

*Escaping
the
Chains -
How I Became Free*

By Howard Williams

Acknowledgment

It is with a heart full of gratitude that I write this book. Firstly, I want to give all the glory and thanks to our heavenly father for his grace towards me in preserving my life, so I could see his Spirit directing my path in the way He has directed. Praise his Holy Name! I must recognize my dear sister and close friend Amy Shafer, for her inspiration and continued encouragement in getting this book to the place of being printed. I must thank my dear wife Karleen, for her continued support and for being the wind beneath my wings, as having her place by my side and our two children Karsheena and Howard (II) for being the driving force in me leaving a legacy. To Andrea Teape, my cover designer and formatting expert, I appreciate your dedication to seeing this book through to the end. To all those who were not mentioned I thank you from the depths of my heart.

Dedication

This book is dedicated to my two children Karsheena and Howard (II) for a legacy of the reality that exists in Jesus. May this volume be a source of inspiration for them to seek Jesus with all their heart until they find him. To all those who desire a closer relationship that exceeds the common church going curriculum, this volume is for you! May Jesus be found, to be a true Saviour and Friend.

Preface

It is a fact that we all came into life with no knowledge. All that we know today is an accumulation of all that we have been taught since we were babies. Our parents or guardians were our first instructors, and our customs, culture, and environment are constantly impacting us. We have acquired much of our knowledge from associating and interacting with others. All that we know at this very moment is directly related to what we have learned since we were born.

What is very interesting is that the knowledge we possess is not new, but has been a transfer of old knowledge which has been passed on through our teachers. In fact, the wisest man that ever lived penned it this way, “The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing.” (Ecc 1:9) What do you understand this to mean? I realize that my knowledge is not original; it is the same knowledge that my teachers and instructors had that has been passed on to me. That is how cultures and religions are maintained for generations. Consider, for a moment, the idea of receiving a scholastic degree from an institution. The curriculum is prepared by teachers who have been taught the same things that they teach. You are required to understand it the exact way your teacher or professor understands it, and so you are graded accordingly. What is even more interesting is that when the institution is satisfied that you have learnt what they taught you, they then accredit you with a degree. This degree says to the world that you are a very learned person.

What if the knowledge that was acquired is flawed, how do we deal with that? Well, the history of the world is a great lesson book. The men who stood against popular opinions were persecuted or even killed for presenting the facts as they saw it – even if their knowledge was accepted afterwards. An

example of this is the shape of the earth. It was believed for centuries that the earth was flat and if you walked far enough you would fall off. The Scientists who challenged this belief were ridiculed and suffered for it, but today their work is an accepted fact. The point I am making is that all knowledge is relative to the times and revelations at that time.

In the religious realm it is different. There is always a standard for what is believed in religion. For the Muslims it is the Koran, for the Hindu it is the Bhagavad Gita, for the Buddhist it is the Tipitaka and for Christians it is the Bible. In these religions the established religious teachings have existed for centuries, and any deviation from these established teachings will result in excommunication from that religious group. This explains why there are splinter groups in these religions.

In light of what I have just shared, I give you my story as a Seventh-day Adventist (SDA), which is a Christian denomination, and how I grew up with all the influences that led me to where I am at present. There is no intention on my part to denounce SDA Church in any way, but just to let my experience be known. If, by any means, my story can help anyone in a similar situation find true peace and rest in Jesus, it will have accomplished its goal. May you read with an open mind and be honest in your conclusions.

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Chapter 1

Childhood

On August 13, 1970, a son was born to Vincent and Rachel Williams. They were good Seventh-day Adventists, and the thrill of this newborn so overjoyed the family that they named him after their favourite preacher, H.M.S. Richards, giving him the initials H.M.S. Williams. His father, a carpenter and builder by trade, was also a church elder and founder of a new SDA branch. His mother was a housewife and a backbone support to his father. So it was that I, Howard Micheal Stanley Williams, the second son and fifth child of the family, came into this world and began my life under the discipline and beliefs of the SDA church.

Church Influence

Seventh-day Adventists worship on Saturday, which they call Sabbath. Every Sabbath my family would go to church. We would spend the entire day, from morning until evening, taking part in the various schedule of classes, worship hour, lunch break, and other activities. This was the core of my religious education throughout childhood.

The church has a routine program for Saturday. It begins at 9:15am with a song service. This is followed by Sabbath School¹, conducted by someone who is called the Superintendent who leads out in the preliminaries of introduction. After the introduction comes the Mission Story, providing .a little glimpse into how the SDA message is advancing in foreign lands. Once these preliminaries are accomplished, the

school is called to order and divided into the different classes for the study of the lesson. After about 40 minutes a bell is rung signifying 5 minutes to end, then the final bell brings the lesson to a close. Once again, the Superintendent makes some closing remark which ends Sabbath School.

Next is time for Lay Activities. The term 'Lay' is from the word 'Laity', referring to everyone in the church who is not clergy, so this deals with the activities of the church members. During this time a report is taken up where some questions are asked from a report card and answers recorded.

It looks something like this:

1. Number of missionary contacts made
2. Pieces of missionary literature distributed
3. Persons helped
4. Articles of clothing
5. Cash expended and value of food
6. Numbers reporting

Once this report is taken, the Lay Activities Leader gives a short encouragement to the church to continue to work for God. After this, a short Break, followed by the 11 o'clock Worship Service. This is the service with a Sermon and is sometimes called Divine Service. A Lunch Break runs from the end of Divine Service to 3 o'clock, which is time for Bible Class. During Bible Class one person, maybe the Leader or someone he appoints, will go through a subject or belief of the church and show the Biblical foundation for such a belief. Seventh-day Adventists use what is called a proof text method to prove their beliefs; this means to find two or more verses that support what you teach.

After the Bible Class, which usually lasts about an hour, comes the Missionary Volunteers (MV)² service where the youth do their part in singing, poetry, acting or whatever the format takes. Sometimes there are Bible games like Sword In Hand and Bible Drills. The last service of the day, Vespers,

is just a few minutes of encouragement for the coming week and sometimes a few testimonies from the brethren.

In addition to the full day of Sabbath Services and activities, there were also evening meetings on Sunday and Wednesday. The Sunday meetings were called Evangelistic Meetings and consisted of singing and a sermon. Wednesday evening was Prayer Meeting time. As its name implies, Prayer Meeting included time and opportunity for prayer, but also for reading from a book, usually one written by Ellen White.

Ellen White is among the Pioneers of the SDA Church. She is believed to have had encounters with God through visions which she received for the Church. These visions and instructions from God are written in many volumes of books and periodicals. Although she died in 1915, her influence on the church was so great that even today her writings are used in every aspect of church life. How the Seventh-day Adventists understand and interpret the writings of Ellen White influences the way they dress, the way they eat and how they live from day to day.

In the Adult Sabbath School Lesson Quarterly, the beliefs of the Church are put forth in lesson format. Questions are asked and the scriptures are normally used to answer; however, most scripture is then supported by an Ellen White quote. Very rarely is another author quoted and, if so, it is always someone of renown within SDA history.

Every SDA church member is taught that the Seventh-day Adventist Church is God's only church in the world and all the other denominations are false, but that one day God will bring them to the truth of the Sabbath worship and, one day, all true Christians will become a part of the Seventh-day Adventist church.

I grew up with these great moral principles as taught by the church and my knowledge increased rapidly.

Life at Home

At home, my family gathered to worship every morning and most evenings. During these times all the members of my family were always present. Since my father was the church leader I was greatly influenced and learned a lot from him through personal studies and questions. As I grew older and started school I became known for my ability with Bible verses, most times dominating other students with my knowledge – especially of the Sabbath.

In my early years my mother would read the Sabbath School lesson story to my siblings and I. After the story we were supposed to memorize the topic of the lesson and the scripture memory verse. The stories were always Kids' Bible Stories and I enjoyed them very much. As I grew, these lessons increased my memory capacity and more verses were added through what is called the Morning Watch. (The Morning Watch is a booklet of verses for the entire year at one per day. These are also used in the Sabbath afternoon Missionary Volunteers programme.)

At an early age I felt the call of God on my heart and wanted to be a Christian. I wanted it so badly that I would always be at the Alter Calls crying. When I was eight years of age I requested baptism. It is the practice with Seventh-day Adventists that, before baptism, the candidate stands before the church to answer questions from a book called the Church Manual. Before the questions are asked the Pastor reminds the candidates to answer each question in the affirmative. Upon answering these questions in the affirmative, the candidate is eligible for acceptance to baptism.

I was baptized at Camp Verly, at a large gathering when hundreds of people were baptized from all over central Jamaica, and was welcomed into the family of God and given the right hand of fellowship. In my understanding, I was now a Christian and my siblings would always be watching me to make sure I lived and behaved like one.

Tragedy struck early in the family: the year following my baptism my eldest brother, who was also the Adventist Youth Leader, died at the age of seventeen on a church trip. But being Christians and following our Father's example, my family trusted God and moved on, with pain in our hearts from the loss yet with the joy of knowing we would see him again.

My family had the shield of a strong Father image. Even when other influences came in from school and elsewhere this training prevailed. The greatest influence for bad happened after I passed my examination for High School. Then I had to travel by minibus to school and worldly music was played morning and evening. After listening to this kind of music, I found myself rhyming my own lyrics. In the early mornings when going about my chores away from home, taking the goats to find pasture, I would practice. When I got perfect I told my smaller brothers and after they learned they would start singing. My Father would hear and after finding out the truth he would tell me how ashamed he was of me.

As I matured and grew up, I became more responsible. When I was fifteen I was nominated for my first church office. I became the Lay Activities Secretary. My role was to add up the report every month and present to the church a report of the great work they had been doing through the giving of clothing, literature, help, food and cash. This report was sent to the Conference where it was added to all the other reports, then those Conference reports were sent on to the General Conference, the Headquarters, and they compiled a big report about the great work the SDA church had been doing all around the world. It is a good feeling to belong to something of such magnitude. After serving in this capacity for two years, at the age of seventeen, I was nominated to serve as a Church Leader, but was declined by my father who said I was too young.

With such a heavy religious influence, my life was

channeled in a path that led a certain direction. I now realize that the life of every individual alive has been impacted by their childhood. You become what you are taught. In fact, the Bible teaches this principle of life, “*Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.*” (Prov. 22:6) This can also be seen with the influence of other religions on their people

¹ 'Sabbath School' is somewhat akin to Sunday School in other churches. It is one of the means by which the church teaches its beliefs. The governing body of the church, the General Conference of Seventh Day Adventists, publishes a lesson booklet called the *Sabbath School Lesson Quarterly* every three months (one for each quarter of the year). This booklet is provided in three different levels for the different classes taught in the church: Kindergarten, from birth to teen; Junior, for the teen years; and Adult. There is also an adult Teacher's Edition which has some extras included for the Sabbath School teachers to teach during class time.

² The name was later changed to Adventist Youth (AY)

Chapter 2

Expanding Horizons

I took a course in Mechanical Engineering at school. At eighteen years old, right after graduating. I moved away from home and began working at an SDA Food Factory. Now I was in the real world gaining first-hand experience of how life was on my own. I was living in the home of my sister and her husband but was on my own. I could go home when I wanted or stay out as long as I wanted, but never felt the need to do so; in fact, the same week I began work, a friend invited me to visit an SDA church. I was asked to make it my home church. Since it was so much like the church in which I grew up, I started worshiping there every Sabbath. It was a small, poor church, but the fellowship was warm and inviting to a country boy like me. Over the course of time, I was elected to different positions, eventually becoming one of the Elders.

It was in this church that my training as a child was put to the test. I shared all that I learned and studied with these brethren, keeping their focus on our mission to evangelize the world. A few years after becoming Elder, I started a little Publishing Ministry called “The Everlasting Gospel,” writing some tracts and mailing them out to people, using a phone book to get the contacts. This caught the attention of a brother from another SDA church and he began to work along with me. We started having Street Meetings on Sunday evenings and doing other evangelistic ventures together. I will call him Brother W.

Meeting the Love of My Life

It was at my work place that I met the love of my life, a very quiet, soft spoken young lady who was attending High School. Karleen was a SDA from St. Elizabeth, a neighbouring parish to where I was working. The same friend who invited me to the local church at the beginning also introduced us. She too, was invited by him to attend our church and we all worshipped there together.

After finishing High School, Karleen went on to College. Finally, after she was graduated, we got married. We had a morning wedding in our Pastor's front yard with just our immediate families and friends. She had been with me through all our Evangelizing as a Singer and as my wife, she continued to sing with me as I played the guitar. We make a wonderful Duet.

New Discoveries

I can honestly say I am always open minded. I have learned over the years to always listen to the opinion of others and try to understand the point they are making, then to compare their teaching with the scriptures. I have met people of many different persuasions and I am always willing to talk and share ideas. I met a brother about whom I had heard things for years. I will call him Brother C.

Brother C had been disfellowshipped from the SDA church. By this I mean his membership with the church had been removed. For any person to reach such a place is very, very bad in SDA thinking because we are taught that the SDA church is God's true church. If you are not a member of this church then you are lost and will not make it to heaven. So when I met this brother and spoke with him for a while, I asked to understand what happened in his experience with the church and why he was put out. He consented to talk with me and shared with me just what happened.

He explained to me about some strange ecumenical

meeting that took place in another SDA church in the capital city of our country. He, being a Leader in one of the churches, wrote a letter to the Conference and asked about the events that took place. He got no answer. He asked his Pastor and others and still no answer, so finally his congregation made a plan to boycott the Harvest Ingathering for that year. (The Harvest Ingathering is a soliciting venture of the church. We are given Magazines with a report of some project the church is working on and the members are sent to solicit money to support this project). I had been personally involved with this from childhood. A goal in cash is set for the church to reach, then a super goal, so the membership is then divided into the goal (which is the first to reach) and the amount is set for each member to get. We would each be given a card to record names and amounts and would set out to achieve our personal assigned portion of the goal.

It was not until Brother C's church decided not to participate in this money venture that they gained the attention of the Conference. This attention came in the form of constant arraignment from the pulpit as the Pastor began to preach every Sabbath about the importance of following church authority and doing what the Conference says. This continued unabated until it became actually painful to worship at the church until, finally, Brother C decided to worship at his home the following Sabbath. The members agreed to worship with him. With still no explanation from the Conference and a decision against participation in the Ingathering still firm by the church, the President of the Conference came to worship there that Sabbath. All who were absent were disfellowshipped, over thirty members all at once.

Upon hearing this story my eyes were opened to another side of my well-loved and respected church. I could see immediately that this action was not Christ-like or Christian. I began listening to tapes by other speakers which Brother C gave me. As I listened, I learned things about my church

that I had known nothing about. I had been only aware of what was happening in my own church and maybe some neighbouring churches, but not on a world-wide level. The internet was still some distance in the future, so we had to go by these tapes and documented evidence we received from overseas. In all of this I never had a reason to doubt my church or the principles it stood for, I simply saw that some men in positions of authority abused their position by the decisions they made.

An Eye-opener

It was during these times that I had to rely on the Bible as my guide. My friend, Brother W, was asked to transport our Pastor and his wife to the capital city. During this drive he was playing a tape we had received from Brother C. This tape was talking about the SDA church and the corruptions that were entering. The Pastor's wife asked for the speaker's name, saying he sounded like a speaker on a tape which she had at her home and that the message sounded similar. After returning from the city, Brother W asked if he could hear their tape. They gave it to him with careful instructions to allow no one else but me to hear. Because of our close relationship, he came straight to my house for us to listen together. It was a VHS tape, so we watched the sermon, presented by a strange named guy called Bill Stringfellow. His topic was "The Rubber is Meeting the Road." I thought it was a very good presentation. At the end of the tape was contact information. I got the phone number and called him immediately, telling him I appreciated his message. He asked for my mailing address. About a week later I got a small envelope in the mail.

It was the strangest mail I have ever received: a small piece of yellow index card with a drawing in red ink. The picture was depicting a baseball or cricket game. You could see the bowler bowled the ball and the batsman hit the ball,

and a fielder was under the ball while the ball was in mid-air. Then a bold question was asked at the bottom, “**Did you catch it, or did you miss it?** The address and phone number was given for you to find out, so I called again to see what this was all about. He said he would send it to me by mail. Finally it arrived, two VHS tapes entitled, “The Red Flag is Waving, pt.1&2”. Little did I know that what seemed to be just two tapes would cause the greatest travail in my life.

As I had now become accustomed to do, I called Brothers W & C (the disfellowshipped brother and my evangelizing friend) to tell them about the tapes. We arranged to view them that same evening. They were very long recordings but the presentations were of such gripping magnitude that we were glued to the screen. The subject with which these tapes dealt was God. Who is He? Is He a trinity? Of course, during this time I am a Christian, so I believe in the trinity as taught by the SDA church: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, three co-eternal, co-existent ones. I watched this man use the Bible and tear this doctrine to shreds. My heart was uneasy, my stomach churning. My foundation was being attacked – and he was using my proof texts to show the inconsistency with the rest of scripture.

Brother C said that some years back he studied into this and saw things very similar but never saw the importance. I was flabbergasted to say the least. I saw that now I needed to research this thing properly to prove this man wrong, because Seventh-day Adventists are people of the Bible. I determined I would go through the texts which he used and show that God is, indeed, a Trinity.

The more I studied, the more I saw that I was wrong and the Bible right. It was very, very hard to accept. So, since I was one of the church Elders and believe in the counsel of Solomon who says, “*Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.*” (Prov. 11:14), I went to church the following Sabbath and called a

meeting with all the officers under me. I shared with them what I had found and asked them to look at the subject with me and we would discuss it more the next Sabbath. They all agreed and I left that meeting with the understanding that together, as a people, we would examine this issue.

Surprise, Surprise, Surprise

Then came the most shocking experience of all. The next morning (Sunday) word got to our Pastor that I was teaching some strange doctrine. By that week at our mid-week prayer meeting our Pastor started talking about the matter as an uprising issue in the church which, according to him, should never be raised because our foundation is Biblically based. I ask for a discussion on the issue but it was never granted. Instead, they held a big meeting at the biggest church in our circuit, with five Pastors, two of which are local ministers, and three Conference Representatives.

It was like a kangaroo court. Our Pastor preached a Sermon on the Trinity for two whole hours to a full trinitarian congregation. Then, after the listening span of the people was exhausted, he asked for questions. All I had asked for was a private meeting, even with our Pastor, to discuss the issues, but to this very day of my writing that has never happened. I got a taste of the power of the hierarchy for myself and saw the arrogance with which they deal with issues. It was right there, in that church, on that night, that I saw more clearly than ever before that I would have nothing to do with such a system: my wife and I walked out of church that night never to return. I went home and told the Lord, “As you lead me, give me the strength to follow,” and I have followed the Lord from that night to now and forever. It suddenly dawned on me that I had been following the church all my life. My entire life had been controlled by the church. My Sabbaths – every hour of them – were dictated by an authority which I claimed to be of God but was truly not. They told me when to sing,

when to pray, when to study, when to stand, when to sit. Everything about the Sabbath was programmed.

This was my time to experience the love of the church for me, the love of all the brethren with whom I had fellowshiped for years upon years until we had become family, bonded together in Christ. It was a rude awakening: do you know that since that time, when my brethren passed me on the road, they would be polite enough to say hello, but that's as far as it ever went? No church member ever visited me or my wife to discuss the issue. If that was bad, even worse was the fact that our Pastor, a man to whom I was so close, that I even addressed him as "Daddy", the Pastor who married me, never even for one moment called or visited to show us our fault and bring us back to the 'fold of safety' (as they call it). That surprised me!

Chapter 3

A Closer Look

Now recognize that what I had stumbled upon was something the church was afraid of and could not deal with. I want you to examine, first the church's position, then the Bible's position, so you can make a fair judgment in this case. I won't tell you what the SDA position is, I will allow them to tell you personally by their own writings:

The Seventh-day Adventist Church Position

This is taken from the book, "Seventh-day Adventists Believe..." or on the web:[http:// www.adventist.org/ beliefs / fundamental/index.html](http://www.adventist.org/beliefs/fundamental/index.html)

Trinity:

There is one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, a unity of three co-eternal Persons. God is immortal, all-powerful, all-knowing, above all, and ever present. He is infinite and beyond human comprehension, yet known through His self-revelation. He is forever worthy of worship, adoration, and service by the whole creation. (Deut. 6:4; Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14; Eph. 4:4-6; 1Peter 1:2; 1 Tim. 1:17; Rev. 14:7.)

Father:

God the eternal Father is the Creator, Source, Sustainer, and Sovereign of all creation. He is just and holy, merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. The qualities and powers exhibited in the Son and the Holy Spirit are also

revelations of the Father. (Gen. 1:1; Rev. 4:11; 1 Cor. 15:28; John 3:16; 1 John 4:8; 1 Tim. 1:17; Ex. 34:6, 7; John 14:9.)

Son:

God the eternal Son became incarnate in Jesus Christ. Through Him all things were created, the character of God is revealed, the salvation of humanity is accomplished, and the world is judged. Forever truly God, He became also truly man, Jesus the Christ. He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He lived and experienced temptation as a human being, but perfectly exemplified the righteousness and love of God. By His miracles He manifested God's power and was attested as God's promised Messiah. He suffered and died voluntarily on the cross for our sins and in our place, was raised from the dead, and ascended to minister in the heavenly sanctuary in our behalf. He will come again in glory for the final deliverance of His people and the restoration of all things. (John 1:1-3, 14; Col. 1:15-19; John 10:30; 14:9; Rom. 6:23; 2 Cor. 5:17-19; John 5:22; Luke 1:35; Phil. 2:5-11; Heb. 2:9-18; 1 Cor. 15:3, 4; Heb. 8:1, 2; John 14:1-3.)

Holy Spirit:

God the eternal Spirit was active with the Father and the Son in Creation, incarnation, and redemption. He inspired the writers of Scripture. He filled Christ's life with power. He draws and convicts human beings; and those who respond He renews and transforms into the image of God. Sent by the Father and the Son to be always with His children, He extends spiritual gifts to the church, empowers it to bear witness to Christ, and in harmony with the Scriptures leads it into all truth. (Gen. 1:1, 2; Luke 1:35; 4:18; Acts 10:38; 2 Peter 1:21; 2 Cor. 3:18; Eph. 4:11, 12; Acts 1:8; John 14:16-18,

26; 15:26, 27; 16:7-13.)

The Bible Position

Now that you have viewed the SDA position, let us take a look at what the Bible says.

To begin, the word Trinity is not found in the Bible, neither is the idea of a Trinity taught there. According to the Bible there is One God. That One God is the Father exclusively. (See Mark 12:32; 1Cor 8:6; Eph 4:6; 1Tim 2:5)

Jesus is not the One God but is the only begotten Son of the One God, neither is Jesus ever referred to as “God the Son,” but always, “The Son of God.” (See Matt 8:29; 14:33; 27:54; Jn 3:16-18)

The Holy Spirit is never called, “God the Spirit” but always “The Spirit of God.” The Scripture teaches that man was made in the image of God (Gen1:26). If God has a Spirit then man has a Spirit, so here is how the Bible put it, “For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.” (1Cor 2:11) Therefore man’s spirit is to man as God’s Spirit is to God. It is clear that man has a spirit, BUT none of us believes that man’s spirit is another person; why then do we say God’s Spirit is another person apart from God? (See Gen 1:2; 1Cor 3:16) The Spirit has an owner. (See Gen 6:3; Matt 10:20)

Here is another very interesting thought to consider. The New Testament is made up of twenty-seven books. Of these twenty-seven, fourteen were written by the Apostle Paul. In all these fourteen books, the salutation of *Paul is like this*, “*Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ.*” (Gal 1:3) Nowhere in these books does he mention a greeting from the Holy Spirit. Why? In fact, Jesus says, “*And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast*

sent.” (Jn 17:3) He mentions no one else. Why?

Another often used thought is the baptism formula. According to Matthew Jesus says, “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.” (Matt 28:19) But we see a remarkable contrast to what Jesus said: according to the record none of the disciples did what Jesus said; instead, they all baptized only in the name of Jesus. Why? There are three possible answers:

1. The disciples disobeyed Jesus.
2. Jesus never said it.
3. The disciples understood exactly what Jesus meant.

I am sure none of us would consider the first two points, but the third point does make sense; they understood what Jesus meant and did just what he said. I have never seen or heard anyone actually follow the direct command of Jesus, he said, “baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.” Now what is the name of the Father? Jehovah. What is the name of the Son? Jesus. What is the name of the Holy Ghost? We cannot tell. If we realize that a name in scripture does not necessarily mean the sound or pronunciation of a word, then it may be helpful in understanding what Jesus meant. Name signifies authority and character.

Then also is the much-talked-about passage in 1 Jn 5:7, “*For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.*” The issue in this verse is the last line which says, “*and these three are one.*” One what? One God? One person? The verse clearly does not say, yet most people read this to be teaching one God. SDA’s are famous for the proof text method. This means you use any two or three verses to prove your point

regardless of the context. That is wrong, because upon examination of the facts your proof becomes faulty. The next verse speaks of three witnesses in the earth and, if we are consistent, we must say whatever the three in verse seven mean it must mean the same in verse eight, right? The truth of the passage is in the context. Jesus is the Son of God, and these are all witnesses to this truth. These witnesses are in Heaven and Earth. Go back and check it out! In fact, even the SDA Bible Commentary states that this passage must not be used in defense of the Trinity. (see SDA BC vol. 7a p.975)

Finally, in the book of Revelation, the last book of the Bible, it speaks of heaven and the new earth. John says God the Father has a throne and Jesus has a throne, but no other being is mentioned apart from the 24 elders. Why?

The answer to these “why” questions is that there is no such third person as the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is, quite simply, the Spirit of the Father. It is amazing to me that with all the scriptures made reference to by the SDA church, not one of them teaches the Trinity. The irony is that I used to believe and accept it as a fact myself. Thank God for emancipation!

Even More Discovery

To compound matters and make them even worse, my studying, which this debate aroused, caused me to find out that the pioneers of the SDA church never believed in the Trinity and the SDA church actually admitted it.

Here is the evidence:

"Adventist beliefs have changed over the years under the impact of 'present truth.' Most startling is the teaching regarding Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Many of the pioneers, including James White, J. N. Andrews, Uriah Smith, and J. H. Waggoner, held to an Arian or semi-Arian view ... that is, the Son at some point in time

before the Creation of our world was generated by the Father ... the Trinitarian understanding of God, now part of our fundamental beliefs, was not generally held by the early Adventists. Even today a few do not subscribe to it." William G. Johnson (Adventist Review, Jan. 6, 1994 p.10)

"Most of the founders of Seventh-day Adventism would not be able to join the church today if they had to subscribe to the denomination's Fundamental Beliefs. More specifically, most would not be able to agree to belief number 2, which deals with the doctrine of the trinity." George Knight (Ministry, October 1993 p.10)

"A plan of salvation was encompassed in the covenant made by the Three Persons of the Godhead, who possessed the attributes of Deity equally. In order to eradicate sin and rebellion from the universe and to restore harmony and peace, one of the Divine Beings accepted, and entered into, the role of the Father, another the role of the Son. The remaining Divine Being, the Holy Spirit, was also to participate in effecting the plan of salvation. All of this took place before sin and rebellion transpired in Heaven. By accepting the roles that the plan entailed, the Divine Beings lost none of the powers of Deity. With regard to their eternal existence and other attributes, they were one and equal. But with regard to the plan of salvation, there was, in a sense, a submission on the part of the Son to the Father." Gordon Jensen (Adventist Review, October 31, 1996, p.12) (Week of Prayer readings)

That the SDA church would become so brazen as to bring the plan of salvation down to theatrics was beyond my wildest imagination, and yet this Week of Prayer reading was

read in every SDA church world wide to over 12 million people and every one of them accepted it as a fact. To me, that is AMAZING!! Now I can see why in the Old Testament the Israelites would follow their king into apostasy or would return to God if their King did.

I am so glad for the day God lead me to see these truths. But now here we were, at home with three members in our home church. We would meet on Sabbath mornings and in the afternoon go to visit some old-age homes or go into the towns to meet people and hand out tracts. In a little while, our numbers increased to about seven. I had no thought as to what would become of us, but I knew that I would follow the truth as is revealed in the Bible, so we kept our focus.

Chapter 4

Growth

It was only a few months later that Brother C started examining this subject very carefully. God had opened our understanding to these truths, and we soon started worshipping with his disfellowshipped group, after a while becoming integrated into it. I got more revelations into the wonderful truth about God and could see the entire plan of salvation more clearly through the lens of His love. My understanding was opened to what love meant as it shone brighter in Christ. As a group we went on into the subject, sharing it everywhere we went.

Implications

For most people, the importance of understanding the true position of God is not seen as necessary. It seems like a play on words which doesn't really affect our relationship with God. But is God a person or is He just a force or power? This is an important question which demands an answer that satisfies. Since we cannot see God in a literal, tangible way, we relate to him by faith. Often our belief is based on the testimonies of those who have met him personally and have passed down their experiences through writings, and on evidences we see around us in nature which testify of a creator. If one is to have any greater knowledge of God than hearsay, it must be by relating to Him directly. This is one of the reasons why it is important to know who He is, for if a person is not real then one cannot have a relationship.

There were once some people who used to worship with us, after a while they moved away to another country, eventually getting involved with the “black consciousness” movement, which is all about the black man and how terrible he has been treated over the centuries. Eventually they came to believe that the Bible was a fake, written to subdue people, and that Jesus never existed. They wrote to a friend, whom they were trying to convince of their new found belief. The friend wrote back, saying, "I can see you never knew Jesus!" They were very offended by this, protesting that he was judging them, but the friend said “I am not judging – how can you know somebody who, by your own admission, never existed?”

Distinct Beings

There are two distinct beings plainly spoken of in the Bible. They are made clear all through the scriptures, but here are some particular examples.

In addressing the issue of Christians eating food offered to idols, Paul said something very informative concerning this subject. He said that, although there are many gods and many Lords, for the Christian it is different because he knows better... *“But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.” (1Cor 8:6) Howbeit there is not in every man that knowledge...* Christians know there is only one God whose Son is Lord: two distinct beings which are the Father and His Son. John verifies this by telling us with whom it is that we fellowship: *“That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ .” (1Jn 1:3)* God the Father spoke audibly only twice in the New Testament, both times for the purpose of declaring who Jesus was: "And lo a voice from Heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom

I am well pleased." (Matt 3:17) "While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him." (Matt 17:5) Jesus declares himself to be the way to God, the truth about God, and life of God. (Jn 14:6) He also said that life eternal was based on knowing the only true God and Jesus Christ whom that true God sent. (Jn 17:3)

The Missing Third Person

If the Holy Spirit is, like the Father and the Son, a distinct individual being, then the scriptures would plainly speak in that way – as if the Holy Spirit were an actual person just like God and Jesus are. But when looking through the entire Bible, studying all the scriptures that reference the Holy Spirit, something becomes very clear: there is NEVER a reference to “God the Spirit” or any other individual title of identity! Instead, the scriptures always say “the Spirit of God”; in other words, God's Spirit, the Spirit which God has, the Spirit from God. Also (watch this now!) “the Spirit of Christ!” (*Rom 8:9*) This is very much different from “God, the Father,” and “Christ, the Lord”. Importantly, we learn from this that the Spirit is not a distinct, separate person from God, but is, instead, a part of God Himself. Just like our Spirit is not another person separate from us but is a part of us, so it is with God. We know this because we are created in His image, modelled after His likeness, though of course on a much more limited, human scale.

This has huge implications when it comes to who or what we worship. If we make the Holy Spirit another person, then we have created an idol or, even worse, may be worshipping the devil himself. Let us look at another example to understand better. The Bible speaks of the “hand of God” and the “finger of God” many times. What if we were to switch the words around and say “God the Hand” or “God the Finger”?

And what if we began to worship and pray to “God the Hand”? That would be wrong! God is God, and He does have a hand, but we do not have “God the Hand”. Even so, God is God, and He does have a Spirit, but we do not have “God the Spirit”. To do so and to worship “God the Spirit” is to take something that is of God, separate it from God, and worship it instead of God.

Who Is With Us?

The fact that we are dealing with a spirit makes worshipping “God the Spirit” even more dangerous. Satan's aim, from the moment he first sinned, was to make himself a god. He said “I will be like the Most High”. (Isa 14:14) This could only refer to him receiving worship, because he could not get the qualities of God. He could not make himself be what he was not, but if he could trick people into believing that he is “God the Holy Spirit”, then his purposes and ambitions could be realized.

The Bible tells us that without the Spirit of God living in us we do not belong to God. (*Rom 8:9, 14*) It is the Spirit of God that fills our bodies when we become Christians. Paul puts it this way: *"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?" (1Cor 6:19)* If we have a different spirit living in us that is not God's own Spirit, then we may verily have a demon or an evil spirit living in us.

Is it any wonder that we see some alarming activities taking place when people proclaim they are filled with the "spirit"? Things like foaming at the mouth and wallowing on the ground, bodies convulsing, and all sorts of activities that were never seen in the record of the New Testament. Where did this come from? Could it be that demons have taken the place of "God the Spirit" and this is what we see taking control of the Christian churches who have added another

god to the one true God?

Possessed

The truth is that our bodies can be possessed by a spirit. We have countless examples of this in scriptures as well as evidences around us in our everyday lives. We see demon possessions on television, on the internet, and through social media outlets like Facebook, Youtube, and so on. If demons can possess a person, why can't God, with our permission, fill us with his own Spirit? If there is such a thing as demon possession, is there such a thing as God possession? Yes, "...ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people." (2Cor 6:16)

My Father and I

In John, chapter 14, Jesus gave the promise of the Spirit that would come to us after he left the earth. His description has confused many careless readers, for he used the word "another". Yet if we will continue reading and look further in the passage, we see who this "another" is, and why he used that word. "I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you." (Jn 14:18) What we see is that the word "another" was referring to another form of himself, meaning his coming would not be physical as they saw him at that moment, but it would be a new spiritual coming, such as had never happened before.

The disciples were puzzled as to how he would come back and reveal himself to them and not to the world, so Jesus went on to explain: "...If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him." (Jn 14:23) Later, in his last prayer, Jesus explains, "I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them,

as thou hast loved me." (Jn 17:23) By these words, we see that the coming of the Holy Spirit is the presence of both the Father and his Son, as they enter our bodies and make their home within us.

Practical Results

Spirit filled people will be living just like Jesus and the apostles lived. How did Jesus live and why did he live this way? "... *God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.*" (Acts 10:38) When any individual is filled with the Spirit of God, he does good, uplifting humanity and bringing people to the place of children of God.

New Opportunities

Eventually, one afternoon, we were discussing these things in our capital city and a brother brought a magazine to the meeting entitled, "No New Leaders, No New Gods." He said this magazine was given out by an offshoot group at the General Conference Session in Holland 1995, the same year we were discussing it. So it was that we found out this was being agitated in other places. I got a chance to write the phone number of the producers of this magazine and as soon as I got home I gave them a call. I expressed our appreciation for the literature and asked if I could get a few copies. I was told they had only one copy left but that they would send it along with some other literature. In a few days we received the package and, from the one magazine, we made several photocopies and gave them out. The other booklet we received was entitled, "Did They Believe in the Trinity?" This was a look at the SDA pioneers and, in their own writings, denied the Trinity. It was a compilation of writings recorded in SDA history. It was also evidence against the Trinitarian doctrine of the SDA church.

We kept in touch with these brethren, the following year inviting them as speakers to our Jamaican camp meeting, which is a form of convention where we get together for a few days and focus on a spiritual theme. After a few years Brother C and I were invited to USA to speak at camp meetings, and that was where God led us to start traveling to foreign lands.

Eventually I started working full time in our local ministry, which is named “Restoration Ministries.” My personal travels as a speaker have brought me to countries I never dreamed I would go – countries like Africa, India, Australia, Europe, Canada and many states in America. Eventually we got a printing press donated by a brother in the USA and, after a one week printing course, I became printer and have been printing ever since. The ministry was divided between two homes – the printing and video part of it in my home and the other part in Brother C’s home. We got a website built with the help of the brethren overseas through which we could now be viewed around the world, and our materials were soon being accessed by many people and translated into different languages.

Chapter 5

Life Changing Discoveries

After about ten years studying the subject of the God-head and all the intricacies of it, God gave us yet another surprise. It was much bigger than the truth about God to me, yet by its very nature it had to come afterward. Through Brother C, God led us to see the biblical foundation of salvation in Jesus as we had never seen nor understood before.

The Science of Life

To show what I saw, I want to ask a couple questions. Whose life do you have? You may be thinking, “What a silly question – I have my life!” But stop for a moment and consider: where did you get your life? “Well, from my parents of course!” Where did your parents get their life? Now if you follow the question all the way through, it takes you back to the very first parents, Adam and Eve. In fact, when you check the Bible account, you will find that life was given to only ONE man, Adam, and all humanity has gotten their life from him – even Eve came out of him! (*Gen 2:21-23*) So God only ever created one human life. (*Acts 17:26*) Every person born on this earth has received this same original life, for it has been passed on through the process of procreation and birth down through the generations.

Here is the next question: what kind of life is this? Well, if you answer “human life,” you are correct. We are humans because we have human life. What is the condition of our human life? Since all life came from Adam, the condition of

our life depends on the condition of Adam's life, which is sinful. By the simple act of being born, we become sinners – not by our actions, but by the life we are given. (*Rom 3:23*) We are destined to be what the life given to us dictated we would be: sinners. The Bible puts it this way, "... *by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.*" (*Rom 5:12*) This verse tells us that Adam, by passing on his life to others, passed sin to others, so death passed to all. No human being will ever be anything other than a sinner, because that's the kind of life we got.

Another Adam

But there is another person that the Bible also calls "Adam". Why? Because he, also, has an original life that he could pass on. His is not a sinful life – it is perfectly pure and good because this other "Adam" is Christ. The life he inherited was passed on to him from God, his Father, and is the exact same life that God has. He is called the Second Adam or, sometimes, the Last Adam, because since he became a man he is able to pass his life on to others just as the first Adam passed on his life. But more about that soon.

The Bible makes a big contrast between these two men, Adam and Christ, or, the first Adam and the last Adam. "*For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.*" (*1Cor 15:22*) "*And so it is written, the first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.*" (*1Co 15:45*) "*Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.*" (*Rom 5:18*) According to these verses, the first Adam's life condemned ALL humanity to death while the last Adam's life redeemed us back to eternal life by the resurrection of the dead.

Man's Real Problem

As a SDA I had grown up with the Law. The 10 commandments were our guide. Its principles were practiced and by them we were judged sinners or saints. We were taught obedience to the law. Verses like, *“Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city”* (Rev 22:14) and *“For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous”* (1 Jn 5:3) would be used to prove this point. SDAs live by this rule. If someone sinned, we believed his problem was that he did not choose to obey the law of God. Righteous living was a constant struggle and effort, trying to control one's behaviour to match God's expectations and overcome the tendency to wrong.

But now I realized that man's problem was very, very simple: the problem was the life that he possessed. The big question was, “Which life do I have? Do I have the life of the first Adam, or the last Adam?” Life is manifested in a certain way; in fact, the principle outlined in Genesis is that each will produce “after his kind.” Why does humanity behave a certain way? It's the life it has which determines its behaviour. Man's problem is not his actions. Man's problem is only manifested or demonstrated by his actions. What causes man to behave that way is his real problem. This great discovery was made possible to me because of what I had learned before about the Trinity error, and what I understood now about how life works. In the context of the Trinity we could only ever see Jesus as a God, nothing else. We could not know the true way of righteousness, the beauty of the plan of salvation had been hidden from our view. But now the amazing perfection of God's miraculous plan was opening to me everywhere I looked!

New Life – After His Kind

The sinner's greatest need is that of a new life. Since his old life is corrupt and sinful, he needs a new life that is pure and righteous. For him to receive that life he has to be born again.

Seeing the degradation to which Adam brought himself and all his descendants by his own choice, God, because He loves, made a way so that man would have the opportunity to choose again and be saved from death. This second chance is not forced upon us but is freely available for anyone to choose another life where the consequences of the first no longer exist.

“For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.” (1Cor 15:22) There are two men, who provide two lives, and these two lives have two distinct qualities: the first has death working in it; the second possesses the power to destroy death. We understand that when we are born we receive the life of our parents. In the same way when we are born of God we receive the life of God. Human life produces human behaviour. Sinful, evil thoughts fill our mind. The body is naturally the servant of our nature and produces sinful and evil actions. God's life produces God-like behaviour. Pure and perfect thoughts fill our minds, and our actions naturally show the proof of God's life. Here is a verse that tells of the fruit of those whose lives are born of God: *“Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.” (1Jn 3:9)* They live according to his life because the seed, which is the Spirit of God through Christ, dwells in them and directs their lives. (Jn 16:13) They do not live their lives apart from Him because that is sin. Their perfect behaviour is not produced by an effort to do good or right, but is the natural means of new birth which is the miracle of the Spirit living in them, producing God's goodness in their lives. *“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new*

creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” (2 Cor 5:17) To be born is to receive life, so to be in Christ is to have the life of Christ in us fully and perfectly. Our bodies then begin to produce new attitudes and behaviour, not because we are trying to be Christians, but because Christ is living in us.

This life is a gift! Not a reward for our good works, or even our efforts to try to obey, but an inheritance – an inheritance! – freely given from God. *“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.” (Eph 2:8) “... by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.” (Rom 5:18) “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” (Rom 6:23) This is the truth. It is not something we work towards, or strive to achieve, we are born into it. The life of Christ produces “after His kind”. “And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ...” (Rom 8:17) Just as we received the hopeless condition of sin in Adam's life with its natural consequence of death, so we can receive Christ's righteous life with death eternally abolished.*

One Master Only!

“No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.” (Matt 6:24) There are only two masters that exist in the universe: Self and God. If Self rules, sin and death are the result. If God rules, righteousness and everlasting life are the result: these are simply the natural consequences of a life in which God lives. “Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?” (Rom 6:16) We are servants of the master we choose, and our bodies flow in accordance with our

nature. How do we receive this second life? A man had a conversation with Jesus, who told him he had to be born again. He misunderstood what Jesus was saying so Jesus explained what it means: "... Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." (Jn 3:5) Notice that to be born of water only (the same thing we call baptism) is not enough unless we are also born of the Spirit. To be born of the Spirit is a supernatural experience: it is a work of God performed on, and in, the heart of the individual. There is a clear distinction between those born of the flesh and those born of the Spirit. "That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." (Jn 3:6) Flesh people can't be Spirit, and Spirit people can't be flesh. You are either one or the other.

Do you recognize that our lifetime is really a probation period to choose God? "*Probation is the suspension of a sentence of a convicted person for a period.*" God has suspended the sentence of eternal death and placed us on probation. We have been given a period of life either to choose another master than ourselves or remain king of our own lives. If we use our probation to choose God, allowing him to perform the miracle of the new birth in us, he will live his life in us and make us a show-piece to the world – real, true Christians in nature and character. May your hearts be drawn by Him to this reality!

Chapter 6

The Law Versus Jesus

Once, I asked my pastor about Jesus and why when I read the Bible I saw so much in the apostolic church about Him, yet in our church we preached the Sabbath more than we preached Jesus. He sat me down and explained that, in the apostolic age, Jesus was the “new kid on the block”. Not many people knew Him or knew about him so the apostles had to introduce him to the world; but today, since everybody knows about Jesus, they don't need to be told anymore. Instead, as the commandment says “Remember the Sabbath day”, it means many have forgotten it, and that is why we preach the Sabbath more today. That was his explanation.

The Real Purpose of the Law

When we are born into this world, we do not know who we are, the kind of people we are, we simply live our lives each day fulfilling our natures. We are merely becoming what we are. God designed a system to reveal to us the kind of beings we are. This system is called the Ten Commandments, or The Law. The Law is a perfect description of righteousness, “*Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.*” (Rom 7:12) When sinful man beholds this perfect law, it reveals to him his state because it is contrary to the kind of being he is, “*...for by the law is the knowledge of sin.*” (Rom 3:20) “*For to be carnally minded is death.... Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.*” (Rom

8:6-8) The purpose of the law is to let us know that we are sinners and have a huge problem. This problem is revealed by giving us rules to obey that are impossible for us with our carnal nature, causing us to see that we need a Saviour.

But instead of seeking for a Saviour, we stop with the law. We start trying to keep the law as if the law becomes our saviour. That is why the SDA church speaks so much about the law and so little about Jesus. They fail to see that the law leads us to Christ. *"Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ..." (Gal 3:24)* With my pastor's approach we never, ever meet the person Jesus; we stay with the description of him and never find him.

I am amazed at how we miss this most important point but I realize Jesus had the same problem when he was here. I am sure you have heard, read, and even quoted this verse, *"Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me."* (John 5:39) This was Jesus speaking of how the people loved the scriptures and searched them daily, but they failed miserably to reach the goal of the scriptures: Jesus. In fact, what might be more surprising is the verse that follows, *"And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life."* (John 5:40) If we are honest, most of us have never seen or heard that verse, yet it is the main point of what he said in verse 39 – eternal life is not in the scriptures, it is in the person Jesus! Salvation is not in the law, it is in Jesus.

The Strength of Sin

Wouldn't it be delightful to be able to destroy the reason we sin? What would our lives be without sin? Here is a short, simple verse, so powerful, yet many miss the great value of its words. *"The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law."* (1Cor 15:56) What is this verse saying? When sin stings you, death is the result. *"The wages of sin is death..."* What then of the second part of the verse,

"The strength of sin is the law"? The scriptures teach that where there is no law there is no sin (Rom 5:13) for by the law is the knowledge of sin. (Rom 3:21) To live a life based on obedience to the law is to live in condemnation and sin all the days of our lives.

A Deadly Mistake Uncovered

“But,” you say, “isn't the law righteous?” Yes. “So keeping the law will make me righteous too!” No! Obedience to the law will never bring salvation: if this were so we would never have needed Jesus. Of course we all say we need Jesus, but that is because we want him to help us keep the commandments so that we can be good. Let me ask a question: Did Jesus keep the commandments to be saved or was it the life that was in him that made him live a righteous life? How do we harmonize what the scripture says, *“Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man...”* ? (1Tim 1:9) If you are righteous then the law is not for you, and the rest of the verse we just quoted tells us that the law was made for sinners of all sorts. Notice that before you are righteous you need the law to show you your state, but after you realize your state the law cannot then make you righteous. That is not its purpose. You need a new life, a righteous life. Then, and only then, can you be righteous.

Freed From Sin

The great freedom that exists, exists only in Jesus. Listen to the sweet sounding words of this passage. *"There is therefore now **no condemnation** to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."* (Rom 8:1) All who are in Christ are freed from ALL condemnation because there is an experience now that results in a different life. *"For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death."* (v.2) There are two great principles at work in every person alive in this

world which this verse calls a LAW. There is law of sin and death which is the natural life of every individual that is born once, and there is the law of the Spirit of life that is in Christ Jesus. This law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus cancels and nullifies the other law that produces death by sin. The law could not produce life, but "...what **the law could not do**, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, **condemned sin in the flesh**. That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." (Rom 8:3-4) **This is a finished work!** Sin is condemned (Declared unfit for use) in the body of every Christian. A Christian is no longer a carnal being but a Spiritual being with a new Spiritual nature in Christ Jesus. The righteousness of God is the righteousness of every Christian. Sin is ended and only righteousness exists. "Whosoever is born of God **doth not commit sin**; for his seed remaineth in him: and **he cannot sin**, because he is born of God." (1Jn 3:9)

Chapter 7

The Kingdom of God

I am very happy for the experiences I have had because they have lead me to know the truth for myself. I was not in a place to ask questions of my Elders or Pastors anymore. If I had a question I would have to go to God and work it out through careful study of the scriptures and revelation of the Spirit.

One Such Experience

One night I was reading from the book of Acts, in chapter 5, and I read where Gamaliel spoke about two men, one called Theudas and the other Judas of Galilee. (*Acts 5:36-37*) These men were false prophets and I had never heard of them before, so I decided to do a quick search to see what was mentioned of them. I went to the internet and started a search for all ancient false prophets and was alarmed to astonishment to find out who it was that several sites in a row claimed the first false prophet to be! To my amazement, the first false prophet was said to be Jesus! Was I ever surprised at that claim!

These sites also provide documentation for their conclusions so I read their reasons for making such a claim. Here was the reason Jesus was dubbed with the title 'False Prophet': "*Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom.*" (*Matt 16:28*) So this was his false prophecy! I read also where others were given a chance to defend a position if they felt the conclusion was wrong. The

defence for Jesus by Christians was pathetic. Here is what they said in essence: "Jesus is not a false prophet because there are some Jews that are still alive and roaming the earth. They are called wandering Jews, and they will not die until Jesus comes back." I could not accept that answer so I was left with a challenge: "What did Jesus mean?"

Putting The Pieces Together

I looked at the three accounts of the event where Jesus spoke those words. Matthew, Mark, and Luke recorded it. Let's put them together and see what he said.

"Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom." (Matt 16:28)

"And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power." (Mark 9:1)

"But I tell you of a truth, there be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the kingdom of God." (Luke 9:27)

The main issue in these statements was the arrival of the Kingdom of God. It is not strange when you begin to examine these things. The pieces begin to fall in place. Look at this sequence:

When John the Baptist began his ministry he had a certain message. What was it? *"In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, and saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." (Matt 3:1-2)*

Then Jesus after he was baptised by John started preaching as well. What was Jesus' message? *"From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom*

of heaven is at hand." (Matt 4:17) See also Mk 1:14-15.

Then Jesus' disciples were sent out to preach. What did they preach? *"And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand." (Matt 10:7) (A point of clarity here. Matthew called it "The Kingdom of Heaven" while the others refer to it as, "The Kingdom of God". It is the same thing.)*

Notice the pattern that is established, they were ALL preaching one message – a message about the Kingdom. They had electrified Jerusalem and the surrounding areas with this message. People were excited and expectant because this Kingdom – whatever it was – was near, at arms length, within reach!

The Preacher Challenged!

One day after this preaching, with excitement filling all Judea, Jesus was met by some Pharisees. They demanded an answer from him about this Kingdom: exactly when it should come? Here is the story: *"And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you." (Luke 17:20-21)*

What was his answer? Notice carefully what Jesus said because it is important to understand it as we deal with his prophecy. If I should paraphrase what we just read it would be something like this: "When the kingdom comes, it will not be something you can see, you won't be able to show a tangible physical domain or point to a certain place, because the kingdom will come on the inside." So the coming of this kingdom that Jesus prophesied was going to be an internal event, something happening inside people.

What is a Kingdom?

Now I would like to stop for a moment and think about

the word "kingdom". The Jews thought it meant a visible, physical setting up of a king on earth, but Jesus clearly meant something different. So what does the word really mean? The word "kingdom" is what we call a compound word. It is two words joined together. The word simply means "King's Domain", which is an area or territory owned or controlled by a King. The Kingdom of God are the people in whom Jesus lives and their bodies are the temples of his Holy Spirit. (*1 Cor 6:19*) There can be no kingdom without a King! If the King does not live in his domain (our bodies) then we are not a part of his kingdom. (*Rom 8:9*) So how could this be done?

In John, the fourteenth chapter, Jesus spoke about the coming of another comforter. This comforter, he said, could not come unless he first went away. Further, he said that when he went away he would send this comforter. (*Jn 16:7*) He also said something else that is worth noticing here: *"In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)"* (*Jn 7:37-39*)

In his last prayer recorded in John 17, Jesus prayed that his father should glorify him with the father's own self, the glory Jesus had before the world existed. (*Jn 17:5*) What does the glorifying of Jesus have to do with the coming of the Comforter? Jesus made it clear that the coming of the comforter was him, Jesus, coming back. (*Jn 14:18*) So the disciples understood that it would be Jesus coming back in a glorified state so that he could dwell on the inside of them. *"At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you."* (*Jn 14:20*) When Jesus come inside a person, the Son of Man would have arrived and be ruling in his Kingdom.

Before he died, Jesus told the disciples to stay at Jerusalem until they received power. (*Luke 24:49*) Now here is an interesting insight into a conversation Jesus had with his disciples after he was raised from the dead, "*When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?*" (*Acts 1:6*) Obviously, they knew that the Kingdom had not yet come even at this point. His answer was, "it is God's business." But, he added something else in connection with the question: "*But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*" (*Acts 1:8*)

Here again is the promise of power. Remember Jesus' "false prophecy"? Take a look at it again in Mark: "*And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power.*" (*Mark 9:1*) So we are getting closer!

The Kingdom of Heaven Arrives

Pentecost was a feast of the Jews that came fifty days after the Passover. The promise Jesus made to his disciples was that some would see him coming in his kingdom before they died, (*Matt 16:28*) and also it would be a kingdom with power. (*Mk 1:9*) Did they see this kingdom come? Sure they did – at Pentecost! It was at this Jewish feast that the promise of the comforter and kingdom met its fulfilment. The disciples received power because Jesus came into his kingdom in his people. They knew it was He who came back according to his promise (*Luke 24:49*) and filled each of the one hundred and twenty believers waiting in the upper room. (*Acts 1:15*) It was the Spirit of Jesus (The Holy Spirit) which was now in the disciples and brought them into the Kingdom of Heaven on earth. Now the truth of being born again, by

the Last Adam, was truly possible. And this Kingdom spread like wildfire! Even on the very first day of Jesus ruling his new kingdom, three thousand new people were born into it! (*Acts 2:41*) This was the fulfilment of Jesus' prophecy. It was not a false prophecy after all! All who heard Jesus say those words, except for Judas, were alive and saw it happen.

Every person who receives the same Spirit is a part of the Kingdom of Heaven. (*Rom 8:9*) This Kingdom is a spiritual kingdom and produces the righteousness of Jesus in one's life. The life of Jesus is the life of New Testament Christianity. This life is the victorious life over sin, sickness and even death. This life is a superior life, but it was short-lived in the church and eventually was lost because of unbelief. The Disciples experienced it and turned the world upside down, but as soon as the Disciples started dying, the Spirit and power of the Kingdom started to fade away until it was lost from the people's sight. No one believed anymore.

Even to this very day the term, 'The Kingdom of God', is misunderstood to mean the coming of Jesus in the clouds, causing people to miss what is already here. It is true that there will be a physical kingdom set up in the end when, according to Daniel, the God of Heaven will set up a Kingdom that will never be destroyed. (*Dan 2:44*) But what Jesus already set up is His Spiritual Kingdom, and He is reigning on the earth in it today even as you read. This kingdom exists in the people of God, in any person in whom His Spirit lives. Do you believe it?

What Is THE Message For Today?

I am sure there are already many different possible answers to this question coming to mind. People belonging to different groups and denominations hold various opinions as to what the message for today should be. There are over 33,000 different Denominations in Christianity alone. Are there then 33,000 different messages in Christianity in need

of being preached? According to the Bible, what is THE message that must be preached today? "*And **this gospel of the kingdom** shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.*" (Matt 24:14) (Emphasis mine) Please read the verse again at least twice because it is possible to miss the point. The Gospel is specific. It is peculiar to the Kingdom. Have you heard any sermons recently on the Kingdom? It is clearly what Jesus says must be preached today. In fact, when this fully happens, He says the end will come.

In Acts chapter 8, Phillip went down to Samaria to preach. What did he preach? "*But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the Kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.*" (Acts 8:12) What was preached then is different from what is preached today. No wonder the results are so different!

Paul's letters make up more than half of the New Testament. What was Paul's message? Let's look at his last few years. "*And Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, and received all that came in unto him, preaching the Kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him.*" (Acts 28:30-31) Even while under house arrest Paul's message was the same, "The Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ."

The world is sick of Christian rhetoric. They have heard sermons of theories for too long with no demonstration or power. It was different when Jesus or the apostles preached. They preached the gospel of the Kingdom. "*And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.*" (Matt 4:23) The preaching of the Kingdom was with a demonstration of a reality existing in the preacher. By

seeing that demonstration people were drawn to the message of the preacher and were able to find salvation and healing through him.

Here is a verse talking about Christians, the Sons of God. *"For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.... Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God."* (Rom 8:19 & 21) The Sons of God are yet to be revealed. If this revelation took place today there would be such a revival of true Christianity that the world has never witnessed! This is what the Bible teaches. The world is in darkness. It makes no sense to get all worked up about crime and violence or even racism. The world needs the light of the Sons of God to give a living demonstration of reality here as a witness of something greater than what they are seeing today. Are you a child of God? Is your life demonstrating the power of God? The world is waiting to see this with a longing desire!

Chapter 8

The Final Missing Element

“And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.” (1Jn 5:11)

Believing is more than just a mental consideration, it is an actual experience that affects the life. “You don’t rule your belief, your belief rules you.” You don’t even have to state your belief. Your life tells of your belief in an undeniable way. If a man begins to visit a lady very often and is spending much time with her, he doesn’t have to say he loves her, it is evident by his constant visits. The same is true about the way we live. *The words of Jesus are true, “By their fruits ye shall know them.” (Matt 7:21)* Faith, trust, and belief are dealing with the same issue of knowing by experience that which is true.

What Is Our Greatest Need?

The word “greatest” implies the foremost, the top, or that which is at the pinnacle, so the greatest need is one that is above all the others existing in our lives. Since a need is directly related to a problem, if we want to correctly address our greatest need, we must first know our greatest problem.

There is a verse in the Bible that tells us of our greatest need and implies our greatest problem all in the same breath. It is not a problem of money, it is not a problem of sickness and disease. This, our greatest problem, is far more fundamental and lies at the base of every other problem. It is one we inherited (*Rom 5:12*), built into the life we possess, passed on to us from our first parents, Adam and Eve. Here is the

verse: “*Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall He find faith on the earth?*” (Luke 18:8) According to this verse there is a lack of something on earth. The implication is that it may remain this way until the coming of the Son of God. This missing thing is faith. Lack of faith is unbelief. This is our greatest problem. Faith is our greatest need.

Simply put, unbelief is lack of trust. Let us first put that in perspective in our social relationships. What is your attitude to someone you don't know – how do you know if you can believe them? What is your relationship to someone you don't trust – do you willingly share information that you consider to be personal? In both cases you are very cautious and reserved because your ignorance and distrust inhibits your ability to be open and free. The point I am making is this: when trust is involved you are free, at liberty to be open.

Think of a young child who grows up in an atmosphere of love, trust and confidence. They will do daring things like jump from heights to a father they trust and know. In a similar way there is a relationship that exists with God. This relationship is built on the same level of Father and child, *except* we are dealing with a father who is FAR superior to any father we have known. His love is greater than any love we have ever felt but, because we don't know him, we don't experience even a fraction of that love. Since we don't know him, we are ignorant of his character, ways, and love, causing us to live in a state of unbelief, preventing us from experiencing the blessings that come from him. Let me explain: Is it possible for a child to have a loving relationship with his millionaire father and to suffer for lack of money? Or a father with power over sickness and disease, could his child die from an ailment? Absolutely impossible. Yet that is the exact problem today. We have such a father, but most of us are unaware or ignorant of the fact. Because of this ignorance, we can't have a relationship of trusting Him with our entire life.

Don't you sometimes wish there was such a person that you could let yourself go in his hand and never worry about anything? Don't you wish childhood would have continued, where your parents took care of everything and you never worried? This is exactly what Christianity is about: having such a father that takes care of ALL our needs according to his limitless abilities. The truth of the matter is that we know a lot about God. Most times this information is what we hear from those who heard it from someone else, so the testimonies around us are often third and fourth hand, not first hand or personal. We do not truly know, in reality, the God of this universe. We do not know him personally even though we have had little glimpses from what we hear or read.

The amazing fact is that this God desires to know each person on a one-to-one basis. This is the privilege of New Testament Christianity. Here is a verse that shows how distinctly different is this Christianity: *“Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”* (Matt 11:11) Have you ever thought about the mentioning of this kingdom of heaven before? This is a strange verse to many, but in light of Chapter 8, do you understand what it is saying? We could rephrase it something like this, “Even the most unimportant, weakest person in whom the Spirit of the resurrected Jesus dwells is greater and has more than John the Baptist ever had.” Why? Because the closest he ever got was to put his hands on Jesus when baptising him. He died before the Kingdom of the indwelling Christ ever came and never had the chance to experience it.

Faith – Our Greatest Need

Faith, belief, trust, confidence and assurance are all wrapped up in this greatest of all needs. Can you imagine

what would happen if we had an experience similar to that of the Disciples after Pentecost? Can you imagine what example the world would see if you and I and all who are called by the name of Christ would begin to trust God with our all, having the faith, confidence and assurance that he would give us the experience of the kingdom here on earth today? The ONLY reason we don't have that experience on earth today is because we don't believe it. *"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."* (Heb 11:6)

The unbelief of our generation has not been pleasing to God because the world is dying without it. The light of the gospel is needed to bring the testimony of God's matchless love and fatherhood to a world groping in evil and darkness. What we need is an experience with God that will be a testimony to the world of a life that is superior in quality to what exists around us.

How To Acquire This Faith

Faith is not achieved by working on faith. It is the result of a relationship. For you to trust someone, you first need to KNOW the person. The way you know someone is by spending time with the person. The more time you spend talking and communicating, the more you will understand a person. Your appreciation grows from knowing to knowing better until finally trust develops. Honestly, do we spend time, I mean quality time, with God? Do we acknowledge His presence with us at ALL times? Do we recognize the heavenly atmosphere of angels surrounding us constantly? The more we become familiar with these REALITIES the more our faith and trust in God will grow.

The word of God contains His messages and promises to us. They are God's way of reaching and teaching us about Himself and His desire for us. The more we become

familiar with these words, the more our faith will grow because the words of God are the source of faith. (Rom 10:17) Pure faith is simply listening to God and knowing that what God says is true all the time. So if God says it, it is so, and we are convicted about the reality of what He says because we know He is our father and we experience it in our lives. This is our need, and this only will change our lives. Our faith must lay hold on His words to be materialized.

Chapter 9

Freedom!

For a long time, I could not accept the truth because of the baggage of my past and the impact it had on me. It was like being in the dark for a long time and then someone turns on a bright light: you are temporarily blinded and have to close your eyes to shut out the light. But as you adjust to the light it becomes easier and eventually you can open your eyes fully.

Freedom after being a slave is very hard. Not everyone is fit to be free. It is said that after slavery was abolished many went back to their slave masters and asked to be taken back because they could not make it on their own. For most people who have been entrenched in religion and family ties it is the hardest thing to break loose of the chains that hold them, but when you recognize the weakness in your life and how powerless you are against sin, there is a cry from deep within that calls for more. There is the longing for victory. Can we ever be free? The answer is a resounding “YES!” *“If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.” (Jn 8:36)* To find Jesus the person – not his teaching or his ways but HIM, the person – and have him live in you, this is freedom indeed!

Said the angel to Mary the mother of Jesus, *“...thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.” (Matt 1:21)* This is the very essence of Christianity! It is freedom from SIN! Only Jesus can give us this freedom, therefore who Jesus sets free from sin is free from sin!!

Living In Freedom

The words of a well known secular song are very instructive at this moment. "Emancipate yourselves from mental slavery..." Yet it is not as easy as the words are read. To be enslaved especially by the mind takes a miracle to break loose. To truly live in freedom we have to accept and believe in our state of freedom. There has to be a never ending connection to the one who sets you free and keeps you free from all that offends. You have to be listening to that person at all times and close off the sounds of everyone else that says differently. "*What shall we then say to these things? **If God be for us, who can be against us?**" (Rom 8:31) The very breath of our freedom comes from God and no one else. Listen now to how this author puts it together in the best possible way! "**Who shall lay any thing** to the charge of God's elect? **It is God** that justifieth. **Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died,** yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us." (Rom 8:33-34) Oh, what a beautiful experience!!! That God and Christ has set us free and keeps us free and we can dare stand and proclaim our reality and be brave like a lion and not flinch or fear even in the face of doubters – Hallelujah! Praise his wonderful name!!*

Risk or Confidence

Just think of what God has done for us in Christ Jesus. We are made free from sin by the receiving of God's own life. Imagine that now for every Christian "**ALL THINGS ARE LAWFUL**". (1Cor 10:23) Is this a risk that God is taking or is God confident? Well the principle of life that is embedded in HIS creation is "Each produces after its kind." God knows that divinity (*His own nature*) can only be righteous and do righteousness, so with confidence he gives us his life and makes us Supernaturally Extraordinary. Can we believe it?

Divine Humans

Jesus was the first of a new human race of beings and that is why he is called the "Last Adam" (1Cor 15:45) He gives his Spirit to ALL who ask him into their hearts. Once he lives in you, you are a part of this new race. If you are a Christian this is your reality even if you never knew, believed or experienced it. Education is the key to understanding and also to experiencing. Once you know who you are then it lifts you to a higher plane to be who you are. If you are not a Christian then here is your opportunity to become a part of Christ. Christianity is not denominational-ism, it is becoming a part of the body of Christ on earth and to (re-)present Christ where ever you go.

Conclusion

The greatest lesson I have learned in my life is that I know nothing, but Jesus knows everything. So I am happy to have Jesus in me, living his life and teaching me to grow in him. The promise we have is that, as we grow and become mature, our faith will lead us to trust him more and more until we are formed into his image, unto the fullness of the measure of the stature of Christ. (Eph 4:11-13)

God, through his love and goodness, got me started on a journey. I am learning more of Him and more from Him every day. My life now is a walk – not a stagnant, stunted experience – it is an experience where I am seeing more wonderfully clear what it means to be a Christian. And it's not by wearing a title, but by living a life. True Christianity is a lifestyle that is alive and progressive. That's where my goal is: Jesus – the fullness of God! My encouragement to all who read this, my story, is that you seek him until you find him, because he that the Son has set free is FREE INDEED.

My chains are gone, I've been set free!

My God, My Saviour, has ransomed me, And like a flood His mercy reigns – Unending love, Amazing grace!

Chapter 10

Current Issues

(An Addition)

Such A Time As This!

The writing of this book coincides with a time that has been prophesied to take place on the earth just before Jesus comes. So it is with great concern that I decided to include this chapter.

The Scriptures tells of a time to come such as never was since nations exists on the planet. (Dan 12:1) Jesus said, *"Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all."* (Luke 17:28-29)

What happened in the days of Lot? Peter gives us an insight of the times and the place where he lived before the Lord delivered him. *"And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds)."* (2 Pet 2:7-8) Lot lived in Sodom, and the practice and deeds of those inhabitants were so wicked and unlawful that because of their lifestyle the entire area of surrounding cities were destroyed by fire. Even to this day those kinds of practices are called after the city, "Sodomy."

That Time Is Here!

That time that was spoken of by Jesus is here on the earth

presently. In fact, at the writing of this chapter, the United States Supreme Court has just handed down the decision that it is now legal in all 50 states for same sex couples to be married, and requires their marriages to be recognized by law. The USA has now made it a part of its foreign policy to promote a gay agenda worldwide. They have ordained an ambassador for this purpose. They are pushing it down the throats of poorer third world nations, and with great success. In the book of Revelation, chapter 13, the second beast represents the USA. Reading this chapter, it is clear they will set up laws and rules that will usher in the Mark of the Beast scenario. The prophecy says no man will be able to buy or sell unless he that has one of three things: the Mark of the Beast, the Name of the Beast, or the Number of his name. (*Rev 13:16-17*) Keep your eyes on the USA, God's word cannot fail.

Godlessness

I never thought, in my wildest dreams, that the world could reach the place where it completely dismisses God from its rules and laws. Godlessness exists in every sphere and on every level in the world, so much so that the more affluent and wealthy countries are all accepting this abomination in defiance of God. The people either accept it or face the ridicule of those in favour of this move against God.

The most amazing part of what is taking place is that it is the opinion of a small minority, yet they command and control the majority. It is true that a small percentage, less than 5% of the world population, controls the over 95%. The wealth and riches of this world are in the hands of just a few families. With the control of this wealth they can change laws and overturn legislations to suit their own evil agendas.

Through the work of this small, powerful, wealthy minority, human rights have now been redefined to include same sex couples, using false, so called, “science” as

evidence. They try to make out that same sex couples are born that way as in indictment against God, reasoning that, if you are born this way, then it is a human right to be given the privilege and opportunity to live as you please. This is wrong as God made them male and female in the beginning.

Most Terrible Concession

Christian Churches are now accepting this practice as the pressure increases. It is very bad to see the world accept something that is contrary to nature, reason, and logic, but it is most outrageous and terrible to see the entity that claims to be God's, accept this abomination and practice it. The Presbyterian Church, the Mormons, and the Disciples of Christ have all already accepted same sex marriage, and a host of others are debating the possibility. Even the church in which I grew up (SDA) is facing issues now with Women's Ordination and eventually same sex marriage. There is already a Seventh Gay Adventists group adding pressure to make a final decision.

Individuality in Religion

There is such a thing as individuality in religion and that means each person must be persuaded in their own hearts and minds about something and not let popular opinion sway you one way or another. Are you willing to turn against the principles of God because your church does so? Do you not have a conscience towards God? Or is your denomination your conscience?

Where is your membership? This is a unique question because most people have a membership in a certain church but not in Christ. If you are in the Church then you are in the body of Christ. In this body there is only one Head, and all the body takes orders and commands from this one Head, which is Christ. Is it possible for Jesus to lead you contrary to the principles set up by God? Regardless of where your

allegiance is, God is still the Lord of the planet and no defiance of God will go without meeting consequences. God is not vindictive, but the universe is set up in such a way that there are consequences built into nature which, when the upholding principles of nature are violated, will bring the wrath of nature's consequences.

Sign Of The End

Jesus spoke about something he called "The abomination of desolation" and he said when you see it standing where it aught not to be then it is a sign that the end is here. We are seeing that now as I write, so it is clear that this is the end of the world as we know it. He said as it was in the days of Noah and Lot it will be the same in the days of the coming of the Son of Man. This is it my dear reader, we are there!! Please take the time to ensure that you have a living relationship with God who is your father. It is imperative that we do this NOW at this very moment! May we make a decision for him today and be faithful to that decision until this experience becomes real in us and our lives become a witness of God living in us. This is what the world is waiting for Today. (Rom 8:19)