

OUR HIGH CALLING OF GOD

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*“Forgetting those things which are behind,
and reaching forth unto those things which are
before, I press toward the mark
for the prize of the high calling of God
in Christ Jesus.”*

Philippians 3:13

“ I saw that we are the only people upon earth
from whom God is to get glory, and if we
should hold our peace the very stones would
cry out, for God must receive glory from some
of those who dwell upon the earth. The only
company who can praise and honor God, I
saw, are those who are keeping the command-
ments of God and have the faith of Jesus “

21 MR p. 237

“ In every age there is a new development of truth, a message of God to the people of that generation. The old truths are all essential; new truth is not independent of the old, but an unfolding of it. It is only as the old truths are understood that we can comprehend the new. When Christ desired to open to His disciples the truth of His resurrection, He began “at Moses and all the prophets” and “expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning Himself.” Luke 24:27. But it is the light which shines in the fresh unfolding of truth that glorifies the old. He who rejects or neglects the new does not really possess the old. For him it loses its vital power and becomes but a lifeless form.

The significance of the Jewish economy is not yet fully comprehended. Truths vast and profound are shadowed forth in its rites and symbols. The gospel is the key that unlocks its mysteries. Through a knowledge of the plan of redemption, its truths are opened to the understanding. Far more than we do, it is our privilege to understand these wonderful themes. We are to comprehend the deep things of God. Angels desire to look into the truths that are revealed to the people who with contrite hearts are searching the word of God, and praying for greater lengths and breadths and depths and heights of the knowledge which He alone can give “ Christ Object Lessons, pp. 127 & 133.

Note from p.41

There is sometimes a little confusion over the term “holy place” in the passage from RH Feb.25, 1890. When it states that “ *The people have not entered the **holy place** where Jesus has gone to make an atonement for His children* “ it is obviously referring to the second apartment of the sanctuary. We should be aware that Inspiration uses two different terminologies when referring to the two apartments of the sanctuary. In Exodus 23:33-34, it refers to the two apartments as the holy place and the most holy place. However, in Leviticus 16:16, 17, 20, it refers to the second apartment as the holy place and the first apartment as the tabernacle of the congregation. That is the terminology used in the quotation from the RH of Feb.25, 1890.

The context should be considered when determining which apartment Inspiration is referring to.

universe and tempt the inhabitants of the other worlds. See EW p. 40. We read in the book of Job that when there was a heavenly council of the representatives of all the worlds, Satan came as a representative of this world. However, when he has been incarcerated in this world during the 1000 years, he will no longer be able to travel throughout the universe to tempt and annoy those loyal to God and His law.

When the seventh vial has been poured out, the fateful experiment with sin has been fully manifested. The principles of the government of heaven have been fully revealed in contrast to the principles of Satan's kingdom. It has taken over 6000 years of pain and suffering and turmoil to fully settle the allegations of Lucifer against the government of heaven. But it has been accomplished.

And even though the redeemed will no longer remember their past sins and how they often succumbed to the temptations of the devil, they will always remember that they have been saved from a hopeless and lost condition by the blood of the Lamb, as brands plucked out of the fire. Education p. 308 tells us " *The redeemed only, of all created beings, have in their own experience known the actual conflict with sin; they have wrought with Christ, and, as even the angels could not do, have entered into the fellowship of His sufferings; will they have no testimony as to the science of redemption, nothing that will be of worth to unfallen beings ?*"

" *The whole universe will have become witnesses to the nature and results of sin. . . Never will evil again be manifest. Says the word of God: "Affliction shall not rise up the second time."* Nahum 1:9. *The law of God, which Satan has reproached as the yoke of bondage, will be honored as the law of liberty. A tested and proved creation will never again be turned from allegiance to Him whose character has been fully manifested before them as fathomless love and infinite wisdom " GC p.504.*

INTRODUCTION

There is nothing in our world so powerful as a truth whose time has come. Those who are alive upon the earth at the present time have been born to a special point of privilege in time. The truth given to us in this end time is the most solemn, the most important ever given to mortals. See 9T p. 19. It is the 'present truth' which the flock needs now. (EW p. 63). We are told that " *Mysteries into which angels desire to look, which prophets and kings and righteous men desired to understand, the remnant church will carry in messages from God to the world " 6T p. 19.*

" *From the Holy of Holies, there goes on the grand work of instruction. The angels of God are communicating to men. Christ officiates in the sanctuary. We do not follow Him into the sanctuary as we should . . . There must be a purifying of the soul here upon the earth, in harmony with Christ's cleansing of the sanctuary in heaven " Maranatha p. 249.*

If we want to stand in this end time, we will need to understand the truth that is to prepare us to face the coming challenges.

We have this warning from Inspiration: " *Coming events, of a solemn character, are opening before us, and God would not have any one of us think that in these last days there is no more that we need to know. This is a continual snare of Satan. He (Satan) would have us meet coming events without that special preparation which is essential to guide them through every difficulty. He would have all stumbling their way along in ignorance, making self-conceit, self-esteem, self-confidence, take the place of true knowledge. The more satisfied anyone is with himself, and his present knowledge, the less earnestly and humbly will he seek to be guided into all truth. But unless he keeps pace with the Leader, who is guiding into all truth, he will be left behind, belated, blinded, confused, because he is not walking in the light " 11MR p.88*

OUR HIGH CALLING

In 1844, Christ sent His people a message saying, “ *Behold I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it* ” Revelation 3:8. The light shining from the open door of the most holy place is the greatest light Christ has ever bestowed. And the promise is that “ *When this grand truth is seen and understood, those who hold it will work in harmony with Christ to prepare a people to stand in the great day of God, and their efforts will be successful* ” 5T p. 575. This is the only way that we as God’s people can attain to the high calling of God in this final hour of earths’ history.

God’s Word tells us in Ephesians 1:18: “ *The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power* ”

“ *Higher than the highest human thought can reach is God's ideal for His children. Godliness – godlikeness – is the goal to be reached* ” Education p. 18.

When we consider the purpose for our creation as a new and distinct order of intelligent beings, we can begin to appreciate the high calling to which we have been called. In Isaiah 43:21 Christ declares “ *This people have I formed for my self; they shall show forth my praise.*”

Inspiration elaborates on Christ’s purpose in creating mankind as a new and distinct order of beings that were destined to be a counterpart of God. It tells us that “ *All heaven took a deep and joyful interest in the creation of the world and of man. Human beings were a new and distinct order* ” 1BC 1081.

“ *God created man a superior being; he alone is formed in the image of God, and is capable of partaking of the divine nature, of cooperating*

enth angel has poured out the seventh vial that “ *there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done* ” Revelation 16:17. Inspiration indicates that the struggle between the fit man and the scape goat goes on until the seventh plague is poured out. In 7BC p. 983 it tells us “ *We need to study the pouring out of the seventh vial. The powers of evil will not yield up the conflict without a struggle.* ”

The voice of God heard at this time declaring “ *It is done* ” marks the completion of the fit man’s struggle to lead away the scape goat who has set up the universal mark of his authority. The fit man will triumph. “ *And when the never-ending blessing was pronounced on those who had honored God in keeping His Sabbath holy, there was a mighty shout of victory over the beast and over his image* ” EW p. 285.

The steadfast loyalty of the fit man had vindicated the character of God and the laws of His kingdom. And it has given assurance to the onlooking universe that fully redeemed sinners are eternally secure from another defection and that “ *affliction will not rise up the second time* ” Nahum 1:9.

Now the mighty angel depicted in Revelation 20:1-2 takes over the jurisdiction of the scape goat. The sins of the righteous which were confessed before 1844, even from the time of Adam, are now placed upon Satan (GC 658) and he is banished to this desolate earth for a thousand years. Early Writings p. 290 describes his incarceration.

“ *Here he will be confined, to wander up and down over the broken surface of the earth and see the effects of his rebellion against God's law. . . Limited alone to the earth, he will not have the privilege of ranging to other planets, to tempt and annoy those who have not fallen.*”

Previous to this time, Satan was allowed to range throughout the

prove God's pronouncement to be true or it will be proven false. God has staked His entire reputation on the fit man faithfully accomplishing his job of leading the scape goat away without letting him escape.

The magnitude of this episode is beginning to dawn upon many minds. We have usually thought that when probation closes, everything which concerns the cause of God and the honor of His name has been accomplished. True, there is one aspect which is completed when the sealing is accomplished. It is the work of salvation. Early Writings pp. 280 & 281 tell us that *" Every case had been decided for life or death. While Jesus had been ministering in the sanctuary, the judgment had been going on for the righteous dead, and then for the righteous living. Christ had received His kingdom, having made the atonement for His people and blotted out their sins. The subjects of the kingdom were made up. The marriage of the Lamb was consummated. . . The plan of salvation had been accomplished, but few had chosen to accept it. "*

At that point, all who have proven their loyalty when the mark of the beast is enforced will have been wholly transformed into the likeness of Christ. When that has happened, the work of redemption is finished. That is what we are told in 6BC p. 1118.

*" Are we striving with all our power to attain to the stature of men and women in Christ? Are we seeking for His fullness, ever pressing toward the mark set before us – the perfection of His character? When the Lord's people reach this mark, they will be **sealed in their foreheads**. Filled with the Spirit, **they will be complete in Christ, and the recording angel will declare, "It is finished."** "*

However, all the issues in the great controversy are not finished when probation is closed. Everything in that respect isn't done until the seventh plague has been poured out and the voice of God is heard from heaven. The Bible tells us that when the sev-

with his Creator and executing His plans " SD p. 8.

*" Man was the crowning act of the creation of God, made in the image of God, and **designed to be a counterpart of God**. . . . Man is very dear to God, because he was formed in His own image " MLT p. 126.*

These Inspired statements clearly show that man was created, not only to glorify his Creator, but to be a counterpart of God, of cooperating with his Creator and executing His plans. And we are also told that *" We were brought into existence because we were needed. How sad the thought that if we stand on the wrong side, in the ranks of the enemy, we are lost to the design of our creation. We are disappointing our Redeemer; the powers He designed for His service are used to oppose His grace and matchless love " ST April 22, 1903*

The question is, Why did God need a new order of beings to work in cooperation with Him as a counterpart of God and to execute His plans? And what was the pressing urgency of the plans which God intended to execute that needed a new and distinct order of intelligent beings through which to be accomplished? We get a further clue in the following from 1BC p.1082. *" God created man for His own glory, that after test and trial the human family might become one with the heavenly family. It was God's plan to **repopulate heaven with human family, if they would show themselves obedient to His every word.** "*

Here we read of Christ's purpose to repopulate heaven after one third of the angels were cast out with Lucifer because of rebellion. However, we also read in Psalm 8:5 that man was created lower than the angels, in a lower sphere of existence, not having the powers and capabilities of an angel. This would make human beings incompatible with the society of superior heavenly beings. How would it be possible for human beings to replace the angels who had fallen?

While it is true that the human race was created in a lower sphere than the angels, yet we are also told that they were created with such a built-in capacity that through obedience, they could become elevated to the sphere of an angel. That may be a new concept to most Christian believers. Note the following:

*“ Angels on probation had been deceived by Satan, and had been led on by him in the great rebellion in Heaven against Christ. . . Adam was then created in the image of God and placed upon probation. . . After God had made every provision for the happiness of man, and had supplied his every want, he tested Adam's loyalty. **If the holy pair should be obedient, the race would after a time be made equal to the angels** ”* RH, Feb.24, 1874.

Christ referred to the prospect of human beings becoming like the angels in heaven by what He said in Mark 12:25, *“ For when they shall rise from the dead, they neither marry, nor are given in marriage; but **are as the angels which are in heaven.** ”*

These are mind-boggling concepts which are hard to grasp at first, but they reveal the high calling to which we are called as children of God. The capacity to become elevated to a higher sphere was unique to the human race. We do not read of angels who have been loyal and true, becoming elevated to a higher sphere than an angel. Nor do we read of the unfallen beings of other worlds becoming elevated to the sphere of an angel. Why did God create man that way?

God created mankind that way to show to the universe that if intelligent beings would cooperate with their Creator in executing His plans, they would be elevated to a higher level of existence. Their experience would prove the falsity of Lucifer's allegations that obedience to the law brings slavery and restricts the possibility of attaining to higher sphere of existence.

Lucifer made some serious allegations against God and the laws

their murderous rage against him and he *“ would be destroyed (or slain). ”* MS 15, 1850.

What is really at stake in this final struggle is the credibility of the government of heaven versus the government of Lucifer. In the beginning, Lucifer made the allegations that the laws of God's government were faulty and could not be perfectly obeyed. He proposed a new kind of government where there were no laws and where everyone could be free to do as they pleased. The universe will have to choose between the two.

If the fit man, who had received all the benefits of Christ's atonement and was sealed with the fullness of the Holy Spirit, should fail and yield his allegiance to Satan in this final episode, it would jeopardize the loyalty of the whole universe. It would tell them that Satan's kingdom is preferable to Christ's kingdom after all. Christ has promised the universe that affliction will not rise up the second time. But if the fit man failed this final test, God's word would be proven unreliable.

The universe needs the assurance that redeemed sinners will be safe to take to heaven. They will have to be thoroughly vetted so that the universe will be ready to welcome them to the sinless atmosphere of heaven, without any doubts whether they are safe from their former life as lived on earth. Before they would feel free to welcome former rebels into their neighborhood, they will have to see demonstrated that they are eternally secure.

When Christ makes the final atonement, He points to the fit man, the 144,000, before the onlooking universe as those *“ who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus ”* Revelation 14:12. They are pronounced as *“ eternally secure from the tempter's devices ”* and *“ nevermore to be defiled by the corruptions of the world ”* 5T p. 475. That has never happened in all the 6000 years since man fell in Eden. What happens in the time of trouble will either

should effect his escape, “ *Israel would be destroyed (or slain)*. MS 15, 1850. That makes the episode with the scape goat a most critical event.

The loyal universe will be watching with intense interest the final outcome of this life and death struggle. The fate of all the righteous as well as the fate of all the wicked who have ever lived upon earth will be determined by what happens in this final struggle between the fit man and the scape goat. Yet there are even greater consequences involved in this momentous battle.

What can be seen by human eyes is the struggle between those who have the seal of God and those who have the mark of the beast. Those who have the mark of the beast will make a decree that all who do not yield their allegiance to the beast and his image should be killed. The people will be given permission after a certain date to take the life of all who do not bow to the decree.

However, in the invisible world, the onlooking universe will see what human eyes cannot see. They will see Satan and the hosts of darkness feverishly working through those who have the mark of the beast to cause the fit man to stumble or falter in his attempt to lead away the scape goat. He will be threatened with annihilation and death if he maintains his steadfast loyalty to God and His law. On the other side of the invisible scene, the universe will see Christ and the hosts of heavenly angels strengthening the fit man to enable him to accomplish his mighty feat of leading Satan and his hosts to their ultimate doom in the lake of fire.

Both sides of this mighty conflict realize it is a matter of ‘Do or Die.’ If the fit man succeeds in leading away the scape goat and his hosts, their ultimate doom will be fixed. But if the fit man should fail to maintain his loyalty to God and His law, he would lose the divine protection, and Satan and his hosts would vent

of His government which have reverberated throughout the universe. His rebellion created a serious crisis. None of the intelligences of the universe knew what a lie was. They did not know what sin was, nor did they have any conception of the pernicious effects sin would have on those who became infected by it.

Lucifer maintained “ *that angels needed no control, but should be left to follow their own will, which would ever guide them right. He denounced the divine statutes as a restriction of their liberty and declared that it was his purpose to secure the abolition of law; that, freed from this restraint, the hosts of heaven might enter upon a more exalted, more glorious state of existence* “ GC p. 499.

This was the sophistry by which Lucifer deceived one third of the angels. It was the same sophistry by which he deceived Eve at the forbidden tree. By ignoring the command of God not to eat of the forbidden tree, Lucifer told Eve that she would become as god, knowing good and evil.

While he was still in heaven, Lucifer claimed that he was seeking to free the angelic host from laws that were restricting them from attaining to a higher state of existence. And one third of the angels believed him.

We need to realize that Lucifer had been the first of the covering cherubs and had been a spokesman for Jehovah to the entire universe. He was loved and trusted by all the intelligences of heaven and the other worlds which God had created. Thus, when he artfully presented his false allegations against the laws of heaven, it was difficult for the inhabitants of the other worlds to see through them. Especially when one third of the angels of heaven were backing up his claims.

The situation with God’s government had reached a critical point. It was like an earthly government whose secretary of

state and other state officials, along with one third of its citizens had defected from their loyalty to the central government.

Not only did Lucifer deceive one third of the angels, he also had some ambitious plans regarding the inhabitants of the unfallen worlds that created a major peril which God had to counteract to prevent them from also defecting.

*“Lucifer, as the anointed cherub, had been highly exalted; he was greatly loved by the heavenly beings, and his influence over them was strong. God's government included not only the inhabitants of heaven, but of all the worlds that He had created; and **Satan thought that if he could carry the angels of heaven with him in rebellion, he could carry also the other worlds.** He had artfully presented his side of the question, employing sophistry and fraud to secure his objects. His power to deceive was very great, and by disguising himself in a cloak of falsehood he had gained an advantage. Even the loyal angels could not fully discern his character or see to what his work was leading”* GC p.497.

The test that Lucifer and the angels of heaven were given to test their loyalty seemed to be over who Christ, also called Michael, the archangel, really was. Because He was called the archangel, it would seem that He was just another angel who was a step higher than Lucifer. We read of how Lucifer in the beginning began to question why Christ, or Michael, was preferred above him in the council of heaven.

*“In all the counsels of God, Christ was a participant, while Lucifer was not permitted thus to enter into the divine purposes. **‘Why,’ questioned this mighty angel, ‘should Christ have the supremacy? Why is He thus honored above Lucifer?’**”* GC p.495.

Lucifer should have dismissed these thoughts. Tragically, he continued to harbor these negative thoughts and as a result, his character began to change. Proverbs 23:7 says, *“For as he*

due to infancy or advanced age or physical weaknesses. He will in mercy lay many to rest in the grave before the time of trouble arrives. Revelation 14:13 says, *“Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them.”*

Those who die in the faith of the Third Angel's message are depicted in Daniel 12:2: *“. . . many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.”* That glorious event is described in Early Writings p. 285. *“It was at midnight that God chose to deliver His people. As the wicked were mocking around them, suddenly the sun appeared, shining in his strength, and the moon stood still. . . There was a mighty earthquake. The graves were opened, and **those who had died in faith under the third angel's message, keeping the Sabbath, came forth from their dusty beds, glorified, to hear the covenant of peace that God was to make with those who had kept His law.**”*

Those who live after the close of probation will have two remaining options. The truths which they hold and the characters which they have developed will determine whether they are identified with either the scape goat or with the fit man who leads him away into the wilderness. The loud cry which had previously enlightened the whole world will segregate the whole world into just two classes; those who have the seal of the living God or those who have the mark of the beast. There will not be any other option available to the inhabitants of earth.

When probation closes, Christ will come out of the sanctuary and transfer the sins of the righteous that were confessed since 1844 upon the head of Satan, the scape goat. The rest of the sins committed by the righteous before 1844 will not be placed upon the scape goat until the second coming of Christ. But that is contingent on the fit man successfully leading the scape goat away into the wilderness without letting him escape from his hands. If he

who will have to atone for the suffering that their sins caused the Son of God. This is not an act of salvation like Christ's atoning death. This is an act of expiation, an appeasement of justice.

In ancient Israel, God gave the instructions on how to deal with the sin of murder. He commanded them, saying, " *Moreover ye shall take no satisfaction for the life of a murderer, which is guilty of death: but he shall be surely put to death* " Numbers 35:31. The word 'satisfaction' means a redemption price or ransom to be accepted in place of justice. The sin of murder could only be expiated by the death of the murderer. But it was not an act of salvation. Likewise, when Satan atones for the sins of the righteous, it is not an act of salvation, but an expiation to satisfy justice.

It should be obvious that the penalty for the sins of the whole world which will be paid for in the lake of fire is equivalent to the suffering that Christ endured for those sins on Calvary. The wicked suffer what Christ suffered when He bore their sins. And Satan suffers what Christ suffered when He bore the sins of the righteous. Thus, justice will be satisfied and the entire universe will declare, " *For true and righteous are His judgments* " Revelation 19:2.

FINAL EVENTS OF THE GREAT CONTROVERSY

As we approach the end of time and the final time of trouble, there are three options before God's people. In the first option, God knows who will not be able to endure the time of trouble

thinketh in his heart, so is he. " And we are told in 5T p. 310 that " *If the thoughts are wrong the feelings will be wrong, and the thoughts and feelings combined make up the moral character.* " His former love to Christ began to change to envy and hatred.

To meet this emergency, " *The great Creator assembled the heavenly host, that He might in the presence of all the angels confer special honor upon His Son. The Son was seated on the throne with the Father, and the heavenly throng of holy angels was gathered around them. The Father then made known that it was ordained by Himself that Christ, His Son, should be equal with Himself; so that wherever was the presence of His Son, it was as His own presence. The word of the Son was to be obeyed as readily as the word of the Father. His Son He had invested with authority to command the heavenly host. Especially was His Son to work in union with Himself in the anticipated creation of the earth and every living thing that should exist upon the earth* " SR p.13.

It seems that the angels had not realized before this that Michael, the archangel was actually their Creator, and they " *bowed to Jesus to acknowledge His supremacy and high authority and rightful rule* " Ibid. p.13. But for Lucifer, this was his last appeal to repent and acknowledge his error.

When Lucifer heard that Christ and the Father were about to create the earth as a new planet and also create a new order of beings to occupy it, it seems that he was apprehensive of what God's intentions were. Regarding the creation of man, Inspiration tells us that " *He (Lucifer) hates mankind because they are the workmanship of God. He opposed the creation of man* " Ms 38, 1890.

However, when God moved forward in the creation of this world to be the home of a new order of beings, Lucifer brought forward a special request. " *The creation of our world was brought into the councils of heaven. There the covering cherub prepared his request that he should be made prince to govern the world then in pro-*

spect. *This was not accorded him. Jesus Christ was to rule the earthly kingdom; under God He engaged to take the world with all its probabilities* “ Ms 43b, 1891.

What kind of rulership would Lucifer exercise over this world if God had granted his request to be prince to govern it? After 6000 years of being prince of this world, the whole universe can see the wisdom and justice of God in refusing Lucifer’s request.

Having his request to govern the world denied, Lucifer became more and more defiant, even though Christ did everything possible to reconcile him to his former allegiance.

God knew what was going on in the heart of Lucifer. His scheming was all open to Him. But He had to let Lucifer manifest his disaffection before the angels and the other worlds before He could safely deal with him. Inspiration gives us more details in the developments in heaven before Lucifer and his angels were eventually cast out,

“God in His great mercy bore long with Lucifer. He was not immediately degraded from his exalted station when he first indulged the spirit of discontent, nor even when he began to present his false claims before the loyal angels. Long was he retained in heaven. Again and again he was offered pardon on condition of repentance and submission. Such efforts as only infinite love and wisdom could devise were made to convince him of his error” GC p.495.

*“ The Lord saw the use Satan was making of his powers, and he set before him truth in contrast with falsehood. **Time and time again during the controversy, Satan was ready to be convinced, ready to admit that he was wrong. But those he had deceived were also ready to accuse him of leaving them.** What should he do? – submit to God, or continue in a course of deception? He chose to deny truth, to take refuge in misstatements and fraud”* RH Sept. 7, 1897.

“ The time had come for a final decision; he must fully yield to the di-

sins of the wicked. However, if Christ endured the punishment for the sins of the whole world, why are the sins of the whole world punished again in the lake of fire? Does that mean that sins are punished twice? Would God be just in doing that?

Where is the solution to this problem? We get a clue from the following statements found in TM p. 38-39. *“ **The whole world stands charged today with the deliberate rejection and murder of the Son of God.** . . . God has a controversy with the world. When the judgment shall sit, and the books shall be opened, He has an awful account to settle, which would now make the world fear and tremble were men not blinded and bewitched by satanic delusions and deceptions. **God will call the world to account for the death of His only-begotten Son, whom to all intents and purposes the world has crucified afresh, and put to open shame in the persecution of His people.** ”*

Who will pay the penalty for the death and suffering of the Son of God? Since Christ suffered the punishment for all the sins committed in the world, someone will have to atone for the sufferings of the innocent Son of God. In the final judgment, the wicked will have to atone for their part in the sufferings of Christ when he bore their sins on the cross. In ST Sept.24, 1894 we read, *“ although Christ has died for man's transgression, those who continue in disobedience will suffer the penalty of their sin. ”*

The sins of the righteous have also contributed to Christ’s suffering on the cross. However, because they have repented and forsaken their sins, their sins are transferred to the scapegoat, Satan,

Another aspect regarding the importance of the fit man successfully leading the scapegoat into the wilderness is brought to view in Leviticus 16:10. There it tells us that “ *the goat, on which the lot fell to be the scapegoat, shall be presented alive before the LORD, to make an atonement with him, and to let him go for a scapegoat into the wilderness.* ” And the question is how there could be an atonement made with the scapegoat? The scapegoat represents Satan, and the thought of making an atonement with him seems beyond logical reasoning. But this is an inspired statement of truth for which we must search to find the true meaning.

We know that the scapegoat bears upon him the sins of the righteous. He will have to suffer for their sins in the lake of fire after the 1000 years of wandering in the wilderness of this desolate earth. Those who have not confessed and forsaken their sins will have to bear the punishment for their own sins in the lake of fire. Thus every sin ever committed since the rebellion of Lucifer will eventually receive its punishment in the lake of fire. Satan will also pay the penalty for his own sins in the final destruction. However, this brings up another question..

Regarding the sins of humanity, both of the righteous and the wicked, we know from Inspiration that Christ died for the sins of the whole world. Upward Look p. 90 tells us that “ *Christ bore the sins of the whole world. He endured our punishment – the wrath of God against transgression.* ” That means that Christ suffered the penalty for both the sins of the righteous and the

vine sovereignty or place himself in open rebellion. He nearly reached the decision to return, but pride forbade him. It was too great a sacrifice for one who had been so highly honored to confess that he had been in error, that his imaginings were false, and to yield to the authority which he had been working to prove unjust “ PP p.39.

The Bible tells us “ *And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, and prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him“* Revelation 12:7-9

“The Son of God, the Prince of heaven, and His loyal angels engaged in conflict with the archrebel and those who united with him. The Son of God and true, loyal angels prevailed; and Satan and his sympathizers were expelled from heaven. All the heavenly host acknowledged and adored the God of justice. Not a taint of rebellion was left in heaven “ SR p.19.

In reading the narrative of Lucifer being expelled from heaven, we see that the next action on God’s part was to immediately move forward with His plan to create man to inhabit the earth. The close timing between the expulsion of Satan and the creation of Adam and Eve is significant. As soon as Satan was cast out of heaven, Adam and Eve were created.

“The Father consulted His Son in regard to at once carrying out their purpose to make man to inhabit the earth. He would place man upon probation to test his loyalty before he could be rendered eternally secure. If he endured the test wherewith God saw fit to prove him, he should eventually be equal with the angels. He was to have the favor of God, and he was to converse with him. He did not see fit to place them beyond the power of disobedience“ SR p.19.

Man was created to disprove the claims of Lucifer. God made man, a new and distinct order of beings with a capacity of cooperating with his Creator and executing His plans. Man was made of the dust of the ground, and lower than the angels. But *“If the holy pair should be obedient, the race would, after a time, be made equal to the angels”* RH Feb.24, 1874. That would prove the falseness of Lucifer’s claims that God’s laws were restrictive and were preventing intelligent beings from rising to a higher state of existence.

After Lucifer and his angels were expelled from heaven, they begged to be taken back into heaven. But *“ they had learned the lesson of genuine rebellion against the unchangeable law of God, and this is incurable ”* SR p.17. When Lucifer realized that he would not be allowed back in heaven, he became defiant. He now turned his attention to the newly created Adam and Eve. He reasoned that by causing their fall there might be a chance for him and his angels to be readmitted into heaven.

Satan conceived a diabolical plan by which he thought that *“ If he could in any way beguile them to disobedience, God would make some provision whereby they might be pardoned, and then himself and all the fallen angels would be in a fair way to share with them of God's mercy. If this should fail, they could unite with Adam and Eve, for when once they should transgress the law of God they would be subjects of God's wrath, like themselves. Their transgression would place them, also, in a state of rebellion, and they could unite with Adam and Eve, take possession of Eden, and hold it as their home. And if they could gain access to the tree of life in the midst of the garden, their strength would, they thought, be equal to that of the holy angels, and even God Himself could not expel them ”* SR p. 27-28.

people regard themselves as freed from the burden of their sins. ” After that, there was no more a possibility that they would once again become responsible for their sins

The reality of the disposition of our sins when the scapegoat has been led away is pinpointed in the vision which Ellen White was given regarding this end-time scenario. In Spalding-Magan Collection, p. 2, we read, *“ Then I saw that Jesus' work in the sanctuary will soon be finished. And after His work there is finished, He will come to the door of the first apartment, and confess the sins of Israel upon the head of the Scape Goat. Then He will put on the garments of vengeance. Then the plagues will come upon the wicked, and they do not come till Jesus puts on that garment, and takes His place upon the great white cloud. Then while the plagues are falling, the Scape Goat is being led away. He makes a mighty struggle to escape, but he is held fast by the hand that leads him. If he should effect his escape, Israel would lose their lives. I saw that it would take time to lead away the Scape Goat into the land of forgetfulness after the sins were put on his head. ”*

We notice the sobering thought that if the scape goat should effect his escape, Israel would lose their lives. Not only the fit man representing the 144,000, but all Israel would lose their lives. That includes all who have accepted salvation since the fall of Adam. The plan of salvation would be proven a failure and would be nullified. Israel would lose their lives. They would have their sins rolled back upon them again.

and the vindication of His character and the laws of His government, but it is also crucial to God's people. As we read what was done in the type, we realize that the accumulated sins of God's people that had been transferred to the sanctuary were on the day of atonement transferred to the scapegoat. Leviticus 16:20-22 says, " *And when he hath made an end of reconciling the holy place, and the tabernacle of the congregation, and the altar, he shall bring the live goat:*

And Aaron shall lay both his hands upon the head of the live goat, and confess over him all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions in all their sins, putting them upon the head of the goat, and shall send him away by the hand of a fit man into the wilderness:

And the goat shall bear upon him all their iniquities unto a land not inhabited: and he shall let go the goat in the wilderness."

Throughout the sanctuary service it was demonstrated that the pardoned sinner is " *not entirely released from the condemnation of the law* " when he receives forgiveness. See PP p. 355. As indicated in the parable of the two debtors spoken by Christ in Matthew 18:23-35, the man who was forgiven his huge debt, lost his forgiveness and became responsible again for those sins for which he had received pardon. It wasn't until the scapegoat had borne their sins away into the wilderness did the Israelites consider themselves completely free from their sins. We note what is written in PP p. 355: " *Not until the goat had been thus sent away did the*

God knew the thoughts of Satan and He sent His angels to carefully warn Adam and Eve about the history of Lucifer's rebellion and to warn them to be vigilant against their foe for he would try to allure them into transgressing God's law and join him in rebellion against God. They specifically warned them about the tree of knowledge of good and evil, and that Satan could only have access to them at the forbidden tree. Adam and Eve assured the angels that they would never transgress God's commands.

The tragic episode that happened between the woman and the serpent at the forbidden tree is recorded in Scripture. " *Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.*

And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat " Genesis 3:1-6.

When Adam and Eve transgressed the express command of God and imbibed the assertions of Satan, they quickly experienced a

dramatic change in their spiritual nature. The venom of sin soon took effect upon their mind. Satan had assured Eve that as soon as she ate of the forbidden tree that her eyes would be opened. Her eyes were opened, but how sad the opening.

“ The knowledge of evil, the curse of sin, was all that the transgressors gained. There was nothing poisonous in the fruit itself, and the sin was not merely in yielding to appetite. It was distrust of God's goodness, disbelief of His word, and rejection of His authority, that made our first parents transgressors, and that brought into the world a knowledge of evil. It was this that opened the door to every species of falsehood and error “ Education p.25.

After they sinned, God warned Adam that because he had eaten of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, *“ cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life “* Genesis 3:17. *“It was not the will of God that the sinless pair should know aught of evil. He had freely given them the good, and had withheld the evil. But, contrary to His command, they had eaten of the forbidden tree, and now they would continue to eat of it - they would have the knowledge of evil - all the days of their life”* PP p. 59.

Most people do not realize that there are two facets to sin that affect the spiritual experience and which will have to be remedied before anyone is fit for heaven. The first deleterious effect that is felt by the sinner is the negative sense of guilt and condemnation. It was guilt that caused Adam and Eve to hide themselves when they heard the voice of God walking in the garden after they sinned. *“ Sin not only shuts us away from God, but de-*

The heavenly universe is looking at the world stage and wondering if redeemed sinners will be safe in heaven. Would there be a chance that one of them would sin against God like Lucifer and begin the nightmare of sin all over again? This is a critical point in view of the fact that Christ will not take away the freedom of choice from any of His intelligent beings. Redeemed sinners in heaven would still be free to sin again. And Christ has made some exceeding great promises to redeemed sinners that could be a cause for worry to the loyal universe. To place sinners who once were rebels against God and the laws of His government in such high positions of power and authority as to become joint heirs with Christ and occupy a seat with Him in His throne would seem a dangerous proposition. See GC p.484.

Christ has promised that affliction shall not rise up the second time. The unfallen worlds are trusting Him to make sure that it will never happen again. To reassure them, Christ will present the 144,000, symbolised by the fit man, to demonstrate to the universe that fully redeemed sinners are eternally secure from infecting the universe again with the curse of sin. And speaking in worldly terms, we could say that Christ will play the fit man as His ‘trump card’ against Satan in the great controversy. He has no other contingency plan. If this plan devised from the days of eternity should fail, Satan will win.

The importance of leading away the scape goat to his 1000 years of wandering in the wilderness is not only important to Christ

kingdom under the whole heaven, was given to Jesus and the heirs of salvation, and Jesus was to reign as King of kings and Lord of lords “ EW p. 280.

The work of God’s people for the world is finished at that point. But there is one more critical witness for the Lord that the remnant will bear which will answer all the remaining questions that have been raised in the great controversy. We need to realize the solemn fact that “ *The fallen world is the battlefield for the greatest conflict the heavenly universe and earthly powers have ever witnessed. It was appointed as a theater on which would be fought out the grand struggle between good and evil, between heaven and hell* “ AG p. 36.

The experience and fidelity of the 144,000 will be tested during the time of trouble when the seven last plagues are being poured out. The question of whether redeemed sinners can ever keep the law of God without falling and without a flaw needs to be answered. Ever since the fall of Adam and Eve, there have been faithful souls who have been diligent in keeping the commandments of God, even in the face of danger and persecution. But none have done it as perfectly as Christ did, without ever stumbling or being beguiled into sin by the great deceiver. We can think of Noah and Moses and Elijah and other great men of faith who served God faithfully during their lifetime, but who did succumb at times to temptation. They showed that they still needed an intercessor.

stroys in the human soul both the desire and the capacity for knowing Him “ Education p. 28. However, when the sin is pardoned and the guilt removed, the communication between the soul and God is restored and the healing process can begin.

But there is another aspect of sin that is not taken away when the sin is pardoned. This aspect of sin is often ignored or not understood. It took only a moment for Adam and Eve to obtain a ‘knowledge of evil,’ but they discovered that they would not be free of it all the days of their life.

The knowledge of evil places the sinner at a distinct disadvantage which handicaps his best efforts to serve the Lord. This was dramatically evident in the experience of Adam and Eve, who had fallen from a sinless state into a state of sin. “*Adam and Eve had chosen the knowledge of evil, and if they ever regained the position they had lost they must regain it under the unfavorable conditions they had brought upon themselves.*” Education p.25.

When Adam and Eve first transgressed, they thought it was really a small matter, something which God in His great love would be willing to overlook. But after seeing what fearful consequences sin had brought, they realized as never before the malignancy of sin. Only then were they were able to appreciate the value of the sacrifice and grace that had been provided to save them from sin’s enslavement and guilt.

What is the knowledge of evil that causes such deleterious effect on the mind and how do we get it? The knowledge of evil is not just knowing about evil. God and the heavenly angels all know about evil, having seen it manifested in Lucifer’s rebellion. It can

only come to an individual through an experience in personal sinning. It is not inherited. We have this explanation in KH p. 14. *“ Adam and Eve were permitted to partake of every tree in the Garden save one. There was only a single prohibition. The forbidden tree was as attractive and lovely as any of the trees in the Garden. It was called the tree of knowledge, because in partaking of that tree, of which God had said, ‘Thou shalt not eat of it,’ (Gen. 2:17) they would have a knowledge of sin, an experience in disobedience.”*

It was because of the knowledge of evil, their experience in sinning, that Adam and Eve could not go back to the garden of Eden after they repented and were pardoned. Note the following from Patriarchs and Prophets p. 61.

*“ After their sin Adam and Eve were no longer to dwell in Eden. They earnestly entreated that they might remain in the home of their innocence and joy. They confessed that they had forfeited all right to that happy abode, but pledged themselves for the future to yield strict obedience to God. But they were told that **their nature had become depraved by sin; they had lessened their strength to resist evil and had opened the way for Satan to gain more ready access to them.** In their innocence they had yielded to temptation; and now, in a state of conscious guilt, they would have less power to maintain their integrity.”*

Some of the deleterious effects of the knowledge of evil are clearly spelled out in the preceding passage. It depraves the nature,

the Third Angel’s message that will be proclaimed with mighty power. These will unite with the remnant and help to swell the loud voice of the Third Angel.

“ There are many souls to come out of the ranks of the world, out of the churches – even the Catholic Church – whose zeal will far exceed that of those who have stood in rank and file to proclaim the truth heretofore. For this reason the eleventh hour laborers will receive their penny. These will see the battle coming and will give the trumpet a certain sound. When the crisis is upon us, when the season of calamity shall come, they will come to the front, gird themselves with the whole armor of God, and exalt His law, adhere to the faith of Jesus, and maintain the cause of religious liberty which reformers defended with toil and for which they sacrificed their lives ” 3SM p. 386.

When the loud cry has done its work, the sealing angel will return to heaven and report that the saints are all numbered and sealed. Then Jesus will make the decisive announcement that will fix every one’s destiny. *“ He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still ”* Revelation 22:11.

“ Every case had been decided for life or death. While Jesus had been ministering in the sanctuary, the judgment had been going on for the righteous dead, and then for the righteous living. Christ had received His kingdom, having made the atonement for His people and blotted out their sins. The subjects of the kingdom were made up. The marriage of the Lamb was consummated. And the kingdom, and the greatness of the

latter rain, the refreshing from the presence of the Lord, the loud cry of the third angel. “

The loud cry experience when the saints occupy center stage on the world scene is difficult for us to imagine. 9T p. 16 says “ *It is impossible to give any idea of the experience of the people of God who shall be alive upon the earth when celestial glory and a repetition of the persecutions of the past are blended. They will walk in the light proceeding from the throne of God. By means of the angels there will be constant communication between heaven and earth. And Satan, surrounded by evil angels, and claiming to be God, will work miracles of all kinds, to deceive, if possible, the very elect.* “

“ *The battle of Armageddon will be fought, and that day must find none of us sleeping. **Wide awake we must be, as wise virgins having oil in our vessels with our lamps....**The power of the Holy Ghost must be upon us, and the Captain of the Lord's host will stand at the head of the angels of heaven to direct the battle. . . Satan is to make most powerful efforts for the mastery in the last great conflict. Fundamental principles will be brought out, and decisions made in regard to them. . . But Providence has a part to act in the battle of Armageddon. When the earth is lighted with the glory of the angel of Revelation eighteen, the religious elements, good and evil, will awake from slumber, **and the armies of the living God will take the field** “ 7BC p. 983.*

Although Satan’s deceptions will deceive almost the whole world, there are faithful souls scattered all around the world who will not respond to his allurements. They will respond to

and lessens the strength to resist evil. It also opens a door that gives Satan more ready access to the mind. And the experience of our first parents has been repeated in their children “*for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God* “ Romans 3:23. “ *The result of the eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil is manifest in every man's experience. There is in his nature a bent to evil, a force which, unaided, he cannot resist* “ Education p. 29.

The adverse effect of the knowledge of evil is described in MH p. 451. “ *The infinite value of the sacrifice required for our redemption reveals the fact that sin is a tremendous evil. Through sin the whole human organism is deranged, the mind is perverted, the imagination corrupted. Sin has degraded the faculties of the soul. **Temptations from without find an answering chord within the heart, and the feet turn imperceptibly toward evil.*** “

The knowledge of evil is permanently inscribed in the memory or the subconscious part of the mind. Jeremiah 17:1 states, “ *The sin of Judah is written with a pen of iron, and with the point of a diamond: **it is graven upon the table of their heart, and upon the horns of your altars; Whilst their children remember their altars and their groves by the green trees upon the high hills.*** “ Not until sins are blotted out will pardoned sinners be free from the record of sins written on the tables of the heart.

The permanency of the knowledge of evil and its effects is clearly revealed in Inspiration. The apostle Paul recognized the problem when he wrote: “ *I find then a law, that, when I would do good,*

evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members “ Romans 7:21-23.

But while sin does not reign in the born again believer, it still remains. The Wiseman wrote in Proverbs 20:9, “ *Who can say I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin?* “ And the apostle John wrote, “ *If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us* “ Inspiration is replete with passages that describe the knowledge of evil and its depraving effect on the spiritual life. Following are a few excerpts.

“ *A conscience once violated is greatly weakened* “ 2T p. 90.

“ *He who has once yielded to temptation has become spiritually weak, and he will yield more readily the second time* “ PP p. 268.

“ *It is true that some may see their folly and repent. God may pardon them. But they have wounded their own souls, and brought upon themselves a lifelong peril* “ COL p. 55.

“ *Every mistake, every error, unimportant though it may be regarded, leaves a scar in this life and a blot on the heavenly records* “ OHC p. 227.

The question may be asked, why doesn't Christ remove the knowledge of evil when the sin is pardoned? We noted in Genesis 3:17 that God told Adam that it was **for his sake** that he would experience the ill effects of eating of the tree of

*thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment.’ The spotless robe of Christ's righteousness is placed upon the tried, tempted, yet faithful children of God. The despised remnant are clothed in glorious apparel, **nevermore to be defiled by the corruptions of the world.** Their names are retained in the Lamb's book of life, enrolled among the faithful of all ages. They have resisted the wiles of the deceiver; they have not been turned from their loyalty by the dragon's roar. **Now they are eternally secure from the tempter's devices.** Their sins are transferred to the originator of sin. And the remnant are not only pardoned and accepted, but honored. ‘A fair miter’ is set upon their heads. They are to be as kings and priests unto God. While Satan was urging his accusations and seeking to destroy this company, holy angels, unseen, were passing to and fro, placing upon them the seal of the living God “ 5T p.475.*

It is on the day of atonement that the 144,000 are made up. They have their filthy garments taken away and are clothed with the spotless robe of Christ's righteousness, nevermore to be defiled. They are sealed by the fulness of the Spirit and do what is described in this passage from EW p. 271. “ *I heard those clothed with the armor speak forth the truth with great power. It had effect. Many had been bound; some wives by their husbands, and some children by their parents. The honest who had been prevented from hearing the truth now eagerly laid hold upon it. All fear of their relatives was gone, and the truth alone was exalted to them. They had been hungering and thirsting for truth; it was dearer and more precious than life. I asked what had made this great change. An angel answered, ‘It is the*

filled by others taking hold of the truth “ EW p. 270.

When we read of the great change that the judgment and day of atonement makes in God’s remnant people, we can better appreciate the significance of that event. Zechariah 3:8 calls them “ *men wondered at.* ” And Isaiah 1:27 says, “ *Zion shall be redeemed with judgment.* ” That is when they are truly saved and sealed with the seal of the living God.

In TM p. 445 we read, “ *Those that overcome the world, the flesh, and the devil, will be the favored ones who shall receive the seal of the living God. . . Only those who, in their attitude before God, are filling the position of those who are repenting and confessing their sins in the great anti-typical day of atonement, will be recognized and marked as worthy of God's protection. The names of those who are steadfastly looking and waiting and watching for the appearing of their Saviour – more earnestly and wishfully than they who wait for the morning – will be numbered with those who are sealed.* ”

Perhaps the most graphic description of what happens on the day of atonement is found in the following passage, which is the inspired commentary on Zechariah 3:1-8. It points out the dramatic change that the day of atonement makes in the characters of God’s people, sealing them in eternal security from ever falling to the temptations of Satan.

“ *As the people of God afflict their souls before Him, pleading for purity of heart, the command is given, ‘Take away the filthy garments’ from them, and the encouraging words are spoken, ‘Behold, I have caused*

knowledge of good and evil **all the days of his life.** But why was this allowed to happen **for his sake?** It is allowed to happen for the same reason that Satan’s existence has continued after his defection, even after he had caused the death of the Son of God. Inspiration explains the reason.

“ *Yet Satan was not then destroyed. The angels did not even then understand all that was involved in the great controversy. **The principles at stake were to be more fully revealed. And for the sake of man, Satan's existence must be continued. Man as well as angels must see the contrast between the Prince of light and the prince of darkness. He must choose whom he will serve.*** ” DA p. 761.

Before Christ can bring the great controversy to a close, sin and the character of Satan will have to be fully manifested before the entire universe.

“ *The working out of Satan's rule, its effects upon both men and angels, would show what must be the fruit of setting aside the divine authority. It would testify that with the existence of God's government and His law is bound up the well-being of all the creatures He has made. **Thus the history of this terrible experiment of rebellion was to be a perpetual safeguard to all holy intelligences, to prevent them from being deceived as to the nature of transgression, to save them from committing sin and suffering its punishments*** ” GC p. 499.

And Inspiration asks the question, “ *For what was the great controversy permitted to continue throughout the ages? Why was it that Satan's existence was not cut short at the outset of his rebellion? It was*

that the universe might be convinced of God's justice in His dealing with evil; that sin might receive eternal condemnation " Education p. 308.

We can see that the knowledge of evil remains with the repentant sinner as a continual test and a reminder of the terrible malignancy of sin. It is that sin might receive eternal condemnation. That will help to secure the universe against another apostasy.

However, the knowledge of evil in the heart should not be considered an excuse for knowingly sinning. God has promised that divine power will be provided to counteract the 'law of sin' so that sin would not have dominion over us. Romans 6:14 assures us that " *For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.* "

And we also have the promise that " *There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it* " 1 Corinthians 10:13.

Too often we consider the power of Satan so overwhelming that we think we are incapable to effectually overcome his temptations. But that is one of his deceptions by which he neutralizes our efforts to resist him. We have this assurance written for our encouragement. " *Satan is constantly at work, but few have any idea of his activity and subtlety. The people of God must be prepared to*

the affliction of soul that we read about in Leviticus 23. Some people have thought that this experience will only come to the foolish virgins who will be lost. But it tells us that it will come to " each one " in the day of judgment, and that there will be those who are condemned and those who are acquitted. Those who have been acquitted in the judgment are described in the following glowing terms.

*" Said the angel, 'List ye!; Soon I heard a voice like many musical instruments all sounding in perfect strains, sweet and harmonious. It surpassed any music I had ever heard, seeming to be full of mercy, compassion, and elevating, holy joy. It thrilled through my whole being. Said the angel, 'Look ye!' My attention was then turned to the company I had seen, who were mightily shaken. I was shown those whom I had before seen weeping and praying in agony of spirit. **The company of guardian angels around them had been doubled, and they were clothed with an armor from their head to their feet.** They moved in exact order, like a company of soldiers. Their countenances expressed the severe conflict which they had endured, the agonizing struggle they had passed through. Yet their features, marked with severe internal anguish, now shone with the light and glory of heaven. They had obtained the victory, and it called forth from them the deepest gratitude and holy, sacred joy. The numbers of this company had lessened. **Some had been shaken out and left by the way. The careless and indifferent, who did not join with those who prized victory and salvation enough to perseveringly plead and agonize for it, did not obtain it, and they were left behind in darkness, and their places were immediately***

“ 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. “

What was causing this traumatic experience in God's people? It was caused by what we read in Hebrews 10:3 happens on the day of atonement. On that day *“ There is a remembrance again made of sins every year. “* 5T p. 473 tells us *“ They are fully conscious of the sinfulness of their lives, they see their weakness and unworthiness, and as they look upon themselves they are ready to despair.”* That experience is graphically depicted in the following from RH Nov.4, 1884.

*“ Each one in the day of investigative Judgment will stand in character as he really is; he will render an individual account to God. Every word uttered, every departure from integrity, every action that sullies the soul, will be weighed in the balances of the sanctuary. Memory will be true and vivid in condemnation of the guilty one, who in that day is found wanting. **The mind will recall all the thoughts and acts of the past; the whole life will come in review like the scenes in a panorama.** Thus every one will be **condemned** or **acquitted** out of his own mouth, and the righteousness of God will be vindicated. “*

This will bring to the righteous the day of atonement repentance,

*withstand the wily foe. It is this resistance that Satan dreads. He knows better than we do the limit of his power and how easily he can be overcome if we resist and face him. **Through divine strength the weakest saint is more than a match for him and all his angels, and if brought to the test he would be able to prove his superior power “** 5T p. 293.*

From the very beginning of the great controversy begun in heaven, there has been a battle for the mind. Lucifer sought to gain control of the minds of the angels and succeeded with one third of the heavenly host. He also hoped to gain the minds of the unfallen worlds. Unfortunately, he succeeded in gaining control of the human mind by tempting Adam and Eve into sinning against God.

When God created the human mind, it was the crowning act of His creative work. The Bible says we are *“ fearfully and wonderfully made “* Psalm 139:14. God personally forms the mind when He creates a human being. Zechariah 12:1 states, *“ The burden of the word of the LORD for Israel, saith the LORD, which stretcheth forth the heavens, and layeth the foundation of the earth, and **formeth the spirit of man within him. “***

We also read that *“ It was a wonderful thing for God to create man, to make mind. The glory of God is to be revealed in the creation of man in God's image and in his redemption. One soul is of more value than a world. God created man that **every faculty might be the faculty of the divine mind “** 6BC p. 1105. And it is the mind that*

Christ died to redeem. This mortal body will not be taken to heaven. The saved of earth will receive a new body when Christ comes again. But the work of redemption is concerned with the mind, as we can see in this passage from 7BC p. 926.

*“ Jesus became a man that He might mediate between man and God. He clothed His divinity with humanity, He associated with the human race, that with His long human arm He might encircle humanity, and with His divine arm grasp the throne of Divinity. And this, **that He might restore to man the original mind which he lost in Eden through Satan's alluring temptation.** ”* This is further elaborated in COL p. 266. *“ It is the purpose of redemption, not only to blot out sin, **but to give back to man those spiritual gifts lost because of sin's dwarfing power.** ”*

At this point, it is important to understand what the mind actually is. Too often it is thought of as the brain with its frontal lobe. However, the brain is a physical organ of the body just like the heart that pumps the blood. When Inspiration speaks of the mind, it means the inner man, which is also referred to as the **spirit, heart or soul**. Paul referred to the physical and spiritual components that make up a living being as the outer man and the inner man, or the body and the mind. *“ He wrote . . . but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day ”* 2 Corinthians 4:16.

The functioning of the mind is what determines our character. 5T p. 310 tells us that *“ Your imagination was not given you to be*

Great Controversy p. 484-485 speaks of the acquittal of God's people in the judgment and then describes the perfecting experience wrought in them when their sins are blotted out. *“ Thus will be realized the **complete fulfillment of the new-covenant promise: ‘I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.’ ‘In those days, and in that time, saith the Lord, **the iniquity of Israel shall be sought for, and there shall be none;** and the sins of Judah, and they shall not be found.’** Jeremiah 31:34; 50:20. ‘In that day shall the branch of the Lord be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and comely for them that are escaped of Israel. And it shall come to pass, that he that is left in Zion, and he that remaineth in Jerusalem, shall be called holy, even everyone that is written among the living in Jerusalem ”* Isaiah 4:2, 3.

Before their sins are blotted out, Christ will give His people a final view of the record of sins which is written with a pen of iron and the point of a diamond on the tables of their heart. See Jeremiah 17:1. It will be an agonizing experience for a time, but it will be followed by exuberant joy at the outpouring of the latter rain which follows. However, there will first be a great shaking and sifting at the judgment that will purify the ranks before the latter rain is bestowed. TM p. 234 tells us that *“The time of the judgment is a most solemn period, when **the Lord gathers His own from among the tares.** Those who have been members of the same family are separated. A mark is placed upon the righteous. ”*

Early Writings p. 269 depicts the experience of God's people on the day of judgment and final atonement.

given. The foolish virgins neglected this important preparation and with tragic results. Inspiration gives us many warnings .

“ There are many who, unless they humble their hearts before the Lord, will be surprised and disappointed when the cry is heard: ‘Behold, the Bridegroom cometh.’ Matthew 25:6. They have the theory of the truth, but they have no oil in their vessels with their lamps “ 9T p. 155.

“ We cannot be ready to meet the Lord by waking up at the last minute, when the cry is heard, ‘Behold, the Bridegroom cometh,’ gathering up our lamps, from which the oil has burned away, and thinking then to have them replenished. Our only hope is daily to love God, to love the truth, not for the sake of its clear arguments, but for truth's sake alone. We must bring the truth into our hearts and minds, and every day be living, shining lights, learning daily more and more of Jesus. Our conversation must be in heaven, from whence we look for our Lord Jesus Christ “ ST August 6, 1894.

The judgment of the living, which is represented by the wedding, will decide the eternal destiny of God’s professed people and mark the end of their probationary time. Judgment begins at the house of God. It is the most critical, the most serious event that will have to be faced before the latter rain is poured out and the loud cry is given. The judgment of the living will bring the greatest blessings that Christ has ever bestowed upon His people. It will mark the complete fulfillment of the new covenant promise and the probating of Christ’s will which He made at His death. But it will bring eternal separation from God to the foolish virgins.

*allowed to run riot and have its own way without any effort at restraint or discipline. If the thoughts are wrong the feelings will be wrong, and the **thoughts and feelings combined make up the moral character.** “*

Our character is manifested by the kind of mind we have developed. Character is the sum total of all our thoughts and feelings. This is especially important to understand in view of the fact that our character or mind is the only treasure we can take from this life to the next. Our character and personal identity is imprinted on the mind, or spirit.

In the past we have been taught that the only thing which God takes back to heaven when an individual dies is the breath of life. That was equated with the spirit that returns to God who gave it, as noted in Eccl. 12:7. However, we do not find any reference in Inspiration that God takes back His breath when someone dies. What we do find is that God takes the mind and character back to heaven and preserves it there until the new body is created to become the habitation of the mind. Note the following:

*“ **Our personal identity is preserved in the resurrection, though not the same particles of matter or material substance as went into the grave. The wondrous works of God are a mystery to man. The spirit, the character of man, is returned to God, there to be preserved. In the resurrection every man will have his own character** “ 6BC p. 1093.*

The spirit or mind of man is not a tangible object that can be seen

or touched. It is similar to the Holy Spirit, who is a powerful spiritual force which cannot be seen or touched physically. The Holy Spirit does not need a physical body through which to operate, but the spirit or mind of man cannot think or do anything without a physical brain and body. In Education p. 195 we read, “ *Since the mind and the soul find expression through the body, both mental and spiritual vigor are in great degree dependent upon physical strength and activity.* ” “ *The brain is the organ and instrument of the mind and controls the whole body* ” CH p. 586.

This leaves us with some sobering realities regarding the thoughts that we think day by day. It is these thoughts which make up our character and that is what is preserved in heaven and given back to us in our new body. What we make of ourselves in this life is what we will be for eternity.

When Adam and Eve yielded their minds to the sophistry of Satan, it was a terrible disappointment to the Creator. The very beings He had created to exonerate and vindicate His character and the laws of His government against the allegations of Lucifer, had sided with him at the forbidden tree and gave backing to his claims that God’s law was faulty and could not be perfectly obeyed.

Satan now seemed to have won the argument. He pointed to the fact that one third of the angelic host couldn’t keep the laws of God’s government, and now this new and special order of beings which God had just created also were not able to keep it. And he

involves faithful heart searching now. In the type in ancient Israel, they blew the trumpets ten days before the day of atonement to remind the people that the day of atonement was just ten days away. They had to make sure their sins were all confessed at the sanctuary before that day, or they would be cut off from among the congregation. It was their day of judgment. So in this end time, we need to search our hearts and confess and forsake all our sins so they will be sent before hand to judgment.

GC p. 425 tells us “ *While the investigative judgment (for the dead) is going forward in heaven, while the sins of penitent believers are being removed from the sanctuary, there is to be a special work of purification, of putting away of sin, among God's people upon earth.* ”

Before the judgment began with the dead in 1844, there was a midnight cry given which aroused the sleeping virgins. The call was heard, “ *Behold the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.* ” Something similar has been foretold will happen before the judgment begins with the living.

In the Review and Herald of February 11, 1896, the Lord’s messenger wrote: “ *My mind was carried to the future, when the signal will be given. ‘Behold, the Bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.’ But some will have delayed to obtain the oil for replenishing their lamps, and too late they will find that character, which is represented by the oil, is not transferable.* ”

It is important that we daily keep our vessels filled with the oil of God’s Spirit so that we will be ready when the midnight cry is

blotted out and be filled with the latter rain as Peter stated in Acts :19: “ *Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.* ” This will enable God’s people to give the loud cry that will enlighten the whole world with the glory of God. It means to be prepared to stand after the close of probation without needing an intercessor to pardon sin and to make up any deficiency in service for the Lord. It means to be prepared to be one of the sealed 144,000, represented by the fit man, who will lead away the scapegoat to his 1000 year wandering in the wilderness.

In order to become that type of Christ’s follower, it will require a full cooperation with Him as He makes a special and final atonement that will produce a remnant, a new specimen of humanity, designated as “ *men wondered at* ” Zechariah 3:8. They will be a kind of humanity which has never been seen in all the 6000 years of the great controversy. They will be enabled to bear such a mighty witness before the onlooking universe which will secure it so completely that affliction will not rise up the second time.

What is the process by which Christ will accomplish such an amazing rehabilitation of sinful human beings? That is critical to our understanding, because He needs our cooperation at every step of the process as He leads us step by step through the sanctuary and ultimately into the most holy place.

The prerequisite to receiving the benefits of the day of atonement

maintained that if God forgave them for transgressing His commands, then He would also have to pardon him and his angels and allow them back into heaven.

The universe was looking on to see what God would do. “ *With intense interest the unfallen worlds had watched to see Jehovah arise, and sweep away the inhabitants of the earth. And if God should do this, Satan was ready to carry out his plan for securing to himself the allegiance of heavenly beings. He had declared that the principles of God's government make forgiveness impossible. Had the world been destroyed, he would have claimed that his accusations were proved true. He was ready to cast blame upon God, and to spread his rebellion to the worlds above. But instead of destroying the world, God sent His Son to save it. Though corruption and defiance might be seen in every part of the alien province, a way for its recovery was provided* ” DA p. 37.

After the fall, God was faced with two options. He could abandon the human race to the master they had chosen and create a new order of beings through which to accomplish His plans. Or He could take the most difficult and painful route of working to rehabilitate the human race so that they could realize the purpose for their creation to exonerate His character and law. But that would necessitate the suffering and death of the Creator and require His constant intercession to pardon and succor them throughout their earthly journey. We can be very grateful that He chose the most difficult and painful route to rehabilitate the human race.

But by what process will Christ redeem and rehabilitate the human mind which He created for a specific purpose? It is important for us to understand what He intends to do, because He will not do anything in the process of redemption without our knowledge and cooperation. In God's Amazing Grace p. 19 we read, " *It is in accordance with the divine plan that we follow every ray of light given of God. Man can accomplish nothing without God, and God has arranged His plans so as to accomplish nothing in the restoration of the human race without the cooperation of the human with the divine. The part man is required to sustain is immeasurably small, yet in the plan of God it is just that part that is needed to make the work a success.* "

Christ has revealed to the remnant church since 1844 the divine paradigm by which He will accomplish the complete redemption of the human mind. It is simply stated in Psalm 77:13, " *Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary.* " That has been His teaching model right from the beginning, when Adam and Eve succumbed to the sophistry of the great deceiver. The first sacrifice that they offered was in reality the beginning of the sanctuary service, which later was carried on in the outer court of the sanctuary built by Moses at Mt. Sinai.

Today, we have come to the final stage of Christ's work in the sanctuary when the rehabilitation of the human mind is to be completed. But unless we have experienced the previous steps in the redemptive process, we will not be prepared to receive the

*awakened out of its spiritual lethargy, to a realization of the important duties which have been left undone. **The people have not entered into the holy place, where Jesus has gone to make an atonement for his children.*** " (See note on inside of back cover)

Here is also given an indication that those higher and better things that Christ is longing to bestow are only available from the most holy place where Christ has gone to make an atonement for His children.

In 1844 the time had come when Christ was going to prepare His people to live upon earth in their mortal flesh without needing pardon for sins or the imputation of His righteousness to make up any deficiency. The time had come when He would produce a people so impregnable to the sophistries of Satan that even Satan will stand viewing them as an incomprehensible mystery. See TM p. 18.

That is why Satan has been trying to rob God's people of the judgment hour message, as we read in 1SM p. 125. It says, " *We are in the great day of atonement, when our sins are, by confession and repentance, to go beforehand to judgment. God does not now accept a tame, spiritless testimony from His ministers. Such a testimony would not be present truth. The message for this time must be meat in due season to feed the church of God. But Satan has been seeking gradually to rob this message of its power, that the people may not be prepared to stand in the day of the Lord.* "

To be prepared for the day of the Lord means to have our sins

made will be too late to benefit the wrongdoer or to save others from deception. "

Before the judgment begins with the living, the Holy Spirit will reveal our hidden faults and give us the grace to put them away. We are told in 3SM p. 427 that *" When our earthly labors are ended, and Christ shall come for His faithful children, we shall then shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of our Father. **But before that time shall come, everything that is imperfect in us will have been seen and put away.** All envy and jealousy and evil surmising and every selfish plan will have been banished from the life. "*

God will cause the prerequisites to stand in the judgment to be distinctly made known so that no one will be ignorant of the standard required to be accepted in the judgment of the living. All will be tested before the judgment begins and everyone will decide for life or death.

When Christ entered the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary in 1844, a new era was begun. It was no longer business as usual. God's people need something more than they ever had before. The Lord's messenger reminded the people of that in an article in the Review of Feb.25, 1890. *" We are not called to worship and serve God by the use of the means employed in former years. God requires higher service now than ever before. He requires the improvement of the heavenly gifts. **He has brought us into a position where we need higher and better things than have ever been needed before.** The slumbering Church must be aroused,*

final step.

Satan has brought in much confusion regarding the steps in the salvation process. We see the evidence of this in some of the fallen churches by what happens when they take the first step. There may be a great emotional experience, like speaking in tongues or having visions and dreams and other spiritualistic manifestations. This will lead them to feel that they have been saved and are assured of heaven. They become satisfied that they have salvation and have no need of further light or advancement in the process of redemption.

Others may not have such dramatic experiences, but like the class mentioned above, they tend to be content with what they have experienced and don't see that they are to advance and "go on unto perfection" Hebrews 6:1. Inspiration describes their problem. *" They get the impression that when they take the first steps in conversion – repentance, faith, and baptism – this is all that is required of them. **But this is a fatal error.** The arduous struggle for conquest over self, for holiness and heaven, is a lifelong struggle. There is no release in this war; the effort must be continuous and persevering. Christian integrity must be sought with resistless energy and maintained with a resolute fixedness of purpose "* 5T p. 412.

*"When we lay hold of Christ by faith, **our work has just begun.** Every man has corrupt and sinful habits that must be overcome by vigorous warfare. Every soul is required to fight the fight of faith "* OHC p. 121.

The first step in the process of rehabilitation and redemption is when the sinner responds to the drawing of the Holy Spirit.

Christ said, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me" John 12:32. However, the way the soul responds to this drawing will determine whether he or she will receive pardon and justification. We are told in 1SM p. 389 that "**Calling and justification are not one and the same thing.** Calling is the drawing of the sinner to Christ, and it is a work wrought by the Holy Spirit upon the heart, convicting of sin, and inviting to repentance." And "**Repentance for sin is the first fruits of the working of the Holy Spirit in the life.** It is the only process by which infinite purity reflects the image of Christ in His redeemed subjects" 6BC p. 1068.

There will be a transformation evident in the life that is under the influence of the Holy Spirit. There is a new moral taste, a new motive power. 6 BC p. 1101 tells us, "The new birth consists in having new motives, new tastes, new tendencies. Those who are begotten unto a new life by the Holy Spirit, have become partakers of the divine nature, and in all their habits and practices they will give evidence of their relationship to Christ. When men who claim to be Christians retain all their natural defects of character and disposition, in what does their position differ from that of the worldling?"

The Spirit will lead to the forsaking of all known sins and also inspire obedience to the law of God in order for the soul to stand justified before God. 1SM p. 366 tells us that "While God can be just, and yet justify the sinner through the merits of Christ, no man can cover his soul with the garments of Christ's **righteousness while**

ble once the judgment of the living has begun. In the type described in Leviticus 16:17, there were no priests ministering in the outer court on the day of atonement. No sin offerings were accepted on that day. Today, we are to send our sins beforehand to judgment.

Inspiration is very clear on this point. MH p. 437 tells us "On the one day of the year appointed for ministry in the most holy place, the high priest with trembling entered God's presence, while clouds of incense veiled the glory from his sight. **Throughout the courts of the temple every sound was hushed. No priests ministered at the altars.** The host of worshipers, bowed in silent awe, offered their petitions for God's mercy."

Also in That I May Know Him, p. 73 and 238 we have further elaboration on this point. "When the high priest entered the holy place, representing the place where our High Priest is now pleading, and offered sacrifice on the altar, no propitiatory sacrifices were offered without. While the high priest was interceding within, every heart was to be bowed in contrition before God, pleading for the pardon of transgression."

"But sins that are not confessed will never be forgiven; the name of him who thus rejects the grace of God will be blotted out of the book of life. The time is at hand when every secret thing shall be brought into judgment, and then there will be many confessions made that will astonish the world. The secrets of all hearts will be revealed. The confession of sin will be most public. The sad part of it is that confession then

puted to them during probationary time to perfect all their deeds and service for the Lord.

When God's people who have died in the Lord come up in the judgment of the dead, Christ will make the atonement for them to blot out all their ignorant sins as well as their confessed sins. That is how Sunday keepers and pork eaters like Martin Luther and many others, will come up in the resurrection of the just. When they come up in the resurrection, they will be perfect and sinless like the 144,000 who lived upon the earth after Christ ceased His intercession.

EW p. 254 explains what takes place at the judgment for the dead. " *The third angel closes his message thus: "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus."* As he repeated these words, he pointed to the heavenly sanctuary. *The minds of all who embrace this message are directed to the most holy place, where Jesus stands before the ark, making His final intercession for all those for whom mercy still lingers and for those who have ignorantly broken the law of God. This atonement is made for the righteous dead as well as for the righteous living. It includes all who died trusting in Christ, but who, not having received the light upon God's commandments, had sinned ignorantly in transgressing its precepts.* "

However, the judgment for the living is not the same as the judgment for the dead. No one can come to the judgment of the living with ignorant sins in his life. There is no forgiveness avail-

practicing known sins, or neglecting known duties. God requires the entire surrender of the heart, before justification can take place; and in order for man to retain justification, there must be continual obedience, through active, living faith that works by love and purifies the soul. "

" The hearts of many are at war with God. They are not subject to His law. Only as they shall come into harmony with the rule of His government, can Christ be of any avail to them " 1SM p. 239.

Those who have come into harmony with Christ and His law through the enabling grace of the Holy Spirit will stand before God as though they had not sinned. This is a marvelous gift of God's grace." *Because of the imputed righteousness of Christ they are accounted precious. For Christ's sake the Lord pardons those that fear Him. He does not see in them the vileness of the sinner. He recognizes in them the likeness of His Son, in whom they believe "* DA p. 667.

Thus we can see that right from the beginning of our walk with Christ, we can have a standing of perfection while we press toward the mark of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. This is the genuine experience of justification represented by the outer court of the sanctuary.

Sanctification is experienced by Christ's ministry in the first apartment or holy place of the sanctuary, and begins when the soul is pardoned and justified. " *Justification means the saving of a soul from perdition, that he may obtain sanctification, and through*

sanctification, the life of heaven. Justification means that the conscience, purged from dead works, is placed where it can receive the blessings of sanctification “ 7BC p. 908.

We should avoid trying to make a clear separation between the experience of justification and sanctification. We have had a major error promoted by some theologians who teach that we are saved by justification alone, and that sanctification is secondary and not a condition of salvation. According to them, righteousness by faith refers only to justification through the righteousness of Christ imputed to us. They deny that the righteousness which Christ imparts to us in sanctification is included in the experience of righteousness by faith. But this argument becomes nonsensical when we realize that the righteousness imputed is the same righteousness of Christ which is also imparted. We have this warning in Inspiration against that premise.

“ Many commit the error of trying to define minutely the fine points of distinction between justification and sanctification. Into the definitions of these two terms they often bring their own ideas and speculations. Why try to be more minute than is Inspiration on the vital question of righteousness by faith? ” 6BC p. 1072.

The first apartment represents the work of Christ in leading us into greater conformity to the likeness of His character. The transformation which was begun in the outer court is to be continued in our daily walk with Christ. *“ As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him ”* Colossians 2:6.

The outer court and first apartment ministries were ordained of God to prepare His people for death and the resurrection. Some who are saved will have attained to a high level of sanctification like the saints mentioned in Hebrews eleven. But others, like the thief on the cross, had only a short life of sanctification before death overtook him. Yet Christ promised the thief that he would be with Him in paradise. How is it possible for people like the thief on the cross to be admitted into heaven along with those who had attained a high level of sanctification?

What makes this diversity of experiences acceptable before God is due to the effectual intercession of Christ on their behalf. Hebrews 7:25 assures us *“ Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. ”*

Christ in His intercession makes up all the deficiencies of those who surrender their lives to Him. Through His imputed righteousness, *“ Christ will make all our imperfect efforts acceptable to God ”* FW p. 48. If the followers of Christ do not practice any known sin or neglect any known duty, their imperfection will be covered by His righteousness. If they are living up to the light which they have received, or could receive, they will be accounted perfectly sinless just as those who have attained to a high level of sanctification. And it should be noted that all who have once sinned, no matter how high up the ladder of sanctification they have attained, will still need the righteousness of Christ im-

They had experienced the fulness of blessings bestowed from the outer court and holy place of the heavenly sanctuary. Yet Hebrews 11:39-40 tells us, “ *And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that **they without us should not be made perfect.*** ”

These heroes of faith realized that they had not yet attained to the fulness of redemption which Christ has provided for those living in the end time. They confessed that they were not yet wholly free from the sinfulness caused by the filthy garment, the knowledge of evil. In AA p. 561 we read, “ *None of the apostles and prophets ever claimed to be without sin. Men who have lived the nearest to God, men who would sacrifice life itself rather than knowingly commit a wrong act, men whom God has honored with divine light and power, have **confessed the sinfulness of their nature.** They have put no confidence in the flesh, have claimed no righteousness of their own, but have trusted wholly in the righteousness of Christ.* ”

Thus we can see that God’s true people who would even sacrifice life itself rather than knowingly commit a wrong act have had to depend on the imputed righteousness of Christ to make them acceptable before God. Christ was not through with the work of redeeming and rehabilitating their mind and soul. The apostle John wrote, “ *Beloved, **now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be:** but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is* ” 1 John 3:2.

We are to do what it tells us in Philippians 3:13-14, “ *. . . forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, **I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.*** ”

The experience of conversion and the new birth which was begun in the outer court must be renewed daily. “ *To follow Jesus requires wholehearted conversion at the start, and a repetition of this conversion every day* ” SD p. 207. “ *Said Paul: “I die daily.” He had a new conversion every day, took an advance step toward heaven. To gain daily victories in the divine life is the only course that God approves* ” 4T p. 66.

We are also warned against the idea that sanctification is an instantaneous experience that will lift us above the conflicts of battling with the temptations of Satan. “ *Bible sanctification does not consist in strong emotion. Here is where many are led into error. They make feelings their criterion. When they feel elated or happy, they claim that they are sanctified. Happy feelings or the absence of joy is no evidence that a person is or is not sanctified. **There is no such thing as instantaneous sanctification. True sanctification is a daily work, continuing as long as life shall last.** Those who are battling with daily temptations, overcoming their own sinful tendencies, and seeking for holiness of heart and life, make no boastful claims of holiness. They are hungering and thirsting for righteousness. Sin appears to them exceedingly sinful* ” SL p. 10.

And we also have this warning against an easy religion that is so

popular with many professing Christians. GC p. 472 comments on this point. *“ The desire for an easy religion that requires no striving, no self-denial, no divorce from the follies of the world, has made the doctrine of faith, and faith only, a popular doctrine. . . The testimony of the word of God is against this ensnaring doctrine of faith without works. It is not faith that claims the favor of Heaven without complying with the conditions upon which mercy is to be granted, it is presumption; for genuine faith has its foundation in the promises and provisions of the Scriptures. ”*

If we want to succeed in our sanctified life, we need to do what Jesus calls us to do, to take up our cross daily and follow Him. The cross that we are called to bear is a denial of everything that is not according to the will of God. That is what the apostle Paul experienced every day of his life. *“ The life of the apostle Paul was a constant conflict with self. He said, ‘I die daily.’ 1 Corinthians 15:31. His will and his desires every day conflicted with duty and the will of God. Instead of following inclination, he did God's will, however crucifying to his nature ”* MH p. 452.

This is the path which leads to heaven. It is the straight and narrow way which doesn't allow for any shortcuts. Here is where a counterfeit religion will lead many away from the path of true sanctification. Inspiration holds out this warning against such an experience. *“ This is an age famous for surface work, for easy methods, for boasted holiness aside from the standard of character that God has erected. All short routes, all cutoff tracks, all teaching which fails to exalt the law of God as the standard of religious character, is*

to *“ take away the filthy garments. ”* It is because of the filthy garment, the corrupt human channel, that sinless perfection is not possible during probationary time. That is why a life of sanctification under the leadings of the Holy Spirit will not transform the true believers wholly into the likeness of Christ. Here is where many sincere believers have become confused regarding the experience of perfection needed to stand without a mediator in the heavenly sanctuary.

4T p.366-367 tells us, *“ When I was shown the present condition of man in physical, mental, and moral power, and what he might become through the merits of Christ, I was astonished that he should preserve such a low level. Man may grow up into Christ, his living head. It is not the work of a moment, but that of a lifetime. By growing daily in the divine life, he will not attain to the full stature of a perfect man in Christ until his probation ceases. ”* And the probation for God's people ceases when they are judged in the investigative judgment. See 1 SM p. 125.

The work of redemption and rehabilitation is not completed in the outer court and the first apartment ministries. These all show the essential steps in religious experience to prepare God's people for the final step, the most dramatic, the most glorious step to be taken through the open door of the heavenly sanctuary. God's people in past ages have experienced the justifying and sanctifying benefits of the Holy Spirit working in their lives. In Hebrews 11 we have a roster of some of the heroes of faith who were faithful to God even in the face of death and torture.

*of sin ascend from true believers as incense to the heavenly sanctuary, but passing through the corrupt channels of humanity, they are so defiled that unless purified by blood, they can never be of value with God. **They ascend not in spotless purity, and unless the Intercessor, who is at God's right hand, presents and purifies all by His righteousness, it is not acceptable to God.** All incense from earthly tabernacles must be moist with the cleansing drops of the blood of Christ. He holds before the Father the censer of His own merits, in which there is no taint of earthly corruption. He gathers into this censer the prayers, the praise, and the confessions of His people, and with these He puts His own spotless righteousness. Then, perfumed with the merits of Christ's propitiation, the incense comes up before God wholly and entirely acceptable. Then gracious answers are returned. "*

Another inspired passage on this point is found in Faith and Works p. 23-24: *" There may be a fervor of labor and an intense affection, high and noble achievement of intellect, a breadth of understanding, and the humblest self-abasement, laid at the feet of our Redeemer; but there is not one jot more than the grace and talent first given of God. There must be nothing less given than duty prescribes, and there cannot be one jot more given than they have first received; and all must be laid upon **the fire of Christ's righteousness to cleanse it from its earthly odor** before it rises in a cloud of fragrant incense to the great Jehovah and is accepted as a sweet savor. "*

The knowledge of evil adversely affects everything that we do in our spiritual walk. It is the filthy garment that clings to the saints until Christ gives the command on the day of atonement

spurious " 5T p. 500.

One thing that needs to be guarded against in our daily walk with Christ is the reassertion of past sins, the knowledge of evil, that will be with us during probationary time. The apostle Paul experienced this peril in his spiritual walk. His former life had been characterized by self-righteousness and pride, and a bigotry and hatred against the followers of Christ. He was thoroughly converted from his past life, but the scars which sin had made upon his mind and conscience were not blotted out when he was converted. His testimony was, *" I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members " Romans 7:21-23.*

It wasn't just the clamoring of the flesh that Paul was fighting against. Sin is not resident in the flesh. While it is true that temptations to self indulgence and carnal lusts originate in the flesh, yet the flesh of itself cannot sin. Only an intelligent mind is capable of sinning. It has to yield to the suggestions of evil before it comes under condemnation. Note the following:

*" The lower passions have their seat in the body and work through it. The words 'flesh' or 'fleshly' or 'carnal lusts' embrace the lower, corrupt nature; **the flesh of itself cannot act contrary to the will of God.** We are commanded to *crucify the flesh, with the affections and lusts " AH p. 127.**

Christ in His humanity had the same flesh and blood which is common to all of humanity. The Bible tells us “ *Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same* ” Hebrews 2:14. He felt the same clamoring of the lower nature as we do. In IHP p. 155 we read, “ *Though He had all the strength of passion of humanity, never did He yield to temptation to do one single act which was not pure and elevating and ennobling.* ”

We need to realize that temptation of itself is not sin. Christ was tempted more than any other human being, yet His mind and character were never scarred or defiled by it. And the assurance which Christ gives us is that “ *There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it* ” 1 Corinthians 10:13.

However, as past sinners who have put away former sinful habits, we should always be mindful of the lifelong peril that our experience in sin, the knowledge of evil, creates in our experience of sanctification. Satan finds a fertile field in the knowledge of evil which is written upon the tables of the heart, to trip us up in our spiritual walk. Through this record of past sins “ *Temptations from without find an answering chord within the heart, and the feet turn imperceptibly toward evil* ” MH p. 451. Because of this, we need to be constantly on guard against the subtle temptation to yield to our former indulgence in the pleasures of sin.

Inspiration gives us many warnings on this point. The apostle Peter warned the believers, “ *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour* ” 1 Peter 5:8.

We also have this admonition regarding past sins which tend to reassert themselves: “ *Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation.* ” Mark 14:38. *Watch against the stealthy approach of the enemy, watch against old habits and natural inclinations, lest they assert themselves; force them back, and watch* ” 6T p.410.

“ *He who has determined to enter the spiritual kingdom will find that all the powers and passions of unregenerate nature, backed by the forces of the kingdom of darkness, are arrayed against him. Each day he must renew his consecration, each day do battle with evil. **Old habits, hereditary tendencies to wrong, will strive for the mastery, and against these he is to be ever on guard, striving in Christ's strength for victory*** ” AA p. 476.

Not only does the knowledge of evil create a fertile field for Satan's temptations, it also mars the good deeds and best service that God's people render to Him. They become defective instruments and defiled channels through which the Spirit works, and Christ has to purify by His blood all their efforts to serve Him. Consequently, even the best of saints are constantly dependent on Christ's intercession to be accepted before God during probationary time. This is explained in the following from 1SM p. 344.

“ *The religious services, the prayers, the praise, the penitent confession*