

youth messenger

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JESUS CHRIST: The Sinner's Advocate

Part 1 of 4

By Gerson Robles

My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous" (1 John 2:1).

We have an Advocate with the Father—someone to defend us! How precious must have been the joy of John to know that Jesus, whom he loved so much on earth, lived and was with the Father! The Saviour who had interceded for them on earth was now interceding in heaven—and John followed Him there by faith. Let us do the same:

"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**" (Hebrews 12:2). [Emphasis added.]

As we understand the continuing ministry of Christ in

heaven for us today, our faith will strengthen. We live in interesting times, not only for what is happening on the earth, but for what is being accomplished for us by Christ in heaven. As we behold His ministry for us at the right hand of God, we will gain an appreciation of the atonement that will increase our faith. This faith is necessary in the last days of earth's history.

CHRIST'S MINISTRY OVER TIME

The ministry of Christ for the human race has been seen in different stages throughout history. Before the foundation of the world, He pledged His life to become a ransom for lost sinners. God foresaw the awful plight of humanity and made provision for our great need.

"Then he is gracious unto him, and saith, **Deliver him from going down to the pit: I have found a ransom**" (Job 33:24). [Emphasis added.]

During the period of the Old Testament, Christ was prophesied in types, symbols, figures and shadows. It was by Christ's pledged blood that He was able to minister to every soul who lived before the cross. Afterward, we see that Christ indeed came in reality.

"But **when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son**, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons" (Galatians 4:4, 5). [Emphasis added.]

The period of the New Testament saw not only Christ lay down His life as a ransom for the human race but He then also entered into another phase of His atoning work—that of a heavenly ministry. He then ministered to us by the blood He shed. This is where our faith takes us today. Our Lord is indeed alive! He ministers to us right now from heaven.

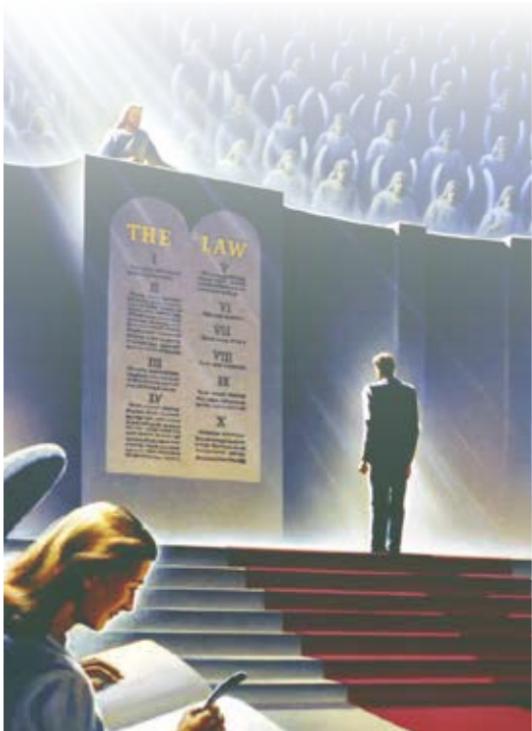
Ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, **And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel**" (Hebrews 12:22-24). [Emphasis added.]

By looking at these terms: "Advocate," "High Priest," "Intercessor," "Mediator," "Minister of the sanctuary"; we can see what the Lord effectually does between us and God.

STRONG CONSOLATION BECAUSE CHRIST INTERCEDES

The Bible applies to Christ's ongoing ministry today under the titles of "Advocate," "High Priest," "Intercessor," "Mediator," "Minister of the sanctuary." All these terms are connected in Christ and show forth the work that the Lord is engaged in today within the great span of the plan of redemption. Christ today is at the right hand of God ministering on our behalf:

"Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is **even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us**" (Romans 8:34). [Emphasis added.]



and **the Ancient of days did sit**, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire. **A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened.**" [Emphasis added.]

So we picture a judgment, a trial, a verdict and then the

execution of a judgment. We know we have an Advocate—our defense attorney, but how comforted are you by the fact that there is a judgment, a trial? Do we shrink from the judgment? Does our faith grow dim at the prospect that we will be judged? The idea that our lives will come up in review before God often brings many a troubling thought. We are not proud of our human record.

See, we often come to wrong conclusions because we are thinking of the judgment in terms of present-day definitions. For instance, if you were guilty of a crime, you would want to

Just by looking at these terms: "Advocate," "High Priest," "Intercessor," "Mediator," "Minister of the sanctuary"; we can see what the Lord effectually does between us and God. You see, we have a representative before the Father, a defense lawyer, our "near kinsman"—but also He represents God to us, for He is "God manifest in the flesh." He truly brings God and humanity together.

The English term "advocate" found in 1 John 2:1 brings to our minds the scene of a judgment. We often remember the words found in Daniel 7:9, 10: "**I beheld** till the thrones were cast down,

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get yourself a good lawyer. An advocate that knows what he is doing, and who can get as much sympathy from the judge as he possibly can. You want an advocate that knows how to plead effectively in your favor.

But we mustn't think of the advocacy of Christ on these terms because it leads us to conclude that He is in heaven before the Father to try and get Him to have sympathy for us. Do you see? But we should have strong confidence in the judgment, because judgment is given in favor of the righteous (Psalm 5:12). Why? Because they have on a pure, white, wedding garment—and who gave them that garment? The Lord gave it to them. So when the Lord inspects the life of the Christian, all He sees is the spotless robe of Christ's righteousness.

So, properly understanding the work of our Advocate in heaven today will inspire with the faith we need. It will inspire us with strong confidence, not in ourselves, but in Jesus Christ the righteous and in His power to save me to the uttermost. This is what I find in the scriptures. I see a confidence that we are to have in Christ that dispels doubt and fear. Notice why God both promises and confirms His promises by an oath to us, so that:

"We might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: which hope

we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; **Whither the forerunner is for us entered,** even Jesus, **made an high priest for ever** after the order of Melchisedec" (Hebrews 6:18-20). [Emphasis added.]

We need to be careful when we seek to understand a term like "Advocate" by the present-day definition of the term, or it might lead us to live under the bondage of fear, thinking that God is somehow a stern judge without as much sympathy for us as Christ has. Instead, we see in the scriptures, "that **God was in Christ**, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them" (2 Corinthians 5:19). 

PRIVILEGES & OPPORTUNITIES

of the youth



I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one. Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof; but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever" (1 John 2:13-17).

This exhortation is addressed especially to the young. Their youth does not excuse them from responsibility. They are strong, and are not worn down with the cares and the weight of years; their affections are ardent, and if they withdraw them from the

world, and place them upon Christ and heaven, doing the will of God, they will have a hope of the better life that is enduring, and will be crowned at last with glory, honor, and immortality.

It is an alarming fact that the love of the world predominates in the minds of the young as a class. Many conduct themselves as if the precious hours of probation, while mercy lingers, were one grand holiday, and they were placed in the world merely for their own amusement, to be gratified with a continual round of excitement. They find their pleasures in the world, and in the things of the world, and are strangers to the Father and the graces of His Spirit. Many are reckless in their conversation. They choose to forget that by their words they are to be

justified or condemned. God is dishonored by the frivolity and the empty, vain talking and laughing that characterize the life of many of our youth.

I have seen Satan as a wily, vigilant foe, intent upon leading the youth to follow a course of action entirely contrary to that which God would approve. The enemy well knows that there is no class who can do as much good as young men and young women consecrated to God's service. He makes special efforts to lead them to find happiness in worldly amusements, and to justify themselves by endeavoring to show that these amusements are harmless, innocent, and even important for health. He presents the path of holiness as difficult, while the paths of worldly pleasure are strewn with flowers. In false and flattering colors, he arrays the world with its pleasures before the youth. But the pleasures of earth will soon come to an end, and that which is sown must also be reaped. Are personal attractions, ability, or talents too valuable to devote to God, the author of our being, Him who watches over us every moment?

Are our qualifications too precious to devote to God?

The youth often urge that they need something to enliven and divert the mind. The Christian's hope is just what is needed. Religion will prove to the believer a comforter, a sure guide to the Fountain of true happiness. The young should study the Word of God, giving themselves to meditation and prayer. They will find that their spare moments can not be better employed. Wisdom's "ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace" (Proverbs 3:17).

Titus exhorts the youth to sobriety: "Young men likewise exhort to be sober-minded. In all things showing thyself a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, sound speech that can not be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you" (Titus 2:6-8).

I entreat the youth, for their souls' sake, to heed the exhortation of the apostle. All these gracious instructions, warnings, and reproofs will be either a savor of life unto life or of death unto death.

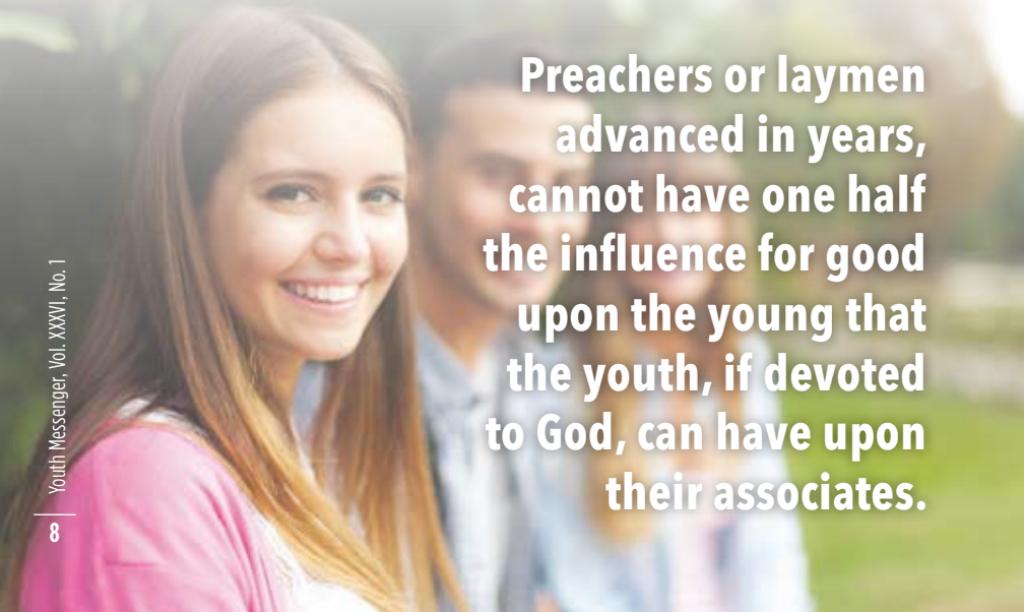
**The youth often urge that
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just what is needed.**

The young are naturally inclined to feel that not much responsibility, caretaking, or burden-bearing is expected of them. But upon every one rests the obligation to reach the Bible standard. The light that shines forth in privileges and opportunities, in the ministry of the word, in counsels, warnings, and reproofs, will perfect character, or will condemn the careless. This light is to be cherished by the young as well as by those who are older. Who will now take their stand for God, determined to give His service the first-place in their lives? Who will be burden-bearers?

"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth" (Ecclesiastes 12:1). Jesus desires the service of those who have the dew of youth upon them. He wants them to be heirs of immortality. They may grow up into noble manhood and womanhood, notwithstanding the

moral pollution that abounds, that corrupts so many of the youth at an early age. They may be free in Christ; the children of light, not of darkness. God calls upon every young man and young woman to renounce every evil habit, to be diligent in business, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord. They need not remain in indolence, making no effort to overcome wrong habits or to improve the conduct. The sincerity of their prayers will be proved by the vigor of the effort they make to obey God's commands. At every step they may renounce evil habits and associations, believing that the Lord, by the power of His Spirit, will give them strength to overcome.

Individual, constant, united efforts will be rewarded by success. Those who desire to do a great deal of good in our world must be willing to do it in God's way, by doing little things. He who wishes to reach the loftiest



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heights of achievement by doing something great and wonderful, will fail of doing anything.

Steady progress in a good work, the frequent repetition of one kind of faithful service, is of more value in God's sight than the doing of one great work, and wins for the youth a good report, giving character to their efforts. Those who are true and faithful to their divinely appointed duties, are not fitful, but steadfast in purpose, pressing their way through evil, as well as good, reports. They are instant in season and out of season.

The youth can do good in laboring to save souls. God holds them accountable for the use they make of the talents entrusted to them. Let those who claim to be sons and daughters of God aim at a high standard. Let them use every faculty God has given them.

The youth who are consecrated to God sway a mighty influence for good. Preachers or laymen advanced in years, cannot have one half the influence for good upon the young that the youth, if devoted to God, can have upon their associates. They ought ever to remember that upon them rests the solemn responsibility of doing all they can to save their fellow mortals, even at a sacrifice of pleasure and natural desires. Their time, their means, their influence—all that they have and are should be consecrated to God.

Those who have really tasted the sweets of redeeming love will not, cannot, rest, until all with whom they associate are made acquainted with the plan of salvation. The young should inquire, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? How can I honor and glorify thy name upon the earth?"

Souls are perishing all around us, and what are you doing, my young friends, to win souls to Christ? O that you would use your powers of mind in seeking to approach sinners, so that you might win even one soul to the path of righteousness! What a thought! One soul to praise God through eternity! One soul to enjoy happiness and eternal life! One gem in your crown, to shine forever and ever! But you may be able, by the grace of Christ, to win more than one from sin to holiness, and your reward will be great in the kingdom of heaven. Through the prophet Daniel the Lord declares that those who turn many to righteousness shall shine as the stars forever and ever.

Upon the youth there rests grave responsibilities. God expects much from the young men who live in this generation of increased light and knowledge. He desires to use them in dispelling the error and superstition that cloud the minds of many. They are to discipline themselves by gathering up every jot and tittle of knowledge and experience. God holds them responsible for the opportunities



given them. The work before them is waiting for their earnest efforts, that it may be carried forward from point to point as the time demands. If the youth will consecrate mind and heart to the Lord's service, they may reach a high standard of efficiency and usefulness. This is the standard that the Lord expects the youth to attain. To do less than this is to refuse to make the most of God-given opportunities. This will be looked upon as treason against God—a failure to work for the good of humanity.

What are you doing, dear youth, to make known to others how important it is to take the Word of God for a guide, to keep the commandments of Jehovah? Are you by precept and example declaring that it is only by obedience to the Word of God that men can be saved? If you will do what you can, you will be a blessing to others. As you labor according to the best of your

ability, ways and opportunities will open before you to do more.

Upon us God has bestowed great and precious gifts. He has given us light and a knowledge of His will, so that we need not err or walk in darkness. To be weighed in the balances and found wanting in the day of final settlement and rewards will be a fearful thing, a mistake that can never be corrected. Shall the book of God be searched in vain for our names?

There is no happiness or safety except in the fear of the Lord. My dear young friends, morning and evening let your prayers go up from unfeigned lips that the Holy Spirit may take possession of your hearts and keep you from the seductive influences of the world. Work for Jesus; stand up for Jesus; and He will stand up for you in the day of God's judgment.—*The Youth's Instructor*, January 1, 1907. 

7 SECRETS TO HAPPINESS

BY PAUL MICHAEL BALBACH

Here are 7 secrets of how to carry on a revival in our hearts. These steps show how we can have a love relationship with God.

1 STUDY GOD'S WORD DAILY (MULTIPLE TIMES THROUGHOUT THE DAY)

Jeremiah 15:16, "Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O Lord God of hosts."

Daniel prayed three times a day. When we're stressed, tired, or depressed that makes it more important than ever to pray; a minimum of 3x daily.

Why do we need to regularly read God's Word, just like we eat?

God has a love letter to us, and it's written in the Bible. To

keep in love with the Lord Jesus, we read His love letter—the Bible. It says that we will have joy and rejoicing in our hearts when we "eat" or read/study God's word.

When is the best time to read the letter? First thing in the morning. We should have our devotions; read Bible promises (at least a verse to meditate on as we start our day).

Then we are to carry that love letter with us through the day—for example, at lunch time or in the middle of the day.

And of course this is important also at night, when before going to bed, our last thoughts should be of God, our Creator.

Let's make this a new beginning where we open our hearts to this Love Letter.



2 START A PERMANENT RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.

Psalm 16:11, "Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures forevermore." In His presence is fullness of joy! At his right hand are pleasures forevermore.

When will we have fullness of joy? Only when things seem to be going smoothly in life? The Lord invites us:

Psalm 50:15, "Call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me."

Matthew 11:28-30, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and 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."

Q. When is the best time of the day to start calling on the Lord? In the morning.

Let us not use God when it is convenient, but give Him time early in the morning. This will give Him joy, and bring us joy!

Q. What happens if we spend time with God in the morning?

A new conversion takes place as we realize our sinfulness and need of a Saviour. (This is a new conversion every day.)

Q. What are some other things we can do in the morning besides reading God's word?

Write down thanks/things we are grateful for, things to pray for

others, and ways we may want to improve our own relationship with God.

3 KEEP YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD STEADY.

Q. How often should we think of the Lord and put Him in our thoughts/mind? Psalm 16:8, "I have set the Lord always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved."

4 TALK ABOUT THE LORD.

Malachi 3:16, 17, "Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name. And they shall be mine saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him."

Q. How frequently should we talk about the Lord? "They that feared the Lord spake often one to another."

Are we doing that? Am I doing that? Are you doing that? Do you talk about Jesus to your family, your friends, your neighbors, and those with whom you work?

5 LOOK UP!

2 Corinthians 4:18, "While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal."

We have to “look up” to God on the things that are eternal.

Luke 21:26, talks about the last days. “Men’s hearts [will be] failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken.”

In 1886, Ellen G. White wrote in a new year’s letter:

“The eye is not to be fastened upon deformity, upon the curse, but upon the riches of the grace of Christ that has been provided so abundantly, that we may live in this world, and act our part in the great web of humanity, and yet not be of the world. As pilgrims, as strangers looking for the bright things of God, the joy that is set before us, seeking a city whose builder and maker is God, and by beholding the provisions made for us, the mansions Jesus has gone to prepare for us, talking of the blessed home, we forget the annoyances and the fretting cares of this life. We seem to breathe in the very atmosphere of that better, even the heavenly country. We are soothed, we are comforted; we are more than this, we are joyful in God.”—*The Upward Look*, p. 15.

I once heard the story of a mother hen who had little chicks, and a fire broke out in the field where they were. Her body was burned to a crisp, but every one of the little chicks was saved. Jesus died on Calvary for you and me, and He said every one of us will be delivered—

whose names are written in the book of life. Psalm 91:1, “He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most high shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.” We have nothing to fear because we will be abiding in the secret place of the Most High.

6 BE FRIENDLY TO OUTCASTS.

Be kind to those that others disregard. Be kind to those that even are not worthy of kindness.

Does it bring us happiness, if we are friendly and kind to an unworthy person? “The Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them.” But Jesus said that, “I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repented” (Luke 15:2, 10).



Are we going to be kind and friendly to people even if they are different than us?

Are we going to be kind and friendly to those who are looked down on by society (e.g. homeless persons, drug addicts, criminals, etc.)?

Will we treat these people kindly and considerately?

Q. Is there joy when we are friendly to the unworthy?

What do we read about Jesus when He lived on the earth?

"There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth" (Luke 15:10).

Jesus says it plainly. This chapter talks about joy and rejoicing several times in the story of the lost sheep and the story of the lost coin. And then, Jesus closes the chapter by telling the story of the prodigal son—and the joy the father had when his son repented.

How can we go about being friendlier to others? Some suggestions:

1. When you come into church, turn to the person on the right and then to the one on the left, and smile and shake their hand.

2. When you see someone that may be considered an outcast of society, don't look away . . . but smile at them. Ask them if there is anything you can do to help them, and tell them about Jesus who's coming back again (give them a book or pamphlet). A simple handshake and smile are very easy things to do.

3. Welcome the guests that come to church. (If we notice a visitor, we should go up to them, and say, "Hi, my name is . . . , and I would like to welcome you to our church!)

7 BE A GOOD LISTENER.

Proverbs 18:13, "He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him."

Don't just think about yourself.
. . . Don't do all the talking.

Q. How should we listen?

Prayerfully (asking God to show us how to answer the person), attentively, sympathetically, and then share the promises of God with them.

Listen to others, listen to family and friends, and most importantly, listen to God.

- 1. Study God's Word daily.**
- 2. Start a permanent relationship with the Lord.**
- 3. Keep your relationship with God steady.**
- 4. Talk about the Lord.**
- 5. Look up.**
- 6. Be friendly to outcasts.**
- 7. Be a good listener.**

What do all these steps have in common? They all lead to happiness. They all lead to joy.

May the Lord help us to follow these 7 steps that we may continue having a happy year, and many more to come here on earth, and in heaven one day!

NEVER JUDGE A BOOK BY ITS COVER

Eunice Braidman

I have always thought that canvassing was a doorway to wonderful and rewarding experiences, an opportunity for spiritual enrichment and growth in faith. However, I will not deny that, notwithstanding this, canvassing can be a little difficult for me at times. I can be a little shy, especially considering the fact that I have found that there are some individuals out there who simply seem to make one feel more skittish, nervous, or more intimidated. Perhaps it is their height or the look on their face when they open the door, or perhaps it may simply be the clothes they are wearing. Whatever the case, we sometimes go as far as to think to ourselves: "Why even bother? They don't look like they'd ever want to read a book like this." And so we give up before we even as much as introduce ourselves. This may happen even when we aren't canvassing. We may see someone crossing the street or someone shopping in the store, and we automatically pass judgment



on them and think: "Oh my! That person looks so far gone! Even if I tried talking to them about Jesus, they most likely would not even listen." I am sure most, if not all of us, know how wrong it is to "judge a book by its cover." We know we should never think thoughts like these, yet how many times we do! It seems almost impossible to avoid—ALMOST. Sometimes we must have a personal experience with someone in this regard for us to finally learn that indeed, we see only faces but not hearts. Such was my case. It happened when I was canvassing in Los Angeles about two years ago.

On a warm summer day I walked down the curb to the next house in one of the many neighborhoods situated in the outskirts of Los Angeles. It was almost time for lunch and I still hadn't sold anything. I was hoping to sell at least one book before having to stop and eat lunch. With that thought in mind, I knocked at the next house which happened to be the last house on that curb. I knocked again, and yet again. No one came to the door so I figured no one was home and continued down the next street as the curb turned toward the right. I passed the backyard of the house I had just knocked at and heard male voices. The backyard was surrounded by a relatively high brick wall, so I peeked in through some large cracks and saw three young African American men engaged in conversation. They were dressed in

oversized T-shirts, pants that hung lower than advisable, baseball caps worn backward, and so forth. Now I was extremely hesitant. I don't know how long I stood by that wall or how many times I walked by it, trying to talk myself into—or out of (not sure which one it was)—stepping into that backyard and speaking to these three young men. Naturally, I didn't expect any of them to buy any book I had. And there was another problem. I felt quite nervous and intimidated, and perhaps even a little scared. But in my mind resounded the words: "Skip a door, skip a blessing." This phrase had been repeated over and over by our canvassing leader. And so, I decided to make a deal with myself since I couldn't decide what to do. Lunch was supposed to be at 12:30, so I decided that if it was 12:30 I would leave, and if it was before 12:30, I would stay and muster up the courage to talk to those three men. I looked at my watch, it was 12:29. I couldn't believe it! God must really want me to do this, I thought. It was settled for me. There was no more reason to hesitate and think about. I would walk into that yard and canvass them.

I took a deep breath, said a short but fervent prayer in my mind, and took a determined step into the backyard. I felt all three sets of eyes immediately rest on me. I took another deep breath. I managed to hide my nervousness by offering a big smile and saying in the friendliest tone possible:

"Hello! How are you all doing today?" I presented several of the books to them and then I came to *The Great Controversy*. I felt impressed to spend extra time and effort in drawing their attention and sparking their interest in this book. And it worked! Before I knew what was happening, one of the young men had decided to buy *The Great Controversy* and was heading into the house to look for his wallet. That day, I was completely convinced of two things: Never judge a book by its cover, and never skip a house.

I strongly believe that God can use one book to save a soul. And just to think that if I hadn't decided to ignore the negative feelings I was experiencing as well as my preconceived ideas regarding these young men and hadn't walked into that backyard, this young man would have never bought *The Great Controversy*. In addition, this might have been the only chance he would get in his life to get hold of such a book. What a solemn thought! Indeed, we should never pass judgments on anyone we see or meet, for only God knows the heart. As God's ambassadors we have one job, and this is to spread the seeds of truth. It is not up to us to decide who we think will accept them and who will not, or in which heart they will bear fruit and in which they will not. All we can see is what meets the human eye. We should always remember that "the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward

I felt impressed to spend extra time and effort in drawing their attention and sparking their interest in this book. And it worked!

appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7). In addition, we are to "go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). In this verse God clearly does not authorize exceptions, and He does not say we get to pick and choose who we share His word with. Many times the ones we consider most unlikely are the ones "ready for harvest"—the ones most in need of and the ones who are waiting for what we have to share!

It might not always be easy, particularly at first. But we must remember that God will give us the courage we need and He will give us the words to speak. We can claim the wonderful and reassuring promise He made to Moses in Exodus 4:12—"Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say." With such a promise, we have no excuse! And more importantly, we have no reason to feel intimidated, nervous, or fearful. God is with us. ☺

RESURRECTION —MYTH OR REALITY?

By Rudolfo Gessner

Jesus says,

"I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live" (John 11:25).

INTRODUCTION

When I first read the story of John Huss—and that after his body had been burned his ashes were thrown into the Rhine River and eventually arrived at the ocean, a question formed in my mind. Where will John Huss resurrect? At the place of his death, in the Rhine River, or in the ocean? How is it possible to gather all of these ashes in order to restore John Huss's life?

Or what about individuals who have been eaten by a large quantity of fish?

Well, these questions remained in my mind until I studied the subject in greater detail and found the wonderful answer to my questions.

But before answering them right away, there is a more relevant question to make:

The righteous patriarch Enoch, who lived near the beginning of history, had a great fear in his mind. The just and the unjust live and act according to their either righteous or evil character. In the end, both die and end up in the same place. So, what is the difference between the two?

What is worth more? Being just or unjust? Enoch took his question to God, and God mercifully answered him through a vision in which Enoch saw what the difference would be between the just and the unjust throughout the history of humanity. He showed Enoch the coming of the Redeemer, His life, His death and the atonement for sin, His resurrection, and His second coming with power and great glory to give His reward. Enoch was happy with the divine answer, and with great hope, he awaited that glorious day.

After accepting salvation through God's grace, the second most important principle found in the Bible is the promise of resurrection. It is so important for

our spiritual life that the Bible makes mention of it several times.

The apostle Paul dedicated an entire chapter of his first letter to the Corinthians to this topic (chapter 15). He says that if we do not believe in the resurrection, we are the most miserable of souls.

If we do not believe in the resurrection of Christ, there goes our gospel, there goes our faith, and we are considered false witnesses.

Thus, for us who witness death around us, to speak of the resurrection—to believe in the resurrection—is one of the sweetest hopes available to mortal beings.

This is not a theoretical topic, not superstition, nor something that we will see only in the future. It is something that has already happened. We have sufficient evidence to believe in it.

When Satan induced our parents to sin, they lost their right to live eternally—and as a consequence, they eventually became acquainted with death. Satan rejoiced, for he knew that now he would have many subjects in his kingdom.

But we know death had a short reign of only approximately 2,500 years, because in Romans 5:14 says, “death reigned from Adam to Moses.”

Why only until Moses? Because this is where we have affirmation that Moses was



resurrected without seeing corruption, and in Mark 9:4 we find Moses and Elijah on the mount of transfiguration with Jesus.

1 MOSES—RESURRECTED BY JESUS

“And there appeared unto them Elias with Moses: and they were talking with Jesus” (Mark 9:4).

2 THE WIDOW OF ZAREPHATH'S SON—RESURRECTED BY ELIJAH

The second account of a resurrection we find is the resurrection of the son of the widow of Zarephath, which was performed by the prophet Elijah.

“And [Elijah] stretched himself upon the child three times, and

cried unto the Lord, and said, O Lord my God, I pray thee, let this child's soul come into him again. And the Lord heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came into him again, and he revived" (1 Kings 17:21, 22).

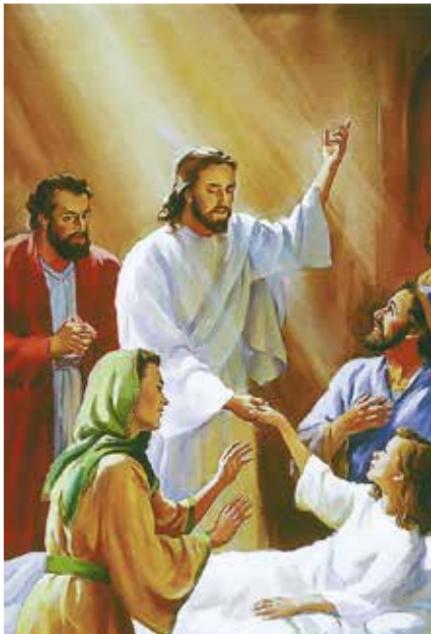
3 THE SHUNAMMITE WOMAN'S SON—RESURRECTED BY ELISHA

The third account was of the Shunammite woman's son, performed by the prophet Elisha.

"Then [Elisha] returned, and walked in the house to and fro; and went up, and stretched himself upon him: and the child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes. And he called Gehazi, and said, Call this Shunammite. So he called her. And when she was come in unto him, he said, Take up thy son" (2 Kings 4:35, 36).

4 MAN—RESURRECTED BY ELISHA'S BONES

The fourth account is of an unplanned resurrection. It occurred during a funeral procession when, for fear of the Moabites, those carrying the body threw it into the grave of Elisha.



The man resurrected and returned to the city with the fugitives.

"And Elisha died, and they buried him. And the bands of the Moabites invaded the land at the coming in of the year. And it came to pass, as they were burying a man, that, behold, they spied a band of men; and they cast the man into the sepulchre of Elisha: and when the man was let down, and touched the bones of Elisha, he revived, and stood up on his feet" (2 Kings 13:20, 21).

Where will john huss resurrect? At the place of his death, in the rhine river, or in the ocean? How is it possible to gather all of these ashes?

5 THE WIDOW OF NAIN— RESURRECTED BY JESUS

The fifth person to be resurrected was the son of the widow of Nain. His funeral procession came upon Christ on its way to the cemetery, and Jesus, moved with compassion, resurrected him.

"And it came to pass the day after, that [Jesus] went into a city called Nain; and many of his disciples went with him, and much people. Now when he came nigh to the gate of the city, behold, there was a dead man carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow: and much people of the city was with her. And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her, and said unto her, Weep not. And he came and touched the bier: and they that bare him stood still. And he said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise. And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak. And he delivered him to his mother" (Luke 7:11-15).

6 JAIRUS' DAUGHTER— RESURRECTED BY JESUS

The sixth person to be resurrected was Jarius' daughter. Jarius went to Jesus personally with the certainty that He would be able to bring his daughter back to life. And it was so.

"While he spake these things unto them, behold, there came a certain ruler, and worshipped him, saying, My

daughter is even now dead: but come and lay thy hand upon her, and she shall live" (Matthew 9:18).

7 LAZARUS—RESURRECTED BY JESUS

The seventh person was a close friend of Jesus who, after becoming ill, passed away. His sisters were sure that if Jesus had been with them during his illness, Lazarus would not have died. But Jesus gave the two sisters a powerful statement. He said: "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live" (John 11:25).

"[Jesus] cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth. And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was



To speak of the resurrection— to believe in the resurrection— is one of the sweetest hopes available to mortal beings.

bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go" (John 11:43, 44).

8 JESUS

If we follow the chronological order, the eighth resurrection was that of Christ Himself.

But we will get to this point in the second part of this article in the next issue of this magazine.

9 TABITHA—RESURRECTED BY PETER

The account of the ninth resurrection is found in Acts 9:40, where the apostle Peter, while visiting the city of Lydda, was told that Tabitha, called Dorcas, had died. Peter went to Joppa, the city where Tabitha was, and after a prayer, Tabitha was brought back to life, and she continued her life of service towards her fellow men and women.

"Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed; and turning him to the body said, Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up. And he gave her his hand, and lifted her up, and when he had called the saints and widows, presented her alive" (Acts 9:40, 41).

10 EUTYCHUS— RESURRECTED BY PAUL

The last registered resurrection was of the sleepy Eutychus, who, sitting in a window, was listening to Paul's extensive discourse when he was overcome by a deep sleep and fell out of the window.

Paul, embarrassed by the situation, descended the stairs to where the body lay and brought the young man back to where they were. They celebrated and continued to listen to Paul until morning.

"There sat in a window a certain young man named Eutychus, being fallen into a deep sleep: and as Paul was long preaching, he sunk down with sleep, and fell down from the third loft, and was taken up dead. And Paul went down, and fell on him, and embracing him said, Trouble not yourselves; for his life is in him. When he therefore was come up again, and had broken bread, and eaten, and talked a long while, even till break of day, so he departed" (Acts 20:9-11). 

—To be continued in next issue.

ALONE

It is human to stand with the crowd; it is divine to stand alone. It is manlike to follow the people, to drift with the tide; it is godlike to follow a principle, to stem the tide.

It is natural to compromise conscience and follow the social and religious fashion for the sake of gain or pleasure; it is divine to sacrifice both on the altar of truth and duty.

"No man stood with me, but all men forsook me and fled," wrote the battle-scarred apostle in describing his first appearance before Nero to answer for his life for believing and teaching contrary to the Roman world.

Noah built and voyaged alone. His neighbors laughed at his strangeness, and perished.

Abraham wandered and worshiped alone. The Sodomites smiled at the simple shepherd, followed the fashion, and fed the flames.

Daniel dined and prayed alone. Elijah sacrificed and witnessed alone. Jeremiah prophesied and wept alone. Jesus loved and died alone.

And of the lonely way His disciples should walk He said, "Strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

Of their treatment by the many who walk in the broad way He said, "If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, . . . therefore the world hateth you."

The church in the wilderness praised Abraham, and persecuted Moses. The church of the kings praised Moses, and persecuted the prophets. The church of Caiaphas praised the prophets, and persecuted Jesus. The church of the popes praised the Saviour, and persecuted the saints. And multitudes now, in both the church and the world, applaud the courage and fortitude of the patriarchs and prophets, the apostles and martyrs, but condemn as stubbornness or foolishness like faithfulness to truth today.

Wanted, today, men and women, young and old, who will obey their convictions of truth and duty at the cost of fortune and friends and life itself!

—Selected.



WHAT IS PRE HOW MAY IT INVOLVE ME?



And the man that will do presumptuously, and will not hearken unto the priest that standeth to minister there before the Lord thy God, or unto the judge, even that man shall die: and thou shalt put away the evil from Israel. And all the people shall hear, and fear, and do no more presumptuously" (Deuteronomy 17:12, 13).

We often talk about faith and the meaning of faith. This is good, since it is a very powerful subject if we experience true faith. "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith" (1 John

5:4). Since we all like power, that victorious power that overcomes the world is something we need to discuss.

But there is another subject so close to faith—and yet so distinctly opposite—that if you possess it, it results in your defeat. Unfortunately, most of the world considers this counterfeit to be genuine faith. We need to know about it because of God's warning given through the psalmist's prayer: "Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression" (Psalm 19:13).

"There are many who fail to distinguish between the rashness of presumption and the intelligent confidence of faith. Satan thought that by his temptations he could delude the world's Redeemer, to make one bold move in manifesting His divine power, to create a sensation, and to surprise all by the wonderful display of the power of His Father in preserving Him from injury."—*The Review and Herald*, April 1, 1875.

What is it that we are to be kept back from—and why?

SUMPTION?

By Peter D. Lausevic

PART 1 OF 2

PRESUMPTUOUS SINS

What are the three branches of evil from which all others spring up? “Appetite and passion, the love of the world, and presumptuous sins, were the great branches of evil out of which every species of crime, violence, and corruption grew.”—*Selected Messages*, bk. 1, p. 280.

A presumptuous sin is one that a person deliberately chooses, something wrong that he or she is determined to do. An example is given of premeditated murder: “He that smiteth a man, so that he die, shall be surely put to death. And if a man lie not in wait, but God deliver him into his hand; then I will appoint thee a place whither he shall flee. But if a man come presumptuously upon his neighbour, to slay him with guile; thou shalt take him from mine altar, that he may die” (Exodus 21:12-14).

A presumptuous sin occurs when a person knows and understands the will of God but purposely decides to do something else. “The work of Satan is to interpose his sophistry, his lying statements, to lead men to believe a lie rather than the words of God, which are the truth. It is thus that he leads men into presumptuous sins. Satan is

ever at work to keep out of our minds the doctrine of the cross of Christ; for this is the counter-influence through which sin is to be vanquished and man be brought back to his allegiance to the law of God.”—*The Review and Herald*, Sept. 29, 1891.

One example of presumption occurred shortly after the Israelites had been denied immediate access to the promised land because of their restless murmuring and complaining. Their rebellious spirit resulted in them having to wander in the wilderness for 40 more years.

“One of the people, angry at being excluded from Canaan, and determined to show his defiance of God’s law, ventured upon the open transgression of the fourth commandment by going out to gather sticks upon the Sabbath. During the sojourn in the wilderness the kindling of fires upon the seventh day had been strictly prohibited. The prohibition was not to extend to the land of Canaan, where the severity of the climate would often render fires a necessity; but in the wilderness, fire was not needed for warmth. The act of this man was a willful and deliberate violation of the fourth commandment—a sin, not of

thoughtlessness or ignorance, but of presumption.”—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 409. [Emphasis added.]

“It is the grossest presumption for mortal man to venture upon a compromise with the Almighty in order to secure his own petty, temporal interests. It is as ruthless a violation of the law to occasionally use the Sabbath for secular business as to entirely reject it; for it is making the Lord’s commandments a matter of convenience. ‘I the Lord thy God am a jealous God,’ is thundered from Sinai. No partial obedience, no divided interest, is accepted by Him who declares that the iniquities of the fathers shall be visited upon the children to the third and fourth generation of them that hate Him, and that He will show mercy unto thousands of them that love Him and keep His commandments. It is not a small matter to rob a neighbor, and great is the stigma attached to one who is found guilty of such an act; yet he who would scorn to defraud his fellow man will without shame rob his heavenly Father of the time that He has blessed and set apart for a special purpose.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 4, pp. 249, 250.

DISREGARDING REPROOF

Another way to sin presumptuously is to disregard the reproofs, based on the word of God, of His faithful messengers. “If there arise a matter too hard for thee in judgment, between

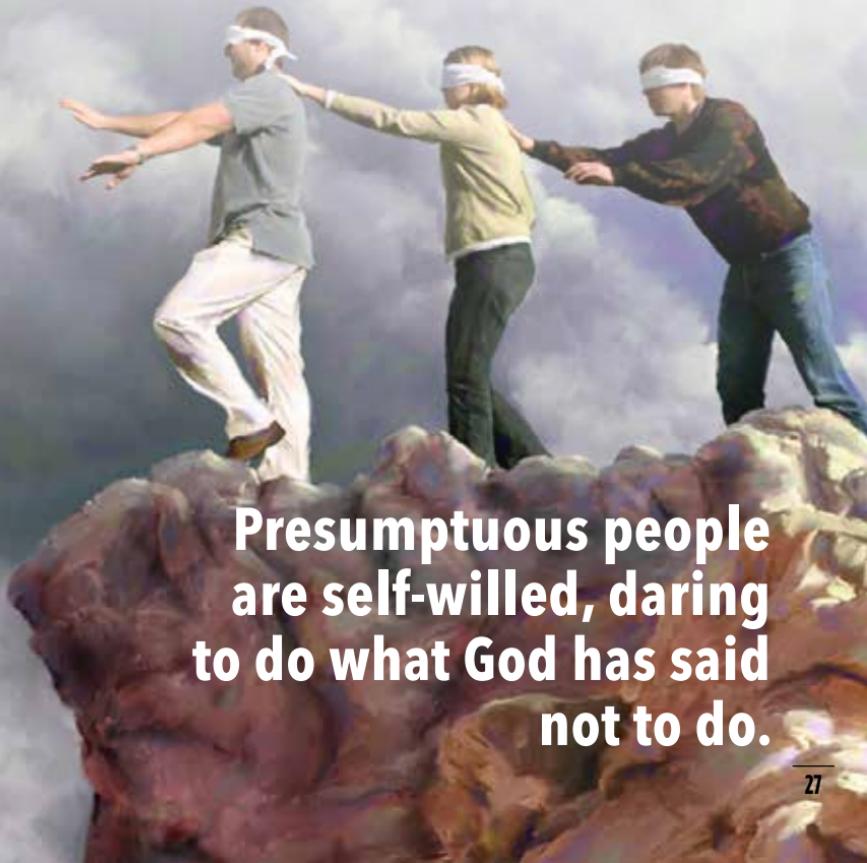
blood and blood, between plea and plea, and between stroke and stroke, being matters of controversy within thy gates: then shalt thou arise, and get thee up into the place which the Lord thy God shall choose; and thou shalt come unto the priests the Levites, and unto the judge that shall be in those days, and inquire; and they shall shew thee the sentence of judgment: and thou shalt do according to the sentence, which they of that place which the Lord shall choose shall shew thee; and thou shalt observe to do according to all that they inform thee: according to the sentence of the law which they shall teach thee, and according to the judgment which they shall tell thee, thou shalt do: thou shalt not decline from the sentence which they shall shew thee, to the right hand, nor to the left. And the man that will do presumptuously, and will not hearken unto the priest that standeth to minister there before the Lord thy God, or unto the judge, even that man shall die: and thou shalt put away the evil from Israel. And **all the people shall hear, and fear, and do no more presumptuously”**

(Deuteronomy 17:8-13). [Emphasis added].

The Hebrew word translated as “presumptuously” in verse 12 above literally refers to pride, insolence, or arrogance. We read in Numbers chapter 16 of the presumptuous rebellion of Korah, resulting in the death of 14,000 people. We are

warned that "the experience of the Israelites in their travels has been recorded for the benefit of those upon whom the ends of the world are come. Our dangers are not less than those of the Hebrews, but greater. The people of God at the present day will be tempted to indulge envy, jealousy and murmuring, as did ancient Israel. There will ever be a spirit to rise up against the reproof of sins and wrongs. But the voice of reproof should not be hushed because of this. Those whom God has set apart as ministers of righteousness have solemn responsibilities laid upon them to reprove the sins of the people. Paul commanded Titus,

'These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.' There are ever those who will despise the one who dares to reprove sin. But when required, reproof must be given. Paul directs Titus to rebuke a certain class sharply, that they may be sound in the faith. And how shall the reproof be given? Let the apostle answer: 'With all long-suffering and doctrine.' The one at fault must be shown that his course is not in harmony with the word of God. But never should the wrongs of God's people be passed by indifferently. Those who faithfully discharge their unpleasant duties under a sense



**Presumptuous people
are self-willed, daring
to do what God has said
not to do.**

of their accountability to God, will receive His blessing.”—*The Signs of the Times*, September 16, 1880.

SELF-WILLED

Presumptuous people are self-willed, daring to do what God has said not to do.

“The Bible specially teaches us to beware of lightly bringing accusation against those whom God has called to act as His ambassadors. The apostle Peter, describing a class who are abandoned sinners, says, ‘Presumptuous are they, self-willed, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities. Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord’ (2 Peter 2:10, 11). And Paul, in his instruction for those who are placed over the church, says, ‘Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses’ (1 Timothy 5:19). He who has placed upon men the heavy responsibility of leaders and teachers of His people will hold the people accountable for the manner in which they treat His servants. We are to honor those whom God has honored. The judgment visited upon Miriam should be a rebuke to all who yield to jealousy, and murmur against those upon whom God lays the burden of His work.”—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 386.

CONCLUSION TO PART 1

As a people waiting for the coming of Jesus, what are we

required to do? “Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) and let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works” (Hebrews 10:23, 24). How can we provoke one another unto good works if we do not fellowship together? So, the next verse tells us, “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching” (verse 25). And the following verses tell us what type of sin this helps us prevent: “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” (verses 26, 27).

Dear young people, do not neglect the opportunity to hear God’s word and to strengthen one another up the narrow path by faith. Listen intently to the sermons and studies given by faithful ministers, realizing that they apply to you just as much as to the older ones. In an age infamous for rebellion and presumption, stand fast for the truth, and you will be blessed. We’ll talk more about this subject in the next *Youth Messenger* magazine. Until then, may the Lord grant you faith in Christ and courage to do what is right by His tremendous power! —*To be continued.* 

Dawdling Around?

Begin right, and begin right away," would be a good motto for young people who have contracted the unfortunate habit of dawdling. Do not wait unto tomorrow. Begin now, before the sun goes down. Work promptly done is an incentive to new endeavor. It increases skill, and gives new courage to press forward. It repays tenfold, even in the satisfaction of the present hour, the peace of mind that comes from the consciousness of completed tasks.

Procrastination is the thief of time. It steals more than time. It purloins our freedom—makes us slaves and debtors, whose tomorrows are forever mortgaged. Nor does the mischief stop here. No man is sufficient unto himself; at every point his life touches other lives. Humanity is one great family; and no one can delay or postpone his work without infringing on the rights of others.

The story is told of a boy who agreed to mow three acres of grass in as many days. Looking over the field the first morning, he decided that the work could be done in two days, and spent that day playing with other boys. The second morning his desire to begin the task was even weaker than it had been

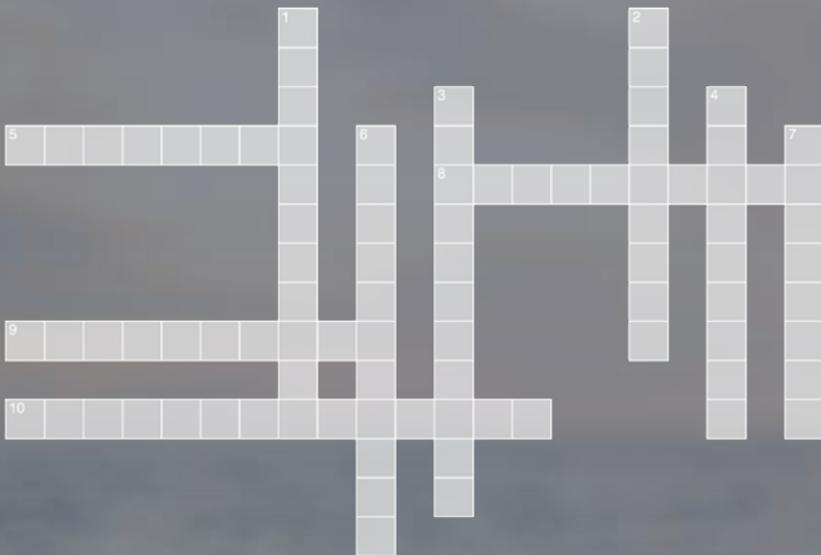
at first. He whispered to accusing conscience that the work could certainly be done in one day, and went off again to play. The third morning, however, the field appeared much larger than it had either of the preceding days, and the boy sat down a while to think before he began his work. Lulled by the hum of insects in the grass, and the cool shade of the tree under which he sat, he went to sleep. When he awoke, it was high noon. As he could not possibly mow three acres of meadow in one afternoon, he betook himself to sport again. Next day it rained heavily, and the next, and the next, until the already over-ripe grass was ruined.

Shifting the burden of the day to the morrow is not only slothful and careless, but betrays a lack of thought and foresight of which no intelligent boy or girl should be guilty. You would not be so foolish as to try to pour a quart of water into a pint measure. Is it less foolish to try to squeeze the labor of two days into one?

An accusing conscience, a palsied will, loss of energy and ambition, a sure weakening of the highest springs of character—all these are the sure fruits of the policy, or rather impolicy, of procrastination.

"Begin right, and begin right away."—Success. 

PUZZLE



ACROSS

5. One way to sin presumptuously is to disregard ____.
8. A new ____ takes place when we realize our sinfulness and need of a Saviour.
9. Upon everyone rests the ____ to reach the Bible standard.
10. We have a ____ before the Father, a defense lawyer.

DOWN

1. ____ is counterfeit faith.
2. When we're stressed, tired or depressed, that makes it more ____ than ever to pray.
3. "God was in Christ, ____ the world unto himself."
4. It is manlike to drift with the tide; it is godlike to follow a ____.
6. God holds the youth ____ for the use they make of the talents entrusted to them.
7. Many times the ones we consider most ____ are "ready for harvest."

A Sound Mind

What is really important in life?

So often we are afraid of the future. We lack confidence that God is going to be with us. We fear that He will abandon us along the way. We doubt that He really has interest in our aims and desires in life. We worry and fail to trust Him. Such perplexity comes from the enemy of our souls. He wants to leave us in a state of confusion. But in coming to Jesus, we realize that "God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind" (2 Timothy 1:7).

Even if we make mistakes—and bad ones at that—Jesus is willing to be our defense lawyer. He gives us wonderful opportunities to expand our horizons and His Word provides wonderful secrets to happiness. The God of Heaven gives us hope and a bright future—even provision for life after death. The path may be narrow and we may need to stand completely alone

at times without any earthly friend at our side, but as we look to Jesus by faith, we can be strong. The "sound mind" that God gives is of great benefit in today's world.

"With us who look for Christ's coming should be the resolve that we will not live this life constantly on the losing side of the question but in understanding in spiritual attainments. Be men of God, on the gaining side.

"Knowledge is within the reach of all who desire it. God designs that the mind shall become strong, thinking deeper, fuller, clearer. Walk with God as did Enoch; make God your Counselor and you cannot but make improvement. . . .

"Let there be a strong taking hold upon God, a putting away of frivolity, amusement, and all uncleanness. Overcome all defects of character. . . .

"God beckons to you from His throne in heaven, presenting to you a crown of immortal glory, and bids you to fight the good fight of faith and run the race with patience. Trust in God every moment. He is faithful that leadeth forward."—*Mind, Character, and Personality*, vol. 1, p. 105. 

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Jewels

By Eliza H. Morton



IN THE SEA AND IN THE MOUNTAINS,
DEEP BENEATH THE WAVES,
THERE ARE JEWELS, COSTLY, PRECIOUS,
HIDDEN IN THE CAVES.
IN THE DEPTHS THE CHARCOAL CHANGETH
INTO DIAMONDS BRIGHT,
FLASHING FORTH A WEALTH OF BEAUTY
WHEN IT COMES TO LIGHT.

IN THE LAPIDARY'S SANCTUM,
DULL, DARK STONES ARE FOUND
WHICH OFT FLUSH AND BLUSH IN SPLENDOR
WHEN THEY'RE SPLIT AND GROUND;
SO IN EARTH, AMID THE BLACKNESS
OF MAN'S AWFUL SIN,
THERE ARE GEMS OF GOD TO POLISH,
SOULS TO SAVE AND WIN.

AMETHYST AND GLEAMING TOPAZ,
NOT ALIKE TO VIEW,
BUT IN GOD'S OWN CROWN OF JEWELS
WILL BE EVERY HUE.
SORROW'S WHEEL IS GRINDING ROUGHLY,
CRYSTALLIZING TEARS,
BUT THE PRESSURE IS REFINING
THROUGH THE LONG, SAD YEARS.

IN THE FLAME AND IN THE FURNACE
WONDROUS CHANGES WROUGHT,
IN THE PRESENCE OF THE SAVIOUR
JEWELS LONG, LONG SOUGHT.
THEY'LL BE HIS, AND HIS FOREVER,
SET IN BRIGHT ARRAY,
GLORIFIED AND MADE RESPLENDENT
IN THE CROWNING DAY.