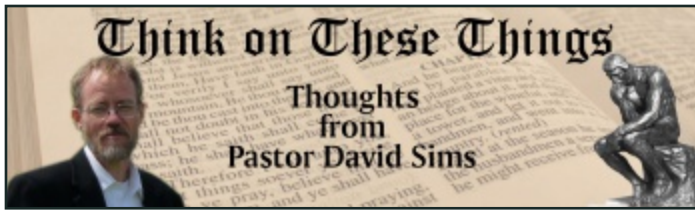
by Raquel Akens

Ingredients:

- 7 small/medium cooked potatoes
- 2 cooked carrots
- 1 cooked medium/large beet
- 1 cup of cooked green peas
- 1 ripe avocado
- 1 cup of your choice vegan mayonaise

Directions:

Cut the vegetables, including the avocado into squares suitable for a potato salad and place them in a bowl with the peas and mayonaise. Mix in the mayonaise evenly. Ready to eat with fresh lettuce and olives!



A RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LAW

THE nominal, ecumenical churches have long accused Adventists of having a relationship with the law. This is really no surprise, for these churches stand against the keeping of all the commandments of God and have labeled Adventism as legalistic for teaching the Sabbath truth. Unfortunately, there are certain ministries today, among the Godhead movement, that are also taking up this same accusation. This raises a few questions. Firstly, what do they mean when they use the term “relationship with the law”? How can anyone have a relationship with an inanimate object? Let us consider from a couple of quotes from a prominent ministry among Godhead believers that is teaching this concept.

... but what we are advocating is that we look to Christ rather than to the law, to men, or to the past! That we seek a living relationship with the living Christ rather than with written instructions! (*Open Face, 94, page 8*).

... we are declaring the biblical reality that when we have found Christ our relationship is with the living law and no longer with the letter of the law (*Ibid, page 9*).

No Christian will deny that we need to have a relationship with Christ, as a matter of fact, that is what Christianity is all about, being connected to Christ our Saviour. The quotes above are saying more than this though. They bring a clear implication that the law of God or “written instructions” (which would include the whole Bible), are no longer to be regarded if we are to have a relationship with Christ. And if we do have any connection with the law, for example, if we claim to keep the Sabbath because the law says so, then we have a “relationship” with the law and not with Christ.

This teaching I find to be imbalanced and un-Biblical. It is true that there are some in Christianity who do not have a living relationship with Christ. Somewhere down the road of life they lost their first love. They allowed the things of this world to take their eyes away from their Saviour. Jesus tells us that this happens to those who have thorny ground, for the thorns represent the cares and pleasures of this life (Luke 8:14). But, because of this they only have a form

of godliness and cannot bear fruit unto perfection. They know a lot about the Bible, including the law, but the spirit of Christ is not in them to make them living epistles. Their failure to



be fully surrendered to Christ does not make the law or the “written instructions” the enemy of the gospel.

The Bible teaches that the word of God, which the law is part of, is to be the means through which we abide in Christ and the Father (John 14:23). It is in the meditation of God’s word and in the study of it that the spirit of Christ is able to reach and transform our hearts after his will. It is the means through which we have a relationship with Jesus. According to some, this equates with having a “relationship with the law”. Whatever one may call it; if it is a Biblical concept then we must accept it as truth. The word of God is an integral part in maintaining our relationship with Jesus and therefore also with the Father. If this is true, then we will see the relevance of the law among God’s people both in the Old and New Testaments.

David's relationship with the law:

“O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day” (Psalms 119:97).

Christ's relationship with the law:

“I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart” (Psalms 40:8).

Paul's relationship with the law:

“For I delight in the law of God after the inward man” (Romans 7:22).

Peter's inspired warning toward those who turn from having a relationship with the law:

“For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them” (2 Peter 2:21).

John's relationship with the law:

“And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight” (1 John 3:22).

(Nominal Protestantism would call this legalism – the idea that we receive answers because we keep his commandments.)

The relationship with the law of those in the new covenant:

“For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people” (Hebrews 8:10).

The relationship toward the law of God's remnant people:

“And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ” (Revelation 12:17).

The relationship toward the law of those who will enter heaven:

“Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city” (Revelation 22:14).

The character of those who have this relationship with the law:

“Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them” (Psalms 119:165).

GOD	THE LAW
"... Be ye holy; for I am holy " (1 Peter 1:16).	"Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy , and just , and good " (Romans 7:12).
"... a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he" (Deut. 32:4).	
"Truly God is good to Israel..." (Psalms 73:1).	
"Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness ..." (Psalm 119:142).	"And what nation is there so great, that hath statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law..." (Deut. 4:8).
"... even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect ." (Matthew 5:48).	"The law of the LORD is perfect ..." (Psalm 19:7).
"... The LORD God... abundant in goodness and truth ," Exodus 34:6	"... and thy law is the truth ." (Psalm 119:142).

Notice that the attributes of the law are the same as the attributes of God. The law in fact, is a transcript of God's character. This explains why when we meditate upon the law of God; we are drawn closer to him, for in reality we are meditating upon God's righteousness, upon his character. But, this can only be done through the working of the spirit of God. These points have been well explained by a Christian author in the following quote:

Since the law is the righteousness of God—a transcript of His character—it is easy to see that to fear God and keep His commandments is the whole duty of man. Eccl. 12:13. Let no one think that his duty will be circumscribed if confined to the ten commandments, for they are "exceeding broad." "The law is spiritual," and comprehends a great deal more than can be discerned by an ordinary reader. "The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness unto him; neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." 1 Cor. 2:14. The exceeding breadth of the law of God can be realized only by those who have prayerfully meditated upon it . . . (Christ and His Righteousness, p.48)

Recently there has been a lot of discussion regarding the law among those in the Godhead movement. Two sides have emerged preaching two seemingly opposing things. One side seeks to place the typical or ceremonial law (like the feasts) on the same level as the moral law, claiming that it is all still binding. The "other side" seeks to place the moral law on the same level as the typical or ceremonial law, defining it as a mere shadow. Both sides are making the same mistake by lumping the two laws together. They just draw different conclusions, but with both theologies being wrong, both conclusions are wrong also.

The truth is always balanced, and Satan would have us be at one extreme or the other, especially on a subject as relevant as the law. Brethren, let us remember that God would have us rightly dividing the word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15)

PERUVIAN HEALTH MISSION

RECENTLY a burden was laid on the hearts of a generous couple for the health work in Peru, and in the Fall of 2013 they donated a 2.468 hecter (approximately 6 acres) property to Seventh Day Home Church Fellowship for such purposes. (This couple has family and loved ones in this area of Peru, and has a desire to better their physical and spiritual welfare.)

This property is located on the outskirts of Tarapoto, Peru. Tarapoto is a quaint city of approximately 120,000 population yet still has the "small town" atmosphere. It is situated at the eastern foothills of the Andes Mountains just west of the Amazon Jungle Basin (Northeast of the capital city Lima). Tarapoto has a temperate climate that averages from the low 70's to the high 80's every day, year round. There is a dry season and a rainy season, and it would be considered a subtropical environment.



The countryside surrounding Tarapoto is largely agricultural and grows a variety of foods like beans, corn, rice, potatoes, and quinoa. Many fruits and nuts grow in abundance as well like aloe-vera, avocados, bananas, breadfruit, citrus, coconut, grapes, mangos, noni fruit, olives, papaya, pineapples, Peruvian plums, star fruit, sugarcane, yucca, Brazil nuts, cashews, and several other types of tropical fruits in addition to many of our "normal" vegetables like beets, cabbage, carrots, cucumbers, eggplant, onions, squash, tomatoes and several different herbs and seasonings.

The people living out and around Tarapoto seem to be simple, hard working farmers and artisans, while the people in town appear to be looking for an alternate way of life through commerce and various business endeavors.

Tarapoto hosts several religious persuasions including Catholic, several "Protestant" faiths, and various New Age Spiritualist. There is a strong Adventist presence as well with several churches, (including a reformed church), elementary and secondary schools and an Adventist University. The people of the local Adventist churches are very gracious and kind, yet they seem to be ignorant of many of the basic fundamental principles and doctrines of our Faith. As with many of the churches of this land, there is definite room for improvement!

The property itself is located about a "ten minute walk" from town. Vehicles can drive down into the valley, but most of the motor-taxis don't like to leave the flat, paved streets above. Nestled at the bottom of

the hill, with a beautiful stream crossing through the middle of the property, sits the “Tarapotillo Farm”. The gravel road passes around and the through the property making easier access to it. In the front of the lot stands the remains of a block home that was destroyed by fire, yet it appears that some of the structure could be utilized to rebuild on the site. There are a few large mango trees and several citrus trees around that homestead too. Other than that, no additional development has taken place on the property. Electricity is accessible and there is cell phone reception as well.

The terrain is rather hilly and very beautiful, but would not be the best for large-scale agriculture. However, several fruit trees and small areas could easily be planted for more adequate food supplies. In addition to the creek that passes through the property, there are 2 or 3 fresh and pure springs that originate on the property and feed into the creek.

This past May, Wally & Anna Maria Woodward, Michael Woodward, and Todd & Caleb Brown made a trip down and evaluated the mission potential in this area of Peru. After assessing the town, the people, and the property, and reporting back to the SDHCF board, it was determined that a Health Retreat would be an ideal wedge that God could use to introduce both physical and spiritual reform and reformation to the community in and around Tarapoto.



Peru is a country where GMO foods are not allowed, and one could easily and economically grow, eat, and educate a healthy vegan lifestyle. There seems to be a real area of ignorance when it comes to health reform, and healthy living is scarce among the people. It appears the community is ripe for a “clinic” offering simple natural remedies and educational classes to the public. Intermingled with these natural remedies the Gospel would be presented to open the way for spiritual growth.

We are looking to construct two homes of approximately 2000 square feet each. One would be of a conventional floor plan with a kitchen, living room, 3 bedrooms, etc. The other would consist of a small apartment with a treatment facility and an all purpose living/meeting room. After doing research as to some of the local building regulations, as well as looking at material costs, we believe that 30,000 USD will be enough funds to make some of the first stages of this project a reality.

Temporary housing is available while undergoing this initial stage of development, and then these two homes would provide housing for at least two or three couples or families.

While building, we would also like to begin mak-

ing contacts in the community and start with simple “house to house” treatments and educational presentations. (At present, there are two ladies who have repeatedly requested help for their physical infirmities.)

Qualified couples and families have been contacted, and they are praying about joining these efforts as well! We believe God has a work to be done in Tarapoto, and now we are openly informing the brethren of our plans and intentions.

We are looking for your support. Primarily we need prayer for God’s leading in these efforts. Please keep the Peruvian Health Retreat in your prayers! We also need well balanced, converted personnel who are willing to give of their time and energies. People, young and older, are needed on a short-term bases to help with some of the initial development and infrastructure. People to help construct housing and treatment facilities, plant and clear for gardens and water systems. We are looking to coordinate short-term mission trips for such people who love the Lord and want to support these efforts.

Also we need people of like mind and faith, who know and can share God’s Word, people who are skilled in the medical missionary field, people who can speak Spanish or are willing to learn, people who are willing to

take a year or two out of their lives to help spread the Gospel in Tarapoto!

Lastly, we need to raise the financial resources to help get this project started. We want to start small, and we should never despise the day of small beginnings, but even with small beginnings, it takes money to get started. Please pray and see if the Lord leads you to partner with us in the Peruvian Health Retreat!

For additional information, comments, or questions, please contact Todd Brown by phone at (256) 610-3350, or email tbrjbrtown@aol.com and reference the subject line as “Peruvian Health Mission.”

Seventh Day Home Church Fellowships is an association of Sabbath-keeping groups, which through web & teleconferencing provides means for study, fellowship, and jointly organized missionary projects.

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