

The Sabbath

A decorative flourish consisting of a horizontal line with a central four-pointed starburst or diamond shape.

The Sign of True Sanctification

The Unseen Watchers

photo courtesy of Ellen G. White Estate



The Gospel Herald

June 11, 1902

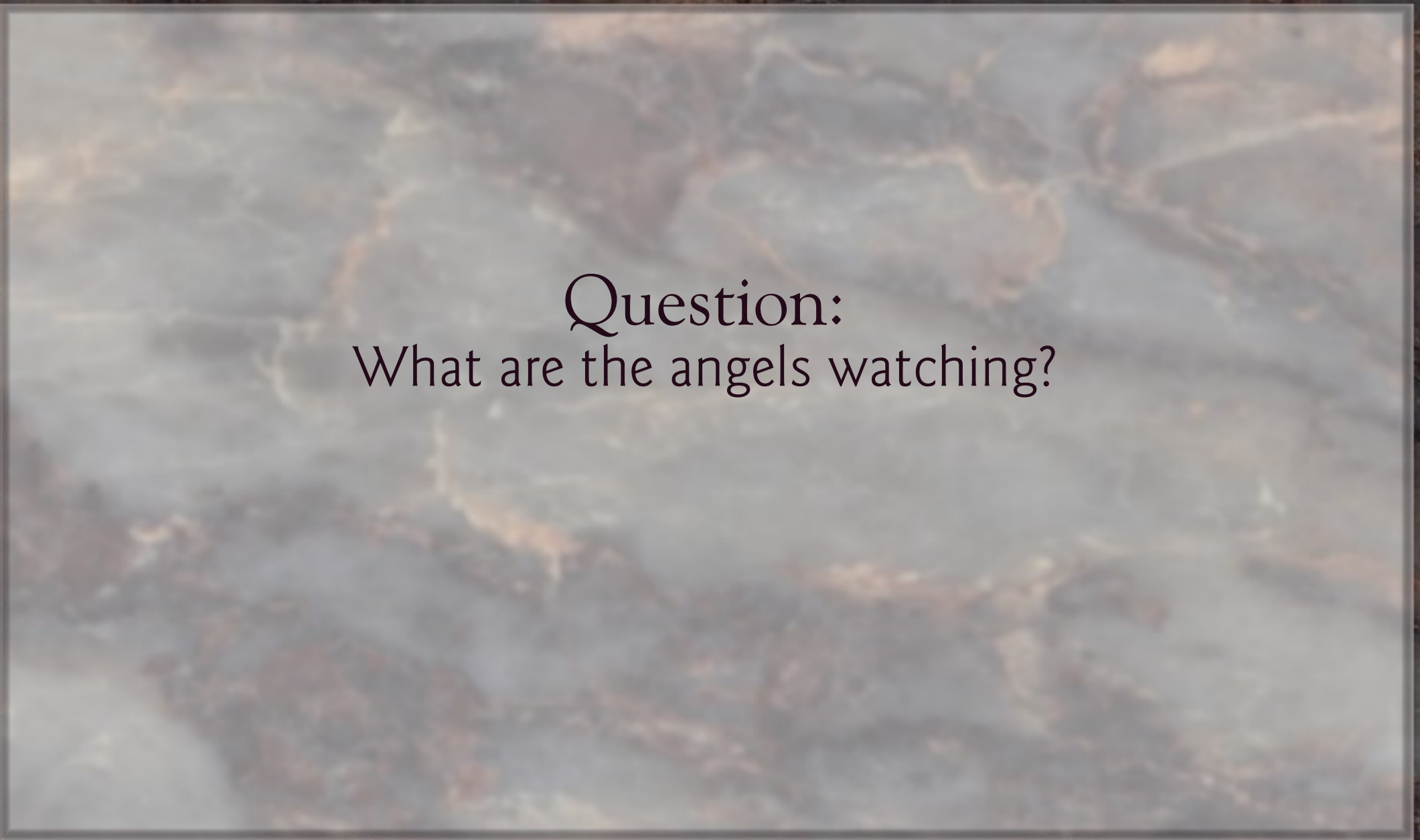
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What is the seal of the living God, which is placed in the foreheads of his people? **It is a mark which angels, not human eyes, can read;** for the destroying angel must see this mark of redemption. The intelligent mind has seen the sign of the cross of Calvary in the Lord's adopted sons and daughters. **The sin of the transgression of the law of God is taken away. They have on the wedding garment, and are obedient and faithful to all God's commands.**

Question:
What is that mark?

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Answer:
“The keeping of the Sabbath is declared to be a sign of
the loyalty of God’s people.”
~ *Testimonies Vol. 8, p. 94.2*



Question:
What are the angels watching?

Question:
What are the angels watching?

Answer:
How we keep the Sabbath

The Means of our Sanctification

John 17:19

“And for their sakes **I sanctify myself**, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.”

John 8:29

“And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him.”

Philippians 2:5-8

“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: who, being in the form of God, . . . made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, **even the death of the cross.**”

A Common Misconception

Acts 26:18

“To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are **sanctified by faith** that is in me.”

photo courtesy of Ellen G. White Estate



The Great Controversy (1884) pp. 300-301

Sanctification is believed by many to be *instantaneously accomplished*. “Only believe,” say they, “and the blessing is yours.” No further effort on the part of the receiver is supposed to be required. **But the Bible teaches that *sanctification is progressive***. The Christian will feel the promptings of sin, but he will keep up a constant warfare against it. Here is where Christ’s help is needed. Human weakness becomes united to divine strength, and faith exclaims, “Thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” [1 Corinthians 15:57.]

Paul exhorts his brethren, “Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;” [Philippians 2:12.] and concerning himself he declares, “I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.” [Philippians 3:14.] The successive steps in the attainment of Bible sanctification are set before us in the words of Peter: “Giving all diligence, add to your faith, virtue; and to virtue, knowledge; and to knowledge, temperance; and to temperance, patience; and to patience, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, charity.”

“Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure; for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall.” [2 Peter 1:5-7, 10.] **This is a daily work, continuing as long as life shall last.**

The Successive Steps of Bible Sanctification:

1. Faith
2. Virtue
3. Knowledge
4. Temperance
5. Patience
6. Godliness
7. Brotherly kindness
8. Charity (love)

Revelation 22:13

“I am **Alpha** and **Omega**, the **beginning** and the **end**,
the **first** and the **last**.”

Hebrews 12:2

“Looking unto Jesus **the author and finisher of our faith**; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

Revelation 3:21

“To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, **even as I also overcame**, and am set down with my Father in his throne.”

“even as”

“even as”
ως (*hos*)

“even as”

ως (*hos*)

“in the same way as”

~ *Friberg*

“even as”

ως (*hos*)

“in the same way as”

~ *Friberg*

“in the same manner as”

~ *Joseph Thayer*

photo courtesy of Ellen G. White Estate



The Review & Herald

March 08, 1881

par. 8

The soul must first be convicted of sin, before the sinner will feel a desire to come to Christ. “Sin is the transgression of the law.” “I had not known sin but by the law.” . . . The sinner cannot be convinced of his guilt, unless he understands what constitutes sin. *It is impossible* for an individual to experience Bible sanctification while he holds that if he believes in Christ it is immaterial whether he obeys God’s law or disobeys it.

The Price of our Sanctification

Matthew 26:37-38

“And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be **sorrowful** [Grk. *lupeo*] and very heavy. Then saith he unto them, My soul is **exceeding sorrowful** [Grk. *perilupos*], even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me.”

Mark 14:33

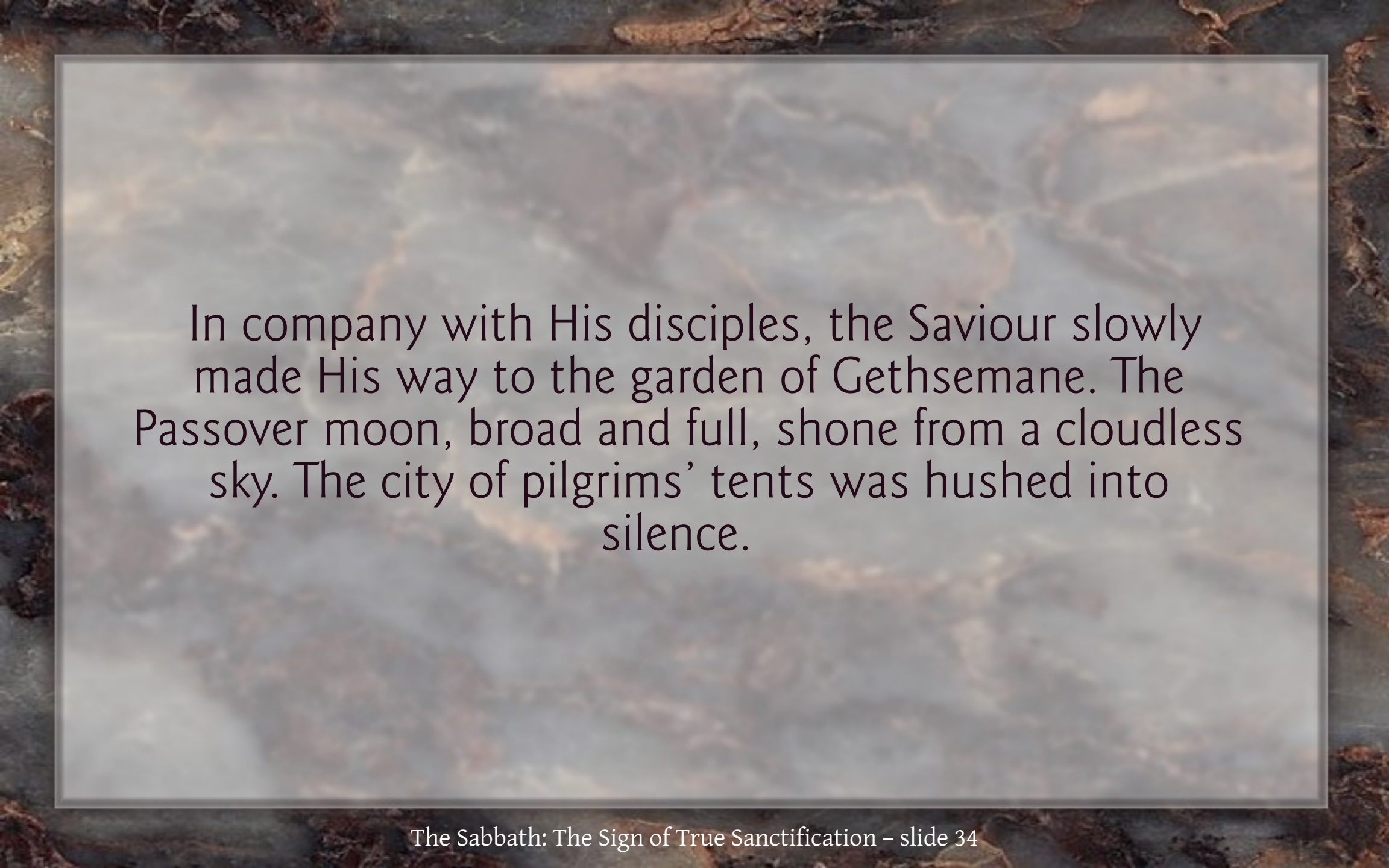
“ . . . **sore amazed** [Grk. *ekthambeo*], . . . ”

photo courtesy of Ellen G. White Estate



The Desire of Ages

pp. 685-87



In company with His disciples, the Saviour slowly made His way to the garden of Gethsemane. The Passover moon, broad and full, shone from a cloudless sky. The city of pilgrims' tents was hushed into silence.

Jesus had been earnestly conversing with His disciples and instructing them; but as He neared Gethsemane, He became strangely silent. He had often visited this spot for meditation and prayer; but never with a heart so full of sorrow as upon this night of His last agony.

Throughout His life on earth He had walked in the light of God's presence. When in conflict with men who were inspired by the very spirit of Satan, He could say, "He that sent Me is with Me: the Father hath not left Me alone; for I do always those things that please Him." John 8:29. But now He seemed to be shut out from the light of God's sustaining presence.

Now He was numbered with the transgressors. The guilt of fallen humanity He must bear. Upon Him who knew no sin must be laid the iniquity of us all. So dreadful does sin appear to Him, so great is the weight of guilt which He must bear, that He is tempted to fear it will shut Him out forever from His Father's love.

Feeling how terrible is the wrath of God against transgression, He exclaims, “My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death.”

As they approached the garden, the disciples had marked the change that came over their Master. Never before had they seen Him so utterly sad and silent. As He proceeded, this strange sadness deepened; yet they dared not question Him as to the cause. His form swayed as if He were about to fall. Upon reaching the garden, the disciples looked anxiously for His usual place of retirement, that their Master might rest. Every step that He now took was with labored effort. He groaned aloud, as if suffering under the pressure of a terrible burden. Twice His companions supported Him, or He would have fallen to the earth.

Near the entrance to the garden, Jesus left all but three of the disciples, bidding them pray for themselves and for Him. With Peter, James, and John, He entered its secluded recesses. These three disciples were Christ's closest companions. They had beheld His glory on the mount of transfiguration; they had seen Moses and Elijah talking with Him; they had heard the voice from heaven; now in His great struggle, Christ desired their presence near Him.

Often they had passed the night with Him in this retreat. On these occasions, after a season of watching and prayer, they would sleep undisturbed at a little distance from their Master, until He awoke them in the morning to go forth anew to labor. But now He desired them to spend the night with Him in prayer. Yet He could not bear that even they should witness the agony He was to endure.

“Tarry ye here,” He said, “and watch with Me.”

He went a little distance from them – not so far but that they could both see and hear Him – and fell prostrate upon the ground. He felt that by sin He was being separated from His Father. The gulf was so broad, so black, so deep, that His spirit shuddered before it. This agony He must not exert His divine power to escape. As man He must suffer the consequences of man’s sin. As man He must endure the wrath of God against transgression.

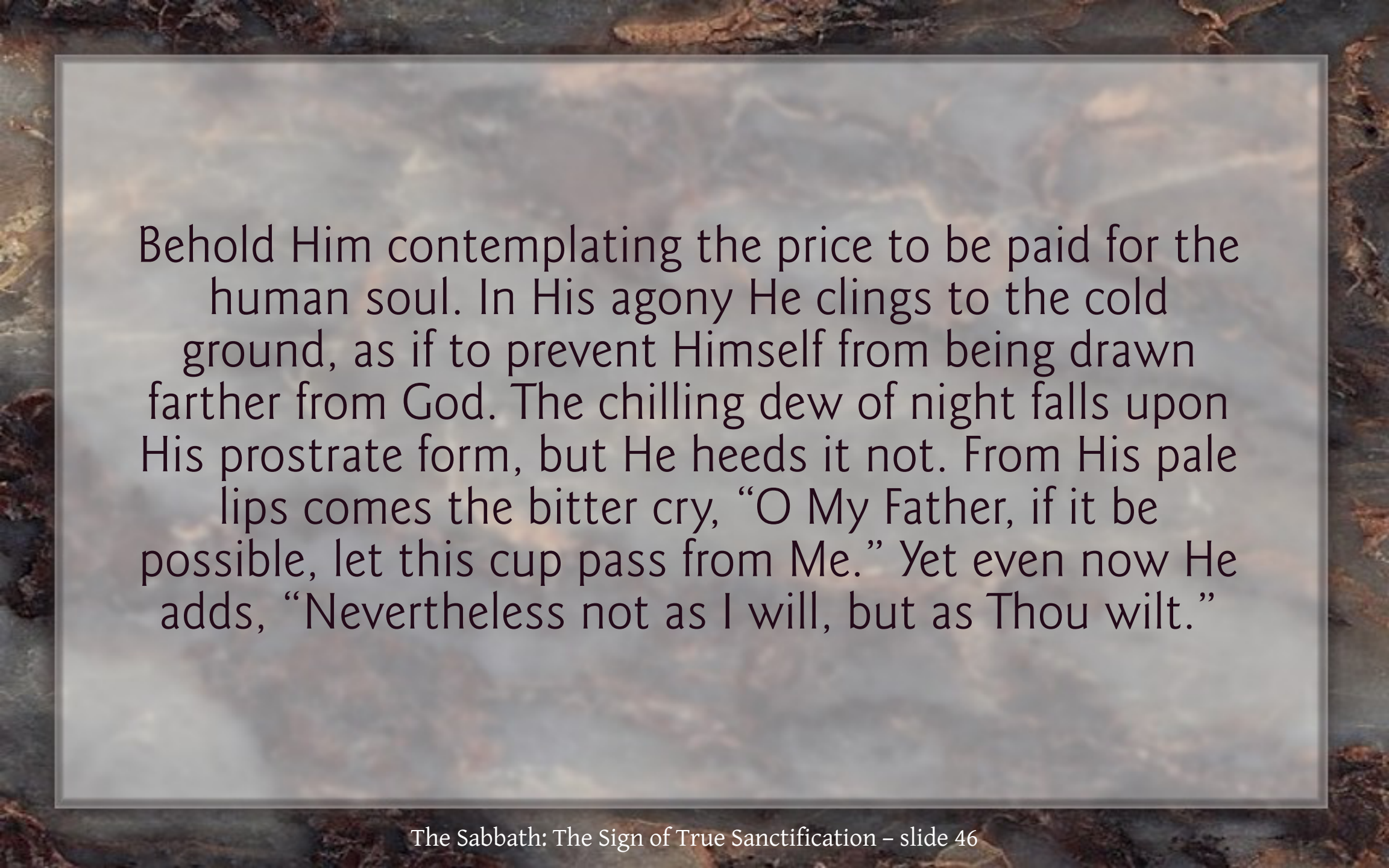
Christ was now standing in a different attitude from that in which He had ever stood before. His suffering can best be described in the words of the prophet, “Awake, O sword, against My shepherd, and against the man that is My fellow, saith the Lord of hosts.” Zechariah 13:7. As the substitute and surety for sinful man, Christ was suffering under divine justice. He saw what justice meant. Hitherto He had been as an intercessor for others; now He longed to have an intercessor for Himself.

As Christ felt His unity with the Father broken up, He feared that in His human nature He would be unable to endure the coming conflict with the powers of darkness. In the wilderness of temptation the destiny of the human race had been at stake. Christ was then conqueror. Now the tempter had come for the last fearful struggle. For this he had been preparing during the three years of Christ's ministry. Everything was at stake with him. If he failed here, his hope of mastery was lost; the kingdoms of the world would finally become Christ's; he himself would be overthrown and cast out.

But if Christ could be overcome, the earth would become Satan's kingdom, and the human race would be forever in his power. With the issues of the conflict before Him, Christ's soul was filled with dread of separation from God. Satan told Him that if He became the surety for a sinful world, the separation would be eternal. He would be identified with Satan's kingdom, and would nevermore be one with God.

And what was to be gained by this sacrifice? How hopeless appeared the guilt and ingratitude of men! In its hardest features Satan pressed the situation upon the Redeemer: The people who claim to be above all others in temporal and spiritual advantages have rejected You. They are seeking to destroy You, the foundation, the center and seal of the promises made to them as a peculiar people. One of Your own disciples, who has listened to Your instruction, and has been among the foremost in church activities, will betray You. One of Your most zealous followers will deny You. All will forsake You. Christ's whole being abhorred the thought.

That those whom He had undertaken to save, those whom He loved so much, should unite in the plots of Satan, this pierced His soul. The conflict was terrible. Its measure was the guilt of His nation, of His accusers and betrayer, the guilt of a world lying in wickedness. The sins of men weighed heavily upon Christ, and the sense of God's wrath against sin was crushing out His life.



Behold Him contemplating the price to be paid for the human soul. In His agony He clings to the cold ground, as if to prevent Himself from being drawn farther from God. The chilling dew of night falls upon His prostrate form, but He heeds it not. From His pale lips comes the bitter cry, “O My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me.” Yet even now He adds, “Nevertheless not as I will, but as Thou wilt.”

The Conclusion

photo courtesy of Ellen G. White Estate



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par. 13

The truth as it is in Jesus is obedience to every precept of Jehovah. It is heart work. Bible sanctification is not the spurious sanctification which will not search the Scriptures, but will trust to good feeling and impulses rather than to the seeking for truth as for hidden treasure. Bible sanctification will lead its possessors to know the requirements of God and to obey them. There is a pure and holy heaven in store for those who keep God's commandments. It is worth lifelong, persevering, untiring effort.

Satan is on your right hand and on your left; he is before you and behind. He supplies his falsehoods to every soul who is not cherishing the truth as it is in Jesus. He, the destroyer, is upon you to palsy your every effort. But there is a crown of life to be won, a life that measures with the life of God. And **those who do not close their hearts and minds to conviction will learn what the love of a holy and righteous God is**; for it is an amazing principle, which works in a mysterious and wonderful manner to secure the salvation of the race.

Beware!

The Devil has many and various ways of leading us to close our hearts to conviction.

Ephesians 6:11

“Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against **the wiles of the devil.**”



“wiles”

“wiles”
μεθοδεια (*methodeia*)

“wiles”

μεθοδεια (*methodeia*)

“1. to follow up or investigate by method and settled plan; 2. to follow craftily, frame devices, deceive”

~ Joseph Thayer

Ephesians 4:14

“That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they **lie in wait to deceive.**”

Ephesians 6:11

“. . . the lying in wait of the devil.”

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“ . . . the lying in wait of the devil.”

“ . . . ye crafty assautes of the devyll.” ~ *Tyndale 1534*

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“ . . . the schemes of the devil.” ~ *ESV*

“ . . . the stratagems of the devil.” ~ *LEB*

The Whole Armor of God:

1. Breast-plate “righteousness”
2. Footwear “the gospel of peace”
3. Shield “faith”
4. Helmet “hope of salvation”

2 Peter 1:10

“Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: **for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall.**”

The End