



METRO NEW YORK WORLD MINISTRY
ADULT SABBATH SCHOOL CONTRIBUTING NOTES
For the week of March 7 - 13, 2015
Lesson: **Book of Proverbs, Lesson 11**

SABBATH – LIVING BY FAITH

(Memory text) Proverbs 29:25 – “The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.”

The question is: Safe from what?

Counsels for the Churches, p. 326

Perilous times are before us. Everyone who has a knowledge of the truth should awake and place himself, body, soul, and spirit, under the discipline of God. The enemy is on our track. We must be wide awake, on our guard against him. We must put on the whole armor of God. We must follow the directions given through the spirit of prophecy. We must love and obey the truth for this time. This will save us from accepting strong delusions. God has spoken to us through His word. He has spoken to us through the testimonies to the church and through the books that have helped to make plain our present duty and the position that we should now occupy. The warnings that have been given, line upon line, precept upon precept, should be heeded. If we disregard them, what excuse can we offer?

Those who place their whole trust in the hands of the Lord will be shielded, protected from the many delusions and errors that Satan is bring in. How can build such a trust? Prayer and deep Bible study.

Recommended reading: Selected Messages, vol. 2, pp. 56-60 (Ch. 6, Our Safety Against Delusions) and The Story of Redemption, pp. 388-392 (Ch. 56 – Satan’s Delusions)

Revelation 14:12

Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and **the faith of Jesus.**

Notice it does not say “faith IN Jesus” but “the faith OF Jesus”. We need to have the faith that Jesus had.

Revelation 3:21

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

So what is the reason that Jesus can sit with his Father on his throne? It is because he “overcame”. What kind of faith did Jesus have and what did Jesus overcome?

Did Jesus face life or death? Was he victorious over the world? Was he victorious over the flesh? Did he have the victory over sinful flesh? (What kind of victory would it be if he had holy flesh?)

John 16:33 (Jesus is speaking)

These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; **I have overcome the world.**



How can our victory be sure?

1 John 5:1-5

1 Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.

2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments.

3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

SUNDAY – KEEP THE LAW

Proverbs 28:4 – “They that forsake the law praise the wicked: but such as keep the law contend with them.”

The definition of “contend” is “to struggle in opposition; to strive in rivalry; compete.” Synonyms would be argue, confront, withstand, battle, and fight.

Some uses of the word “contend” in the Bible:

Jude 9

Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.

Every time Jesus had to battle the Devil while here on earth he did it by quoting Scripture. He always said “It is written....” Should we be any different?

The Great Controversy, p. 595

But God will have a people upon the earth to maintain the Bible, and the Bible only, as the standard of all doctrines and the basis of all reforms.

Gospel Workers (1915), p. 372

We must expect to meet unbelief and opposition. The truth has always had to contend with these elements. But though you should meet the bitterest opposition, do not denounce your opponents. They may think, as did Paul, that they are doing God service; and to such we must manifest patience, meekness, and long-suffering.

Jude 3

Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.



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Are we in a battle – a war? Revelation 12:17 says “And **the dragon** was wroth with the woman, and **went to make war** with the remnant of her seed...” We are in a spiritual war against the prince of darkness.

The Adventist Home, p. 186

Satan is marshaling his hosts [army]; and are we individually prepared for the fearful conflict that is just before us? Are we preparing our children for the great crisis? Are we preparing ourselves and our households to understand the position of our adversaries and their modes of warfare? Are our children forming habits of decision, that they may be firm and unyielding in every matter of principle and duty? I pray that we all may understand the signs of the times, and that we may so prepare ourselves and our children that in the time of conflict God may be our refuge and defense.

Proverbs 28:7 – “Whoso keepeth the law is a wise son: but he that is a companion of riotous men shameth his father.”

When we claim to serve Christ but yet live like the world can our heavenly Father call us his son or daughter? In other words He would be “ashamed” of us in this condition. This is the condition of Laodicea. They are “wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.” (Rev. 3:17) In other words they have their own righteousness and therefore God pleads with Laodicea to buy from Him the righteousness of Jesus so that “the **shame of thy nakedness** do not appear.” (Rev. 3:17)

Proverbs 28:9 – “He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination.”

When we turn from the Lord and deliberately choose to sin the Lord backs off. Not because he wants to, but because, by our choice, we have made the decision not to follow him over our own selves.

Jeremiah 7:16

Therefore pray not thou for this people, neither lift up cry nor prayer for them, neither make intercession to me: for I will not hear thee.

God’s people were committing apostasies of all kinds. They were even serving other “gods” by pouring drink offerings to them and the women were baking cakes to “the queen of heaven.” (vs. 18)



MONDAY – SEEK THE LORD

There are instances in the Bible where people are seeking for the Lord – but it is too late.

Amos 8:11, 12

Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord: And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the Lord, and shall not find it.

Why are they running to the north and the east to find the word of the Lord? The north and the east are God's points of the compass. Notice in Daniel 11 which directions of the compass the Loud Cry (the tidings or good news) comes from, which angers the king of the north (the Roman Papacy) to give a death decree upon God's people at the very end of time:

Daniel 11:44

But tidings out of **the east** and out of **the north** shall trouble him: therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many.

Why does it come from these directions? And what is that message?

Revelation 7:2

And I saw another angel ascending from **the east**, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea,

Here we see the sealing message coming from the east. Now what about the north?

Psalms 48:2

Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, **on the sides of the north**, the city of the great King.

Jesus is the true King of the North. The message comes from the "north" (heaven) by way of an angel from the east.

The Ten Virgins (Matthew 25:1-13) is another illustration of a people seeking the Lord (and the word of God) but will not have success.

Vs. 1 – The ten virgins represent the whole church. A woman is symbolic of a church (Jer. 6:2), and because she is a virgin she is pure meaning it's the true church of God. The number ten denotes totality. Examples of this are the ten horns/kings that give their power unto the beast (Rev. 17:12). This is referring to the all the kings of the earth. So the Ten Virgins refers to the whole Seventh-day Adventist Church around the world.

Vs. 2 – some were wise and some were foolish (in the church that is).



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Vs. 3, 4 – Both groups took their lamps. The lamps are their Bibles. (Ps. 119:105) The problem is the foolish does not have the necessary oil for the crisis that is about to happen. The oil represents the Holy Spirit, and a deeper meaning would be the foolish did not have the character necessary for the crisis. It is the Holy Spirit that brings us into all truth (John 16:13). Therefore the foolish virgins have a character development problem. They have not obeyed the truth revealed unto them by the Holy Spirit and have grieved the Spirit.

Vs. 5 – It is very important to take note that ALL the church is sleeping at least to some degree. Are we in the tarrying time now? Have we been waiting and waiting and waiting for Jesus to return? We've grown weary and tired and have slumbered.

Early Writings, p. 119

I saw that the remnant were not prepared for what is coming upon the earth. Stupidity, like lethargy (*Note: this is the slumbering spoken of in Matthew 25*), seemed to hang upon the minds of most of those who profess to believe that we are having the last message. My accompanying angel cried out with awful solemnity, "Get ready! get ready! get ready! for the fierce anger of the Lord is soon to come. His wrath is to be poured out, unmixed with mercy, and ye are not ready. Rend the heart, and not the garment. A great work must be done for the remnant.

Vs. 6, 7 – At midnight a cry is made that announces Jesus is here – he's come! What does it mean "at midnight"? It is not referring to time so-to-speak but is referring to earth's darkest hour. The earth will be ripe with evil and violence at this point.

Take note that whatever the cry that is made here, which announces that Jesus is here, it is so startling that the entire church around the world awakens out of their sleep and now they have their Bibles and want to seek the Lord.

What is this cry? Is there an event that is guaranteed to wake up every single Seventh-day Adventist around the globe, and it doesn't matter if your former or past – it will awaken ALL. Was it the "Twin Towers" that came tumbling down on 9/11? No! Was it a tsunami in Indonesia and Thailand that killed approximately 300,000 people? No. There is only one event that could wake up the whole church around the planet - the national Sunday law. This is the cry made that announces the Lord's return.

Vs. 8 – The foolish come to the wise wanting some of their oil. In other words they come to the wise members of the church and now they want to have Bible studies. They now want to be committed to the Lord because they're scared. God does not accept a fearful conversion. The foolish realize that they are with the Holy Spirit and the character preparation that is needed for the crisis that has just hit them – the Sunday law.

Vs. 9 – The wise cannot do anything for them at this point.

Vs. 10 – It says Jesus has come and "the door was shut." Was there a door that shut in the days of Noah? When that door shut was everyone's destiny, inside and outside the ark, sealed? And this was before the destruction came. The door being shut represents the close of probation on the church at the national Sunday law. Probation closes first on the church, because we have had great light, and it will continue on for the rest of the world. Judgment begins with the house of God (1 Peter 4:17).



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Question: Did they physically go to the wedding in heaven or did the wedding take place in heaven while they were on earth? The Bible tells us...

Luke 12:35

35 Let your loins be girded about, and your **lights** (or lamps) **burning**;

Any relationship to Matthew 25 and the Ten Virgins? Absolutely

36 And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding..

Where are his servants when he gets married? The servants are here on earth while the marriage takes place - but where is the marriage taking place? It's in heaven because he's returning from heaven (vs. 36).

And what are his servants supposed to be doing while he's in there at the wedding? They're supposed to be ready and having their lamps trimmed and burning.

36 And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; **that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately.**

But doesn't Matthew 25:10 say "they that were ready went in with him to the marriage"?

How did they go in with him to the wedding? A better question is how do we go into the heavenly sanctuary today? Did Jesus say we can enter the heavenly sanctuary today – right now – by faith? (Hebrews 4:15, 16) The marriage takes place when Jesus confirms our names in the book of life. When he has stamped "sealed for eternity" – that means he has married us and when he returns He only comes to pick up his bride.

Vs. 11 (Matthew 25) – The foolish not only had some time to go look for oil, but they had time to come back and knock on the door and ask to come in. This shows that this coming of Jesus is not the revealing of him in the sky but is the close of probation on the church at the national Sunday law.

Vs. 12 – These are the most terrible words anyone could ever hear, but yet, sadly, most Seventh-day Adventists will hear these words.

And now Jesus gives us the lesson of the parable:

(Verse 13) **Watch** therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man **cometh**.

The question is: Coming to where? Jesus is coming to close the door. Isn't that what the parable says?

"...the bridegroom came... and the door was shut." (vs. 10)

So what was the moment of "the coming"? It was when the door was shut - which is the close of probation.

We also have a confirmation from the Spirit of Prophecy:

Testimonies, vol. 2, pp. 190-191

We are waiting and watching for the return of the Master, who is to bring the morning, lest coming suddenly He find us sleeping. What time is here referred to? Not to the revelation of Christ in the clouds of heaven to find a people asleep. No; but to His return from His



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ministration in the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary, when He lays off His priestly attire and clothes Himself with garments of vengeance, and when the mandate goes forth: “He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still; and he that is holy, let him be holy still.”

It doesn't get any plainer than that.

When Jesus ceases to plead for man, the cases of all are forever decided. This is the time of reckoning with His servants. To those who have neglected the preparation of purity and holiness, which fits them to be waiting ones to welcome their Lord, the sun sets in gloom and darkness, and rises not again. Probation closes; Christ's intercessions cease in heaven. This time finally comes suddenly upon all, and those who have neglected to purify their souls by obeying the truth are found sleeping.

Notice that she doesn't say they rejected the truth or even stopped believing it.

They became weary of waiting and watching; they became indifferent in regard to the coming of their Master. They longed not for His appearing, and thought there was no need of such continued, persevering watching. They had been disappointed in their expectations and might be again. They concluded that there was time enough yet to arouse. They would be sure not to lose the opportunity of securing an earthly treasure. It would be safe to get all of this world they could. And in securing this object, they lost all anxiety and interest in the appearing of the Master. They became indifferent and careless, as though His coming were yet in the distance. But while their interest was buried up in their worldly gains, the work closed in the heavenly sanctuary, and they were unprepared.

Will we be in that group who will seek the Lord but will not be able to find him in that day?



TUESDAY – WORDS FOR THE RICH

About 1 John 2:15-17 – No one who practices known, deliberate sin will enter heaven. We must be justified as well as sanctified. In justification we are declared righteous. This takes place the moment we confess our sins and ask Jesus into our life. In other words – instantaneously – we are declared righteous as though we had never sinned. Now after we are declared righteous, God wants to sanctify us. This means he wants to make us righteous. In other words God wants to actually impart his life into ours and now we can partake of his divine nature. He can clean us up from our sins – literally.

God will not justify someone who he cannot sanctify. The Bible speaks much on both.

SANCTIFICATION: 2 Thess. 2:13, 1 Cor. 1:30, Heb. 13:12; 10:10, and Eph. 5:25-27

JUSTIFICATION: Rom. 5:9, Rom. 5:1, and Acts 26:18

Texts that use both justification and sanctification together:

Romans 8:1

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus (Justification), who walk not after the flesh (Sanctification), but after the Spirit.

Verses 2 and 3 (of Rom. 8) are dealing with justification and verse 4 is dealing with sanctification.

We also have justification and sanctification in the Lord's Prayer as recorded in Matthew 6:

12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. (Justification)

13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. (Sanctification)

Justification is imputed to us – we are declared holy, whereas sanctification is imparted to us – the Lord does a work in us to make us holy where he lives out his life through us. Justification has to do with our title to heaven and sanctification has to do with our fitness for heaven.

Let us be rich in faith (James 2:5), rich in good works (1 Tim. 6:18), rich in understanding (Col. 2:2), and let us yearn to know the riches of his glory (Rom. 9:23).



WEDNESDAY – HANDBOOK FOR THE POOR

This lesson speaks of the poor and rich being equals in the sense that all were created by God, both enjoy life itself, the sun shines on both as well as the rain. Both rich and poor will be treated equally in something else:

Revelation 13:16

And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:

The mark of the beast will not be prejudice in any way. All classes of society (rich and poor) will either receive the mark of the beast or the seal of God.

The Great Controversy, p. 604

Fearful is the issue to which the world is to be brought. The powers of earth, uniting to war against the commandments of God, will decree that “all, both small and great, **rich and poor**, free and bond” (Revelation 13:16), **shall conform to the customs of the church by the observance of the false sabbath**. All (all means all – rich and poor) who refuse compliance will be visited with civil penalties, and it will finally be declared that they are deserving of death. On the other hand, the law of God enjoining the Creator’s rest day demands obedience and threatens wrath against all who transgress its precepts.

Think of the rich and mighty men of the world today who, if alive when the Sunday law comes, will have to conform to the precept of Rome. Bill Gates, the President of the USA, Michael Jordan, Howard Stern, Rush Limbaugh, Bill and Hillary Clinton, George Bush Jr., Jay-Z and Beyonce, Brad Pitt, Lady Gaga, Bill Cosby, Vladimir Putin, etc... What about the members of the IS? Every one of them, as much as they express their hatred for Christianity, they too will have the mark of the beast imposed upon them. All of these people (and the rest of the world) Jesus died and made the payment for their sins on the cross.

But the larger question is this: Whatever our status in life, rich or poor, we will come face to face with the beast and the image, and at that time we have to make a decision either for eternal life or for eternal death. Will we have the needed faith to stand in that day?



THURSDAY – LOVING THE TRUTH

Proverbs 29:15 – “The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.”

Are we not all like wayward children that need correction and direction? Many assume the rod spoken of here is an object to beat or spank the child. A shepherd (who has a shepherd’s rod called a crook) would use the rod on a sheep that would start to stray from the herd. Notice this description from the ehow website:

The staff -- more commonly referred to as a crook -- is indispensable for traditional shepherds. Grip the shaft of the staff's uncurved end, using the tool as an extended arm. A sheep has more power with his head pointed downward. So, minding your body's placement outside the flight zone and at the point of balance, reach the crook toward the animal's head. Hook the crooked end around the neck and pull the chin up, then move the animal back to the herd.

WE MUST LOVE THE TRUTH

The Great Controversy, p. 625

Only those who have been diligent students of the Scriptures and who have received the love of the truth will be shielded from the powerful delusion that takes the world captive. By the Bible testimony these will detect the deceiver in his disguise. To all the testing time will come. By the sifting of temptation the genuine Christian will be revealed. Are the people of God now so firmly established upon His word that they would not yield to the evidence of their senses? Would they, in such a crisis, cling to the Bible and the Bible only? Satan will, if possible, prevent them from obtaining a preparation to stand in that day. He will so arrange affairs as to hedge up their way, entangle them with earthly treasures, cause them to carry a heavy, wearisome burden, that their hearts may be overcharged with the cares of this life and the day of trial may come upon them as a thief.

The only way to detect Satan’s plans is by the word of God. We must study diligently or else we will not be able to withstand the delusions that are coming on the earth.

Romans 10:17

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

And I will add in by reading too. If we do not read and study our Bibles it is impossible to build the necessary faith needed for the crisis before us. And doesn’t the Bible tell us it is impossible to please God without faith? (Heb. 11:6).

Last Day Events, p. 177

Not having received the love of the truth, they will be taken in the delusions of the enemy; they will give heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils and will depart from the faith.