

Health Reform &
EARTH'S FINAL
WARNING



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*“That thy way may be known upon earth,
thy saving health among all nations.”*

-Psalm 67:2

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“An understanding of the philosophy of health will be a safeguard against many of the evils that are continually increasing.”

Testimonies for the Church, vol. 7, p. 63

Preface: What is health reform and why is it important?

“If the living machinery were properly cared for, there would not be today one-thousandth part of the suffering that there is. We are God’s children, and we are to be apt students in studying the philosophy of health. If we are well, we should learn how to keep well by studying to some purpose the principles of health reform. Seventh-day Adventists should not follow the health-destroying customs of the world because it is the fashion to follow these customs.” (2MR 181)

The Seventh-day Adventist view of health reform was revolutionary at its inception; although its teachings were strictly Biblical, it reversed long-standing traditions of error. The focus of this system of healing was primarily upon prevention and wellness education. Also, in terms of treatment, less harmful physiologic remedies, as opposed to the side-effect ridden treatments of the day, were employed with great success.

Unfortunately, it would seem as though many have lost the original vision. What started out as revolutionary (biblically sound, affordable, health-promoting health care) has slowly conformed to the world’s system. In terms of the medical work, our denomination was warned not to copy the customs and practices of the world. In this, have we failed to reach the mark?

We may now boast that we operate the largest Protestant health care network, even operating the largest hospital in the country, but are we fulfilling our distinct mission? Over 20 years ago Joe Crews, in his book *Reaping the Whirlwind*, stated, “The medical work has taken a direction against which we were warned years ago.... In most of our huge hospitals and medical centers there is little distinction from the world in the way we treat disease.”

Could it be that we have lost sight of our primary purpose in the medical missionary work and inadvertently taken hold of another? To see what is truly transpiring we must go to the root of the issue...

Together, we will examine the foundational pillars of health and healing—the true philosophy and history of Biblical health reform. Knowing this, we

can then rightly distinguish what constitutes the work for this time: the “genuine medical missionary work.”

Let us then, line upon line and precept upon precept, study to show ourselves approved unto God: workmen that need not be ashamed...

“We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history.”

Testimonies to Ministers, p. 31

Chapter 1 – Christ’s Example in Health & Healing

There were many different forms of healing in Jesus’ day. There were Roman temples dedicated to the “God of Medicine” where people could go for “divine” healing and guidance. There were, in the great populaces, peddlers selling *pharmakeia* (medicines) at every street corner. There were many corrupted ceremonial methods of purification given by the priests of the Jewish nation who had lost sight of the Great Physician. We also find physicians who were “of no value” but to take money from poor old women (Luke 8:43).

Were all these forms of healing alike? What made them different? Truly it was their core philosophy of health. Christ’s reason for conducting His ministry of healing was far different than these aforementioned practices. Far from being profit-based, Christ humbled Himself and came to this earth to make men whole (mind, body, and spirit). His life revealed to humanity, by precept and example, that redemption from the degradation of sin is possible to those who by faith walk in His footsteps.

“The burden of disease and wretchedness and sin He came to remove. It was His mission to bring to men complete restoration; He came to give them health and peace and perfection of character.” (MH 17)

“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14)

“Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.” (Isaiah 53:4-5)

As our substitute for the wages of sin, Christ sought to not only bear our sins, but to personally familiarize Himself with the “feeling of our infirmities.” He spent more time healing the sick than preaching to sinners (MH 19). He ministered, in the deepest love and tenderness for the infirmed, to bring man to wholeness: mentally, physically, and spiritually. Although His acts of healing were so prolific, do not underestimate this

point: they each had a definite purpose. As in every act of His life, He was purposefully carrying out His great evangelistic commission and, at the same time, laying the blueprint for ours.

“His miracles testified to the truth of His words, that He came not to destroy, but to save. Wherever He went, the tidings of His mercy preceded Him.” (MH 19)

“And heal the sick that are therein, and say unto them, The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you.” (Luke 10:9)

Christ was the greatest teacher the world has ever known. He could appeal to the most educated and to the illiterate, the wealthy and the poor, the highly esteemed, and to the lowly leper living as an outcast from society. What made the difference? First of all, Christ lived out what He lovingly and courageously taught:

“The witness borne concerning Jesus was, ‘Never man spake like this man’ (John 7:46). The reason that Christ spoke as no other man spoke was that He lived as no other man lived. If He had not lived as He did, He could not have spoken as He did. His words bore with them convincing power, because they came from a heart pure and holy, burdened with love and sympathy, beneficence and truth.” (HP 237)

Another distinguishing factor in Christ’s distinct manner of evangelism is that He used parables—practical analogies in daily life—to relay deep intellectual and spiritual truths:

“That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world.” (Matthew 13:35)

“And he taught them many things by parables, and said unto them in his doctrine...” (Mark 4:2)

Why did Jesus speak in parables? His disciples asked the same question:

“And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given. For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath. Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand. And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: For this people’s heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of

hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them. But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear. For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them.” (Matthew 13:10-17)

Thus, through the use of parables, the world was given a practical revelation of the truth of the gospel. Before they had the chance to totally reject the truth they were led to see the inherent goodness behind the principles that govern God’s kingdom. Thus they were “primed” for the fuller infilling of knowledge should they accept the principles put forth by the parables.

“Again, Christ had truths to present which the people were unprepared to accept or even to understand. For this reason also He taught them in parables. By connecting His teaching with the scenes of life, experience, or nature, He secured their attention and impressed their hearts. Afterward, as they looked upon the objects that illustrated His lessons, they recalled the words of the divine Teacher. To minds that were open to the Holy Spirit, the significance of the Saviour’s teaching unfolded more and more. Mysteries grew clear, and that which had been hard to grasp became evident.” (COL 21)

By denying the principles put forth by the parables, listeners rejected the whole of Christ’s teachings. One stubborn refusal to follow the truth, as it is in Jesus, will lead us into the path of unrighteousness. This fact is clearly seen in the Jews’ dismissal of Christ’s teaching in regards to the spiritual nature of His mission:

“I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world. The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us his flesh to eat? Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him. As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me. This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever.

“These things said he in the synagogue, as he taught in Capernaum. Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard

saying; who can hear it? When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this offend you? What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before? It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him. And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father. From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.” (John 6:51-66)

Thus, we see that a rejecter of a practical representation, or parable, of Gospel truth in type is considered a rejecter of the Gospel truth in antitype. This factor leads us to a very important question: in terms of evangelism, how can we reach others with this method today? God’s answer:

“Medical missionary work is the pioneer work. It is to be connected with the gospel ministry. It is the gospel in practice, the gospel practically carried out. I have been made so sorry to see that our people have not taken hold of this work as they should.” (CH 532)

This evangelistic method should come as no surprise to the Bible-believing Christian. In every aspect of His life Christ sought to reveal gospel truth. His miracles of healing were no exception...

“The Saviour made each work of healing an occasion for implanting divine principles in the mind and the soul.” (MH 20)

It stands to reason that, as we are called to be coworkers with Christ and to do *all in His name* (Colossians 3:17), we should be looking for ways to evangelize using His proven methods of success. Thus, the true forerunner of the gospel today is the Medical Missionary work:

“When properly conducted, the health work is an entering wedge, making a way for other truths to reach the heart.” (6T 327)

“The medical missionary work given us to do means something to every one of us. It is a work of soul saving; it is the proclamation of the gospel message.”

Counsels on Health, p. 320

Chapter 2 – Christ’s Method: Modern-day Applications

While not many may be truly asking today “what must I do to be saved,” many are asking for a practical representation—they want to experience physical healing. Multitudes are asking: “What can I do to relieve my illness?” or “How can I fight this disease?” If properly conducted, the health work practically reveals the answer to the former and latter desires—the concept of being “made whole” spiritually and physically.

Let’s examine this connection. First of all, according to God’s word, we are saved through faith in Christ:

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.” (Ephesians 2:8)

Furthermore, Jesus practically displayed that those He healed were “made whole” by faith in Him, through His grace... Examples:

“And he said unto her, Daughter, be of good comfort: thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace.” (Luke 8:48)

“And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole.” (Luke 17:19)

In an age where works were thought of as the way to obtain salvation (e.g.: Pharisees) this was a powerful illustration of truth shining amid spiritual darkness. Consider the following insight from Christ’s healing of the paralytic (John 5):

“The healing of the body was an evidence of the power that had renewed the heart. Christ bade the paralytic arise and walk, ‘that ye may know,’ He said, ‘that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins.’

“The paralytic found in Christ healing for both the soul and the body. The spiritual healing was followed by physical restoration. This lesson should not be overlooked. There are today thousands suffering from physical disease, who, like the paralytic, are longing for the message, ‘Thy sins are forgiven.’ The burden of sin, with its unrest and unsatisfied desires, is the foundation of their maladies. They can find no relief until they come to the

Healer of the soul. The peace which He alone can give, would impart vigor to the mind, and health to the body.” (DA 270)

The whole purpose of the gospel is that man may find forgiveness of sins and be restored to wholeness in Christ. While this takes cooperation on our part (through self-surrender and obedience), physical healing is not the ultimate reward or object. Though the Lord may grant us the benefit of physical healing (Psalm 103:1-5) He is most importantly seeking to heal us of our diseased character: to eradicate the love of sin from our hearts.

This concept—total surrender and consecration to God, unquestioning belief and acceptance in the promises and provisions of His word, and, above all things, to be motivated by the Love of Jesus—is the blueprint for the whole Christian economy simply put into these words:

“Now the just shall live by faith...” (Hebrews 10:38)

Then, in terms of health, if we live by faith through obedience to God’s laws we will be living a genuinely “healthy lifestyle.” However, it should be noted that it is not blind faith (or presumption) that heals; neither is it blind faith that saves. Rather, it is a faith in Christ as Lord (our master) and Savior (our restorer) that truly saves. This faith comes by the Holy Spirit and it is a faith that responds to God’s guiding principles as revealed in His word.

“If they take the position that in praying for healing they must not use the simple remedies provided by God to alleviate pain and to aid nature in her work, lest it be a denial of faith, they are taking an unwise position. This is not a denial of faith; it is in strict harmony with the plans of God. When Hezekiah was sick, the prophet of God brought him the message that he should die. He cried unto the Lord, and the Lord heard His servant and worked a miracle in his behalf, sending him a message that fifteen years should be added to his life. Now, one word from God, one touch of the divine finger, would have cured Hezekiah instantly, but special directions were given to take a fig and lay it upon the affected part, and Hezekiah was raised to life. In everything we need to move along the line of God’s providence.” (CH 381)

When we walk in the light of health reform and rely upon God’s remedial agencies we are showing our faith that God’s methods bring about restoration. This is righteousness by faith—in practice—believing that, by walking in the Spirit, God’s word, taken line upon line and precept upon precept, delivers what it promises.

“The sacred temple of the body must be kept pure and uncontaminated, that God’s Holy Spirit may dwell therein. We need to guard faithfully the Lord’s property, for any abuse of our powers shortens the time that our

lives could be used for the glory of God. Bear in mind that we must consecrate all—soul, body, and spirit—to God. All is His purchased possession, and must be used intelligently, to the end that we may preserve the talent of life. By properly using our powers to their fullest extent in the most useful employment, by keeping every organ in health, by so preserving every organ that mind, sinew, and muscle shall work harmoniously, we may do the most precious service for God.

“When we do all we can on our part to have health, then may we expect that the blessed results will follow, and we can ask God in faith to bless our efforts for the preservation of health.” (ML 134)

We are called to be coworkers with Christ. However, we know that even the greatest human effort and willful desire, devoid of His Spirit, is powerless (John 15:5).

“The Saviour in His miracles revealed the power that is continually at work in man’s behalf to sustain and to heal him. Through the agencies of nature, God is working, day by day, hour by hour, moment by moment, to keep us alive, to build up and restore us. When any part of the body sustains injury, a healing process is at once begun; nature’s agencies are set at work to restore soundness. But the power working through these agencies is the power of God. All life-giving power is from Him. When one recovers from disease, it is God who restores him.” (ML 135)

“Were it not for His constant care, the pulse would not beat, the action of the heart would cease, the brain would no longer act its part.

“The brain is the organ and instrument of the mind and controls the whole body. In order for the other parts of the system to be healthy, the brain must be healthy. And in order for the brain to be healthy, the blood must be pure. If by correct habits of eating and drinking the blood is kept pure, the brain will be properly nourished.” (CH 586)

“The human agent should have faith and should cooperate with the divine power, using every facility, taking advantage of everything that, according to his intelligence, is beneficial, working in harmony with natural laws; and in doing this he neither denies nor hinders faith.” (CH 382)

Given the implications of this admonition, if we work contrary to God’s path (precepts, principles, and prophetic instruction)... if we are employing destructive and damaging methods to bring about an apparent “restoration” in the body... can we claim that we are truly working in cooperation with the Holy Spirit?

“I wish to impress upon the minds of physicians the fact that they cannot do as they please with their thoughts and imaginations and at the same

time be safe in their calling. Satan is the destroyer; Christ is the restorer. I desire our physicians to fully comprehend this point. They may save souls from death by a right application of the knowledge they have gained, or they may work against the great Master Builder. They may cooperate with God, or they may counterwork His plans by failing to work harmoniously with Him.” (MM 291)

“Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.” (1 Corinthians 3:16-17)

We have before us a wonderful blessing or a grave danger: a blessing if we work in harmony with the Lord’s directives, and a cursing if we deviate from His specified path. Let us then choose today to walk *with* the Way, the Truth, and the Life...

“Thousands need to be educated patiently, kindly, tenderly, but decidedly, that nine tenths of their complaints are created by their own course of action.”

Medical Ministry, p. 225

Chapter 3 – Revealing a Practical Obedience

If the gospel is practically displayed in our health message then health reform must be guided exclusively by Biblical principles. Let us further examine this concept by looking at the connection between true medical missionary work and loving obedience to the Law of God.

A most problematic doctrinal error is alive and well today: most Christians believe that obedience to the moral or spiritual law is “done away with.” In this they must be educated by the words of Jesus that He came not to destroy but “to fulfill all righteousness [or right-doing]” (Matthew 5:17; 3:15). As God’s commandment-keeping people (John 12:17), what are we practically showing through our health message?

Before we can truly answer this question we need to understand what constitutes God’s law:

“...Genuine medical missionary work is bound up inseparably with the keeping of God’s commandments, of which the Sabbath is especially mentioned, since it is the great memorial of God’s creative work. Its observance is bound up with the work of restoring the moral image of God in man. This is the ministry which God’s people are to carry forward at this time. This ministry, rightly performed, will bring rich blessings to the church.” (6T 266)

“Every law governing the human machinery is to be considered just as truly divine in origin, in character, and in importance as the word of God. Every careless action, any abuse put upon the wonderful mechanism, by disregarding His specified laws of the human habitation, is a violation of God’s law. This law embraces the treatment of the entire being.

“God’s law is written by His own finger upon every nerve, every muscle, every faculty which has been entrusted to man.

“God has formed laws to govern every part of our constitutions, and these laws which He has placed in our being are divine, and for every transgression there is a fixed penalty, which sooner or later must be realized....

“The laws governing the physical nature are as truly divine in their origin and character as the law of the ten commandments. Man is fearfully and wonderfully made; for Jehovah has inscribed His law by His own mighty hand on every part of the human body.

“It is just as much sin to violate the laws of our being as to break one of the ten commandments, for we cannot do either without breaking God’s law.

“The human being who is careless and reckless of the habits and practices that concern his physical life and health, sins against God.

“A violation of these laws is a violation of the immutable law of God, and the penalty will surely follow.” (HL 20-21)

We see that these aforementioned physical laws are held to the same standard as the immutable moral law of God. In God’s sight obedience is obedience. If we fail to obey these Divinely originated laws there are consequences. These visible consequences (in the form of disease, disability, fowled genetics, and acute illness) present a perfect illustration of why the law is still binding. The wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23), and sin is the transgression of the law (1 John 3:4). Thus the message of health reform reveals the perpetuity of the Law of God and enunciates the true remedial path for the transgressor—grace-enabled love-motivated obedience to God’s plans for soundness of mind, body, and spirit.

“The law of ten commandments has been lightly regarded by man; but the Lord would not come to punish the transgressors of that law without first sending them a message of warning. The third angel proclaims that message. Had men ever been obedient to the law of ten commandments, carrying out in their lives the principles of those precepts, the curse of disease now flooding the world would not be.

“Men and women cannot violate natural law by indulging depraved appetite and lustful passions, and not violate the law of God. Therefore He has permitted the light of health reform to shine upon us, that we may see our sin in violating the laws which He has established in our being. All our enjoyment or suffering may be traced to obedience or transgression of natural law. Our gracious heavenly Father sees the deplorable condition of men, who, some knowingly but many ignorantly, are living in violation of the laws that He has established. And in love and pity to the race, He causes the light to shine upon health reform. He publishes His law, and the penalty that will follow the transgression of it, that all may learn, and be careful to live in harmony with natural law. He proclaims His law so distinctly, and makes it so prominent, that it is like a city set on a hill.” (CD 69)

There is a church that believes it holds the power to nullify and change God's laws. In terms of health, are we changing the rules? Are we sanctioning disobedience to God's commands "here a little and there a little" to meet the policies and principles of the world? We should have no confusion in this area: God's laws are as unchangeable as His character. If we preach obedience to God's Ten commandments yet violate them in practice we are double-minded and unstable in all our ways. Worse yet, through our health work, we could be evangelizing multitudes to disregard the laws of God.

"I was instructed that you and your fellow laborers were in danger of hiding the principles of our faith in order to obtain large patronage. Every jot done in this line, instead of extending the influence of the truth, will hinder its advance." (8T 154)

We see that there is to be no compromise with Satan's opinions and speculations regarding the perpetuity and goodness of the law—even the principles governing our physical health stemming from the Decalogue. God hates sin but loves the sinner. However, today many churches turn a blind eye to "little sins" in order to pacify the masses. However, this perpetuates transgression and lowers the standard of piety in the church. On a practical level, if disease is a result of the effects & affects of sin, is it acceptable if we treat disease without pointing to the cause—ultimately a violation of the laws of God by our person or through our genetic lineage?

"Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me. When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul. Again, When a righteous man doth turn from his righteousness, and commit iniquity, and I lay a stumblingblock before him, he shall die: because thou hast not given him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he hath done shall not be remembered; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Nevertheless if thou warn the righteous man, that the righteous sin not, and he doth not sin, he shall surely live, because he is warned; also thou hast delivered thy soul." (Ezekiel 3:17-21)

We can learn much from Jesus' methods of healing in the further establishing this concept of accountability in giving needed reproof. He did not sanction disobedience and, by default, Christ never encouraged any of His children to continue to wreak havoc upon their physical bodies while only palliating the symptoms (the common practice in health care today).

“When Christ healed disease, He warned many of the afflicted ones, ‘Sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee.’ (John 5:14) Thus He taught that they had brought disease upon themselves by transgressing the laws of God, and that health could be preserved only by obedience.

“The physician should teach his patients that they are to cooperate with God in the work of restoration. The physician has a continually increasing realization of the fact that disease is the result of sin. He knows that the laws of nature, as truly as the precepts of the Decalogue, are divine, and that only in obedience to them can health be recovered or preserved. He sees many suffering as the result of hurtful practices who might be restored to health if they would do what they might for their own restoration. They need to be taught that every practice which destroys the physical, mental, or spiritual energies is sin, and that health is to be secured through obedience to the laws that God has established for the good of all mankind.” (MH 113)

There is a rally call to the watchmen on the walls today. Physicians, or any entrusted with the care of another’s health, have a grave responsibility:

“When a physician sees that the ailment which has taken hold of the body is the result of improper eating and drinking, yet neglects to tell the patient that his suffering is caused by a wrong course of action, he is doing the human brotherhood an injury. Present the matter tenderly, but never keep silent as to the cause of the affliction.” (MM 49)

Jesus healed all who came to Him in faith and sincerely desiring help. However, we must realize that He did not send them back to their lifestyles of transgression. He admonished them to overcome the sins that were causing disease and illness. Hallelujah! This is the gospel in practice!

“Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk. And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked: and on the same day was the sabbath. The Jews therefore said unto him that was cured, It is the sabbath day: it is not lawful for thee to carry thy bed. He answered them, He that made me whole, the same said unto me, Take up thy bed, and walk. Then asked they him, What man is that which said unto thee, Take up thy bed, and walk? And he that was healed wist not who it was: for Jesus had conveyed himself away, a multitude being in that place. Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee. The man departed, and told the Jews that it was Jesus, which had made him whole. And therefore did the Jews persecute Jesus, and sought to slay him, because he had done these things on the Sabbath day.” (John 5:8-16)

Although Jesus spoke truthfully against sin, and always showed the necessity of obedience to the Divine precepts, He always spoke in love.

Correspondingly, this is the way we are to present the message of mercy to the world that is to be a “savor of life unto life.”

Interestingly, at the time of Christ’s first advent, the baths at Bethesda according to the Jewish Mishnah (Zavim 1:5) contained at least one adjacent pool dedicated to Fortuna, the Greek goddess of fortune. Thus, through the pagan influences of their conquerors, the people of Jerusalem were being erroneously taught that disease was a result of fate. God was often seen as being arbitrary, vindictive, and merciless. It was little wonder that the people of this time were in many ways unprepared to accept the loving attributes of Christ’s character as being one with the Father’s.

What about today? While we do need to emphasize obedience as an essential part of our Christian walk, we cannot look upon the Father as a stern unrelenting punisher of all who transgress the Divine statutes. While it is a fact that He will in no wise pardon the unrepentant sinner, He also delights in showing mercy to those who confess and forsake their sins (Exodus 34:7; Numbers 14:18). We are called upon to also reflect these merciful and loving aspects His character as we present the true message of health reform.

“Truth as it is in Jesus is not cold and lifeless and formal.... Truth is full of warmth, of evidence from the presence of Jesus.... We have a message to bear to the world. It involves a cross. The truths are unpleasant because they require self-denial and self-sacrifice. Then how essential that those who bear the truth, as they speak the truth faithfully, shall by every word and act show that the love of Christ moves them. Truth is...always lovely, and those who live the truth as it is in Jesus should study how to present the truth so that its loveliness may appear.

“Treasure the truth above everything; sell it not for any price.” (OHC 34)

Through obedience to Christ and the empowering nature of His love in our lives, true healing is accomplished. It is not a system based solely on what we can do for ourselves, or a system in which man is exalted for his works. Rather, true restoration exalts God and what He can do in us and through us. Our “good works” do not bridge the gap between heaven and earth: Jesus Christ does this for us as our mediator. However, we are not released from responsibility. We are, with the faith that works by love, to draw even closer to Christ so that, by our words and acts, we reveal to the world that we “have been with Jesus.” During this process we are to continually give Him the glory for both our spiritual *and* physical restoration.

As we are restored in love, so must we become restorers in love. However, this is not the romantic or emotional concept portrayed by the media today. While true love is “longsuffering” and “kind” it also does not “rejoice in iniquity” but seeks to save to the uttermost those trapped in the perils of

transgression (1 Corinthians 13). Remember that Jesus still rebukes and chastens those He loves. If we are His ambassadors with the message of “the truth as it is in Jesus” in our hearts and on our lips, let us not underestimate the necessity of this vital component of primitive godliness. We must remember that the “weapons of our warfare are not carnal” but they are “mighty to the pulling down of strongholds.”

The fact that we have such a widespread and aggressive work to do in the spirit of meekness and love shows our absolute dependence upon the Spirit of the Lord. This love that desires to save even our “enemies” does not naturally exist in the human heart. Let us then abide in Christ that the call for repentance, revival, and reformation may go forward as water to the thirsty and as the restoring of sight to the blind. Let the love of God be in our hearts as a well of water springing up to life eternal, refreshing a world withered and dying in a spiritual wasteland.

“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus...”

1 Timothy 2:5

Chapter 4 – To God Be the Glory!

Have we forgotten the true source of healing? Biblically, healing was seen as an act of God...

“And it came to pass, when the king of Israel had read the letter, that he rent his clothes, and said, Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man doth send unto me to recover a man of his leprosy? wherefore consider, I pray you, and see how he seeketh a quarrel against me. And it was so, when Elisha the man of God had heard that the king of Israel had rent his clothes, that he sent to the king, saying, Wherefore hast thou rent thy clothes? Let him come now to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel.” (2 Kings 5:7-8)

When mankind sinned a mediator was already in place to bring him back into harmony with God. Jesus, the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world, presented Himself as the sacrifice for our sins. While on earth He “bore our infirmities” and was in type the “Balm in Gilead” for the “healing of the nations.” Although much is known about His healing ministry on earth, many do not realize that He is still actively engaged in this same ministry today.

“Christ is the true head of the medical profession. The chief Physician, He is at the side of every God-fearing practitioner who works to relieve human suffering. While the physician uses nature’s remedies for physical disease, he should point his patients to Him who can relieve the maladies of both the soul and the body. That which physicians can only aid in doing, Christ accomplishes. They endeavor to assist nature’s work of healing; Christ Himself is the healer. The physician seeks to preserve life; Christ imparts life.” (MH 111)

This is a serious responsibility! We cannot allow ourselves to become the center of focus, as if we deserved the praise due alone to God. While this is true for the practitioner, it is also of great import that those seeking restoration (mental, spiritual, or physical) realize their personal responsibility to render supreme homage to God and not to humanity (educator, pastor, priest, physician, etc.).

“No one is to merge his individuality in that of another. He is not to look to any human being as the source of healing. His dependence must be in God. In the dignity of his God-given manhood he is to be controlled by God Himself, not by any human intelligence.

“God desires to bring men into direct relation with Himself. In all His dealings with human beings He recognizes the principle of personal responsibility. He seeks to encourage a sense of personal dependence and to impress the need of personal guidance. He desires to bring the human into association with the divine, that men may be transformed into the divine likeness. Satan works to thwart this purpose. He seeks to encourage dependence upon men...

“There is something better for us to engage in than the control of humanity by humanity. The physician should educate the people to look from the human to the divine. Instead of teaching the sick to depend upon human beings for the cure of soul and body, he should direct them to the One who can save to the uttermost all who come unto Him. He who made man’s mind knows what the mind needs. God alone is the One who can heal. Those whose minds and bodies are diseased are to behold in Christ the restorer. ‘Because I live,’ He says, ‘ye shall live also.’ (John 14:19) This is the life we are to present to the sick, telling them that if they have faith in Christ as the restorer, if they co-operate with Him, obeying the laws of health, and striving to perfect holiness in His fear, He will impart to them His life. When we present Christ to them in this way, we are imparting a power, a strength, that is of value; for it comes from above. This is the true science of healing for body and soul.” (MH 242-244)

Truly, we are only the messengers and servants of God’s restorative power. It is God alone who imparts health. It is impossible for man to “cure” for it is a parallel to imparting salvation. It is only God who heals (Exodus 15:16). If any man makes this claim, in word or deed, he is claiming the power to forgive sins as well:

“And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, Who is this which speaketh blasphemies? Who can forgive sins, but God alone? But when Jesus perceived their thoughts, he answering said unto them, What reason ye in your hearts? Whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Rise up and walk? But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power upon earth to forgive sins, (he said unto the sick of the palsy,) I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy couch, and go into thine house. And immediately he rose up before them, and took up that whereon he lay, and departed to his own house, glorifying God.” (Luke 5:21-25)

However, there are those who claim to be an intermediary between God and man. Although this doctrine is in outright opposition to the word of God, through the ages, man has used this supposition to exact monetary

reward and reverential honor from those under his delusions. The same holds true for the medical missionary work. Satan well knows that men at the end of life will give anything to either live a while longer, or clear their guilty conscience:

“And Satan answered the LORD, and said, Skin for skin, yea, all that a man hath will he give for his life.” (Job 2:4)

The system of healing that Christ established was to be the example for the church for ages to come. His admonition to “heal the sick” (Luke 9:2) was also to be carried out in His spirit: characterized by self-denial and conducted “in all goodness and righteousness and truth” (Ephesians 5:9). However, during the Middle Ages this work dramatically declined, both in scholarly scientific achievement and practical virtues. The Roman Catholic Church held fast to certain beliefs and dogmas, particularly the writings of Galen, and looked upon other ideologies as heretical. They reestablished the pagan healing shrines and centered them on Roman Catholic saints. In fact, there were even certain saints for certain diseases. All in all, the common people during this era were in great darkness, both spiritually and physically.

Yet, this era of darkness and confusion met periods of opposition. In the late twelfth century A.D. the early protestant Waldensian and Cathar (or Albigensian) religious movements began practicing medicine according to the dictates of their conscience. They denounced the worthless healing shrines, prayers to the saints, confessionals, and penances paid to abolish sins on one’s deathbed. In fact, they began to turn the practice of Christ centered medical practice back to its roots.

The Waldensians were especially noted for their desire to go from house to house, regardless to monetary remuneration, and spend days to even weeks at a time nursing the sick back to health. The great majority of Waldensians did in fact practice some form of physical healing, some specializing in wound healing, others in surgery as well. They were characterized by their use of simple, natural remedies and, as medical practitioners, held in high esteem.

“They had much experience in medicine and surgery, and in these arts possessed amazing secrets, wonderful in their simplicity....” (Gay Teofilo, *History of the Waldesians* [Florence, 1912], p. 237)

Furthermore, Cathar doctors quickly became known as the “best of doctors.” In response to this growing threat to its dominance in all matters concerning humanity, the Romish Church, at the directive of Pope Innocent III, carried out a massive assault on the Cathars and Waldensians. As a result twenty thousand Cathars were murdered and along with them the hopes of a large scale change for the better in the medical establishment.

With the quelling of this “heretical movement,” Pope Innocent III initiated what has now become the modern day hospital system. Also, in his Lateran Council of 1215, the Papal See saw to it that only doctors approved by the church could practice medicine. The setting up of the inquisition made certain that this edict was carried out. For further study on these themes see: *The influence of Christianity on Graeco-roman medicine up to the renaissance (2005). Acta Theologica Supplementum 7.*

During this time the papal system flourished monetarily due to the fact that it had now established a system whereby it could exact even greater means from its servitors. Upon many hospital deathbeds, priests were able to exact entire inheritances from those going to their grave with guilty consciences. Historians today, reflecting upon the establishment of the hospital systems of the Papacy refer to them as “money spinners” or as we would call them today—profit-based. As we know, this leads to a multitude of other issues.

“For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.” (1 Timothy 6:10)

It is no wonder that, as we study the history of medicine, we find the warning given by Dr. Benjamin Rush, the 1st US Surgeon General, regarding the need to guarantee freedom not only of religion but also of medical practice:

“The Constitution of this Republic should make special provision for medical freedom. To restrict the art of healing to one class will constitute the Bastille of medical science. All such laws are un-American and despotic...”

“Unless we put medical freedom into the constitution the time will come when medicine will organize into an undercover dictatorship and force people who wish doctors and treatment of their own choice to submit to only what the dictating outfit offers.”
(Dr. Benjamin Rush [circa 1787] – conservapedia.com)

While many are being falsely educated to look to man for physical & spiritual healing, let us redirect the eyes of those we serve upon the only One who is able to bring true healing and restoration to humanity: Jesus Christ our Saviour.

“...Keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called...”

1 Timothy 6:20

Chapter 5 – Philosophy and Vain Deceit

During the glorious days of the Apostolic church, there arose a most deadly foe against the gospel. This was not simply the rise of compromise with the pagan world. The most deadly blow against the truth of the gospel was the direct attack against the very foundation of truth. During the time of the early church, a school of thought emerged that was later termed “Greek and Roman Skeptic Philosophy.” One of its foremost proponents, Sextus Empericus, a philosopher and physician, is known to have said that we need not live having set standards of truth. He also affirmed the notion that we can suspend all judgment (affirming truth through decision) and simply live and act out of habit. Though this may sound like a ludicrous concept, it actually has a widely accepted modern day counterpart.

The scientific method itself follows the tenants of this philosophy: until an idea is proven false it cannot be disproved and if something is proven “true” it is then established as a theory. The less that is known about an idea the more it is looked upon as a possibility and the more concrete the evidence, the more it can be deemed “a theory”. Thus, there is no absolute truth discovered in the scientific method, only the building up of theories. We can see that skeptic philosophy has simply put on a “lab coat” and become world-renowned. The result: a society spoiled with philosophy and vain deceit (Colossians 2:8) that has lost sight of the Truth as it is in Jesus (John 14:6).

The inroads of skeptic philosophy have clearly penetrated the Christian church. The Papal System being one such example of exalting human reason above the throne of God. Yes, there is a being who seeks to exalt his throne “above the stars of God” who also says “I will be like the Most High (Isaiah 14:13-14). And this exaltation of humanistic reasoning is from him: “This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish” (James 3:15).

The combination of humanistic philosophy and Christianity have leavened many churches with error and brought about a movement termed “The New Theology.” This is “another...gospel” (Galatians 1:7) that would take captive “silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. Now as

Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith.” (2 Timothy 3:6-8)

Jannes and Jambres were the powerful Egyptian magician/ physicians (in ancient Egypt “enchanters were physicians and physicians were enchanters” – see the historical manuscript *Ebers Papyrus*) that opposed God’s miracles at the hand of His servant Moses. With each of God’s miracles, these two corrupt men attempted to do the same without the aid of Jehovah. These deceptions led Pharaoh to harden his heart against the truth. Pharaoh’s humanistic philosophy was stated plainly when he said: “who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the LORD, neither will I let Israel go.” (Exodus 5:2)

In the modern era of secular humanism, an age where man’s thoughts and even so-called scientific advances are held higher in esteem than the Word of God, have we allowed this vain philosophy to taint our view of truth?

“In this generation there are many whose eyes become dazzled by the glare of human speculations, “science falsely so-called;” they discern not the net, and walk into it as readily as if blindfolded. God designed that man’s intellectual powers should be held as a gift from his Maker, and should be employed in the service of truth and righteousness; but when pride and ambition are cherished, and men exalt their own theories above the Word of God, then intelligence can accomplish greater harm than ignorance. Thus the false science of the nineteenth century, which undermines faith in the Bible, will prove as successful in preparing the way for the acceptance of the papacy, with its pleasing forms, as did the withholding of knowledge in opening the way for its aggrandizement in the Dark Ages.” (GC 572)

Sadly, although living in an age of “scientific enlightenment” we are actually declining in moral worth. The reason behind this phenomenon is the same reason for the declension of humanity in ages past: the way of a man seemeth right in his own eyes (Proverbs 12:15)... But his heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked (Jeremiah 17:9). Without humility, continual denial of self, fervent prayer, and faithful Bible study, the precious truths of God’s word are lost sight of and man’s philosophy becomes the standard by which “truth” is established. How does this impact the medical missionary work of God’s true Church? Practically carried out and plainly stated: we could be living a lie.

Today we have a three-fold message that comes out of the mouth of the beast, the dragon, and the false prophet (the three frogs of Revelation 16:13). Their mission is similar to that of Jannes and Jambres: “For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, *which* go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty” (Revelation 16:14).

During the time of the plagues in Egypt, Jannes and Jambres appeared to have the power to replicate the first miraculous signs and wonders that Moses and Aaron performed in the name of Jehovah. However, these two deceivers were only able to “replicate” the true miracles up to a certain point—the plague of the frogs.

This miracle was not characterized by an originating of life. To understand what this apparent “miracle” actually accomplished we need to study into the physiology of these amphibians. Tadpoles are still frogs, but only dwelling in the river environment. The Egyptian sorcerers (magicians/physicians) were somehow able to increase the growth of these creatures and draw them out of the river. Thus this was only a change of the form and location. This is the extent of satanic power, it cannot generate life (third plague of the lice coming from dust).

Beyond this the magicians said: “This is the finger of God” (Exodus 8:19). Thus, these miracles and lying wonders that the “spirits like frogs” perform have several significant features: 1) they exalt human reasoning above the word of God; 2) they serve to harden men’s hearts against God; 3) they cannot create life (only manipulate or change form and location); 4) they appear to be true miracles; 5) they ultimately reveal the folly in trusting in man.

But what is the ultimate purpose and mission behind these spirits working “miracles”?

“And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared.” (Revelation 16:12)

The drying up of the Euphrates is a reference to the preparation for attack on Babylon. During the reign of Belshazzar, king of Babylon, (Daniel 5), the great fortifications of the city were bypassed by diverting the river Euphrates (which ran under the walls of the city). Then the enemy swarmed into the empty channel and took the city. Interestingly enough, the Babylonians felt totally secure in their impregnable city and were at that very night holding a feast in honor of their fortress. This is also the mentality of the modern day “king of the north,” the Papacy at the time of the end.

“And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him [the king of the north]: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over. He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon. He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the

countries: and the land of Egypt shall not escape. But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt: and the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall be at his steps. 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. And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him.” (Daniel 11:40-45)

The kings of the east whose “way might be prepared” in Revelation 16 and whose tidings trouble the king of the north at the time of the end is none other than He who is attempting to prepare his people for His soon return:

“Soon our eyes were drawn to the east, for a small black cloud had appeared, about half as large as a man’s hand, which we all knew was the sign of the Son of man. We all in solemn silence gazed on the cloud as it drew nearer, and became lighter, glorious, and still more glorious, till it was a great white cloud. The bottom appeared like fire; a rainbow was over the cloud, while around it were ten thousand angels, singing a most lovely song; and upon it sat the Son of man. His hair was white and curly, and lay on His shoulders; and upon His head were many crowns. His feet had the appearance of fire; in His right hand was a sharp sickle; in His left, a silver trumpet. His eyes were a flame of fire, which searched His children through and through. Then all faces gathered paleness, and those that God had rejected gathered blackness. Then we all cried out: ‘Who shall be able to stand? Is my robe spotless?’ ” (EW 15-16)

Thus, the three frogs are three distinct movements aimed at the corruption of humanity—a counter for the three angels’ messages (the messages that are to prepare a people to worship the Lord and to stand in the day of the Lord). The frogs are sent to prepare a people to worship anything but the true God and to fall in the “day of the Lord.” By default then, they also seek to counter an important practical preparatory work that is to be done in conjunction with the three angels’ messages: Biblical health reform.

It is of vital importance to consider the fact that the land of Goshen (the habitation of the Children of Israel) was subject to the first three plagues (river turned to blood, frogs, and lice) but exempt from the seven last plagues. Thus the figurative messages of the three frogs are also aimed at deceiving God’s people living just before the outpouring of the seven last plagues.

“The man who makes the working of miracles the test of his faith, will find that Satan can, through a species of deceptions, perform wonders that will appear to be genuine miracles. It was this he hoped to make a test question with the Israelites at the time of their deliverance from Egypt. The instruction given to Moses for Israel is timely instruction for us: ‘These

words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thine house, and on thy gates.’ (Deuteronomy 6:6-9)

“When we bring our lives to complete obedience to the law of God, regarding God as our supreme Guide, and clinging to Christ as our hope of righteousness, God will work in our behalf. This is a righteousness of faith, a righteousness hidden in a mystery of which the worldling knows nothing, and which he cannot understand. Sophistry and strife follow in the train of the serpent; but the commandments of God diligently studied and practiced, open to us communication with heaven, and distinguish for us the true from the false. This obedience works out for us the divine will, bringing into our lives the righteousness and perfection that was seen in the life of Christ.” (7MR 357-358)

As we will see in coming chapters, this movement of subtle skepticism and “science falsely so called,” that undermines faith in the principles of the Bible, is one of the greatest dangers threatening the forthcoming movement of primitive godliness among God’s people today...

“To make plain natural law, and urge the obedience of it, is the work that accompanies the third angel’s message, to prepare a people for the coming of the Lord.”

Counsels on Diet and Foods, p. 69

Chapter 6 – Distinguishing God’s Plan for Restoration

How does the process of sanctification (and true wellness) require cooperation with God’s methods of restoration? Let us examine the inspired counsel in seeking to answer this question...

“I wish to impress upon the minds of physicians the fact that they cannot do as they please with their thoughts and imaginations and at the same time be safe in their calling. Satan is the destroyer; Christ is the restorer. I desire our physicians to fully comprehend this point. They may save souls from death by a right application of the knowledge they have gained, or they may work against the great Master Builder. They may co-operate with God, or they may counterwork His plans by failing to work harmoniously with Him.” (CH 588)

“There are many ways of practicing the healing art; but there is only one way that Heaven approves. God’s remedies are the simple agencies of nature, that will not tax or debilitate the system through their powerful properties. Pure air and water, cleanliness, a proper diet, purity of life, and a firm trust in God, are remedies for the want of which thousands are dying; yet these remedies are going out of date because their skillful use requires work that the people do not appreciate. Fresh air, exercise, pure water, and clean, sweet premises, are within the reach of all, with but little expense; but drugs are expensive, both in the outlay of means, and the effect produced upon the system.” (CD 301)

“Then shall physicians continue to resort to drugs, which leave a deadly evil in the system, destroying that life which Christ came to restore? Christ’s remedies cleanse the system. But Satan has tempted man to introduce into the system that which weakens the human machinery, clogging and destroying the fine, beautiful arrangements of God. The drugs administered to the sick do not restore, but destroy. Drugs never cure. Instead, they place in the system seeds which bear a very bitter harvest.” (2SM 288-289)

“For the sick we should use the remedies which God has provided in nature, and we should point them to Him who alone can restore. It is our work to present the sick and suffering to Christ in the arms of our faith. We should teach them to believe in the Great Healer. We should lay hold on His promise and pray for the manifestation of His power. The very essence of the gospel is restoration, and the Saviour would have us bid the sick, the hopeless, and the afflicted take hold upon His strength.” (CH 31)

Little commentary is needed for the aforementioned counsel. Man may seek to add excuse and explain away the plain utterances of inspiration to validate the usage of drug medication, but Christ gave us no such example in His ministry of healing.

“In the Saviour’s manner of healing there were lessons for His disciples. On one occasion He anointed the eyes of a blind man with clay and bade him, ‘Go, wash in the pool of Siloam....He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing.’ (John 9:7) The cure could be wrought only by the power of the Great Healer, yet Christ made use of the simple agencies of nature. While He did not give countenance to drug medication, He sanctioned the use of simple and natural remedies.” (CH 30)

Thus we see that it is God’s desire to build up or restore the body to health, not to destroy a part of the body to alleviate symptoms.

“The sick should be educated to have confidence in nature’s blessings which God has provided, and the most effective remedies for disease are pure, soft water; the blessed God-given sunshine coming into the rooms of the invalids; living outdoors as much as possible; having healthful exercise; eating and drinking in foods that are prepared in the most healthful manner. To resort to the drugging process lays upon nature a most fearful, merciless burden, from which they may never recover. There are many laboring under chronic diseases. They will swallow anything in the line of drugs prescribed by the unbelieving physician, when an intelligent knowledge that they are indulging in unnatural appetites which explains to them the cause of their suffering, if Christians, they would place themselves in a position as health reformers. They would change the cause which produces this sure result.” (TSDF 85)

The culminating proclamation of the gospel (the three angels’ messages of Revelation 14) is the truth for our time. The first angel, having the “everlasting gospel” begins with an admonishment to worship the Creator. First of all this gospel practically carried out would incline us to use God’s healing instrumentalities: the healing properties of natural remedies. Secondly, if the “essence of the gospel is restoration” (CH 31) we should see this philosophy revealed in Biblical accounts of healing. If the everlasting gospel is truly everlasting, we should be able to see this revealed in ages past. Case in point: the healing of Naaman (2 Kings, Chapter 5).

“So Naaman came with his horses and with his chariot, and stood at the door of the house of Elisha. And Elisha sent a messenger unto him, saying, Go and wash in Jordan seven times, and thy flesh shall come again to thee, and thou shalt be clean. But Naaman was wroth, and went away, and said, Behold, I thought, He will surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the LORD his God, and strike his hand over the place, and recover the leper. Are not Abana and Pharpar, rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? may I not wash in them, and be clean? So he turned and went away in a rage. And his servants came near, and spake unto him, and said, My father, if the prophet had bid thee do some great thing, wouldest thou not have done it? how much rather then, when he saith to thee, Wash, and be clean? Then went he down, and dipped himself seven times in Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God: and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.” (2 Kings 5:9-14)

We see several very important lessons from this account. First of which is that Naaman was expecting a totally different type of intervention than what Elisha had prescribed. He thought that, in a display of pomp and power, the prophet would “call on the name of the LORD his God, and strike his hand over the place, and recover the leper.” (2 Kings 5:11) This would have been an exaltation of the creature rather than the Creator (and strike one against the everlasting gospel). The Hebrew word for “strike” here used is *nuph* meaning a violent up-and-down waving gesture or striking. Thus, Naaman was expecting deliverance from a quick, intense, and even violent therapy to bring about a miraculous recovery. There are those today who will be as angry as Naaman if they do not receive this type of therapy.

“The sick are in a hurry to get well, and the friends of the sick are impatient. They will have medicine, and if they do not feel that powerful influence upon their systems which their erroneous views lead them to think they should feel, they impatiently change to another physician. The change often increases the evil. They go through a course of medicine equally as dangerous as the first, and more fatal, because the two treatments do not agree, and the system is poisoned beyond remedy.” (HL 245)

Naaman’s initial desire for healing was similar to the drug therapeutics used today. These “remedies” are characterized by a quick powerful effect felt upon the system, an apparent betterment received, but in reality a worsening of the health in other regards (short and long term side effects).

“Drugs never cure disease; they only change its form and location....When drugs are introduced into the system, for a time they seem to have a beneficial effect. A change may take place, but the disease is not cured. It will manifest itself in some other form....The disease which the drug was

given to cure may disappear, but only to reappear in a new form, such as skin diseases, ulcers, painful, diseased joints, and sometimes in a more dangerous and deadly form....Nature keeps struggling, and the patient suffers with different ailments, until there is a sudden breaking down in her efforts, and death follows.” (HL 243)

“Drugs always have a tendency to break down and destroy vital forces, and nature becomes so crippled in her efforts that the invalid dies, not because he needed to die, but because nature was outraged. If she had been left alone, she would have put forth her highest efforts to save life and health. Nature wants none of such help as so many claim that they have given her. Lift off the burdens placed upon her, after the customs of the fashion of this age, and you will see in many cases nature will right herself. The use of drugs is not favorable or natural to the laws of life and health. The drug medication gives nature two burdens to bear, in the place of one. She has two serious difficulties to overcome, in the place of one.” (MM 223)

The simple request of the prophet to “wash in Jordan seven times” was to the worldly-minded man an absurdity. Thus we see that the real issue here preventing Naaman’s recovery was his prideful spirit.

“The proud spirit of Naaman rebelled against following the course outlined by Elisha. The rivers mentioned by the Syrian captain were beautified by surrounding groves, and many flocked to the banks of these pleasant streams to worship their idol gods. It would have cost Naaman no great humiliation of soul to descend into one of those streams. But it was only through following the specific directions of the prophet that he could find healing. Willing obedience alone would bring the desired result.” (PK 249)

If it was not for the faith of his servants, Naaman would have never tried this simple remedy. The Lord healed Naaman when, by faith, he submitted to the word of the Lord: to be purified seven times (similar to the cleansing for the leper found in Leviticus 14). This treatment defied Naaman’s original expectations but brought glory to God by providing physical cure and, correspondingly, cleansing Naaman’s character from defilement. This is truly “being made whole”.

“But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty...” “For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness.” (1 Corinthians 1:27; 3:19)

“Nature will want some assistance to bring things to their proper condition, which may be found in the simplest remedies, especially in the use of nature’s own furnished remedies—pure air, and with a precious knowledge of how to breathe; pure water, with a knowledge how to apply

it; plenty of sunlight in every room in the house if possible, and with an intelligent knowledge of what advantages are to be gained by its use. All these are powerful in their efficiency, and the patient who has obtained a knowledge of how to eat and dress healthfully may live for comfort, for peace, for health, and will not be prevailed upon to put to his lips drugs, which, in the place of helping nature, paralyzes her powers. If the sick and suffering will do only as well as they know in regard to living out the principles of health reform perseveringly, then they will in nine cases out of ten recover from their ailments.” (MM 223-224)

Like Naaman’s almost fatal flaw, we are in danger of proudly cherishing worldly ideas and “science falsely so called” above the explicit command of God due to pride and a haughty spirit. As for our overwhelming amount of counsel, warning against the liberal use of drug medication, many have totally discarded these admonitions in favor of following the customs and practices of the world:

“Many explained the testimonies to suit themselves. The truth of God is not in harmony with the traditions of men, nor does it conform to their opinions. Like its divine Author, it is unchangeable, the same yesterday, today, and forever. Those who separate from God will call darkness light, and error truth. But darkness will never prove itself to be light, nor will error become truth. The minds of many have been so darkened and confused by worldly customs, worldly practices, and worldly influences that all power to discriminate between light and darkness, truth and error, seems destroyed.” (5T 62)

Lessons should be drawn from the previous chapter’s finding that the Egyptian priests employed “miracles” affecting a change in form and location to deceive Pharaoh and those dwelling in Egypt, including the Israelites, at the time of the Exodus. What about today? Are we in danger of being deceived by the more subtle changes “in form and location” found in the pills, tonics, and nostrums of man—remedies that divert our minds from the necessity of following Godly principle and living healthy lifestyles?

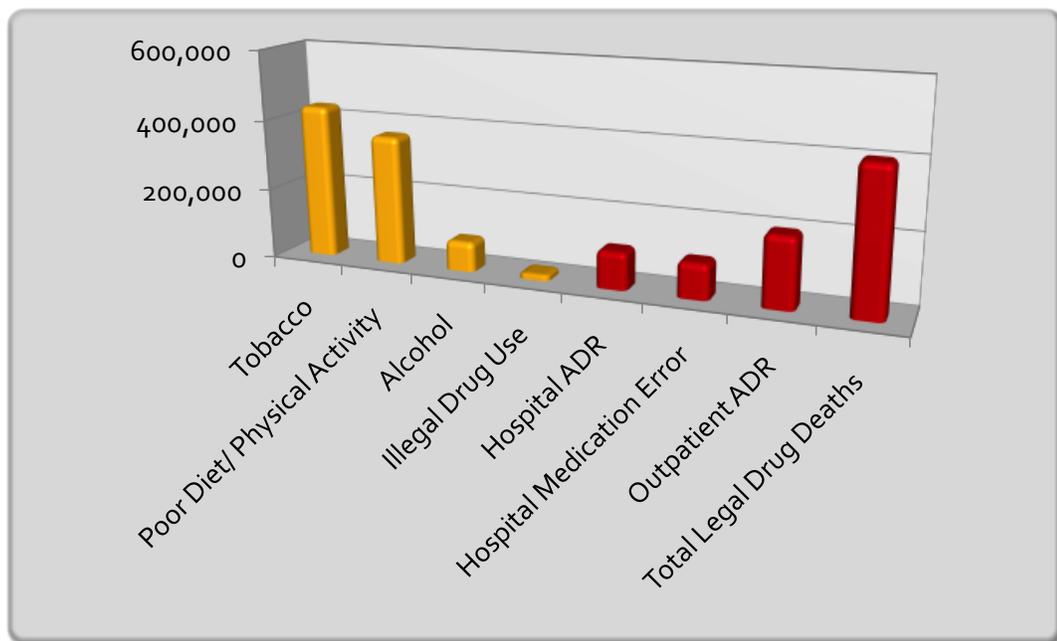
One thing is certain: those who become separated from the truth, by default, accept the gospel of the great destroyer. In practice, the cause brings the effect: the gospel of the destroyer brings physical and mental misery and destruction.

“Every additional drug given to the patient...will complicate the case, and make the patient’s recovery more hopeless....An evil, simple in the beginning, which nature aroused herself to overcome, and which she would have done if left to herself, aided by the common blessings of Heaven, has been made tenfold worse by introducing drug poisons into the system, which cause of themselves a destructive disease, forcing into

extraordinary action the remaining life forces to war against and overcome the drug intruder.” (HL 243-244)

Is it any wonder that, even today, with our extremely precise methods of dosing drug medication, the fourth leading cause of death in the United States is due to adverse effects of properly prescribed prescription drugs? This finding, from the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, only highlights deaths from properly prescribed medications in the hospital setting. If hospital medication errors, out-of-hospital adverse drug reactions, and all other legal drug related deaths are combined, the resulting death toll is far greater. Thus, even at a very conservative estimate, legal drug use rivals tobacco use as the most deadly modifiable behavioral risk factor in the United States today.

Estimated Annual Death Toll (Drug Medication)



Sources:

Actual causes of death in the United States, 2000. JAMA. 2004 Mar 10;291(10):1238-45

Incidence of Adverse Drug Reactions in Hospitalized Patients: A Meta-analysis of Prospective Studies. JAMA. 1998 April 15;291:1200-1205

Report: Death by Medicine. 2006. Life Extension Magazine. Retrieved from Life Extension Magazine website: http://www.lef.org/magazine/mag2006/aug2006_report_death_01.htm

However, the direct death toll of pharmaceuticals is not even the worst effect of drug medication. Far greater is the indirect toll on society by, through an appearance of cure, leading the sick and suffering to dismiss the need to turn from those sins that are bringing disease upon them. Thus, in the United States, the approximately 2.5 million that die each year from heart disease, and the millions more that succumb from the effects of cancer, stroke, diabetes, and other lifestyle related diseases are actually being led along to their untimely deaths by these “cures” that bring relief from symptoms but do not encourage a change in lifestyle.

“Many practice upon themselves and fall back upon this without real knowledge of their ailments, and do great harm to themselves. Proper regulation of their diet, abstinence from tea, coffee, and all spices and flesh meats, gaining an intelligent knowledge of temperance, would be medicine above all drugs.” (20MR 373)

“There are more who die from the use of drugs than all who would have died of disease had nature been left to do her own work.” (HL 244)

These sufferers are not only led to an early demise, they are slowly, physically enfeebled and intellectually dwarfed by degrading side effects.

A Biblical principle of faith and works is thus revealed in following God’s healing way. The doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which Jesus hates (Revelation 2:6, 15), is seen practically carried out as belief that whatever is done in the body does not affect one’s spirit. This doctrine flows from a fundamental misunderstanding regarding the immortality of the soul. We are carnal, sold under sin (Romans 7:14). But the Holy Spirit can dwell in us and refine our characters (1 John 4:12-14; Romans 8:4; Galatians 5:16; 1 Corinthians 3:16; Galatians 5:22-25). Character building is the great work of humanity but without Christ we will be building on what we were born into: a propensity to follow the satanic character: the very spirit of satan (Ephesians 2:2; Galatians 5:19-21). In Christ, we have the solid foundation for the Holy Spirit to refine and ennoble our characters through living out the truth (1 Corinthians 3:11-13).

“The body is the only medium through which the mind and the soul are developed for the upbuilding of character. Hence it is that the adversary of souls directs his temptations to the enfeebling and degrading of the physical powers. His success here means the surrender to evil of the whole being. The tendencies of our physical nature, unless under the dominion of a higher power, will surely work ruin and death.” (MH 130)

The doctrine of the Nicolaitans separates the Biblical connection between faith and works (Philippians 2:12). It also undermines the power of the Spirit to accomplish this cleansing from sin and defilement (Zechariah 4:6).

Thus the effect of this presumptuous false gospel of “faith without works” is death: both temporally and eternally.

When a person is encouraged to continue in transgression of natural law through a remarkable act of healing that exalts man’s apparent scientific accomplishments above God’s word, is that contradictory to our gospel message of non-immortality of the soul? We need to do all that we can to treat disease, but could we be enabling and perpetuating sin by first uplifting the creature instead of the Word of the Creator, and second, failing to remind individuals that “the wages of sin is death”?

“Satan commenced his deception in Eden. He said to Eve, ‘Ye shall not surely die.’ This was Satan’s first lesson upon the immortality of the soul, and he has carried on this deception from that time to the present, and will carry it on until the captivity of God’s children shall be turned. I was pointed to Adam and Eve in Eden. They partook of the forbidden tree, and then the flaming sword was placed around the tree of life, and they were driven from the garden, lest they should partake of the tree of life, and be immortal sinners. The fruit of this tree was to perpetuate immortality. I heard an angel ask, ‘Who of the family of Adam have passed that flaming sword and have partaken of the tree of life?’ I heard another angel answer, ‘Not one of the family of Adam has passed that flaming sword and partaken of that tree; therefore there is not an immortal sinner.’ The soul that sinneth, it shall die an everlasting death—a death from which there will be no hope of a resurrection; and then the wrath of God will be appeased.” (SR 388)

If we say to our patients, here take this pill, here take this treatment, or even here take this herb and don’t point out that “the wages of sin is death”—that sin is a transgression of the law, even the natural law—we are perpetuating Satan’s lie.

In practice, we must be educating those whom we come in contact with regarding the effects of an unhealthy lifestyle. Disease is a practical reminder that the wages of sin is death...

Then let us not make excuses for wrongdoing but, to those trapped in physically destructive habits, reiterate the words of Christ: “Go and sin no more.”

“Do not wait for some one to do your work. If our life is hid with Christ in God, Satan’s miracle-working power, already being manifested, will not deceive us.”

Review and Herald, September 22, 1896

Chapter 7 – Revelation 18’s Startling Message

In terms of earth’s final warning, how should we relate the message that is to lighten the world with God’s glory? How do the scriptures describe the giving of this vitally important message?

“And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.”
(Revelation 18:1-4)

“This scripture points forward to a time when the announcement of the fall of Babylon, as made by the second angel of Revelation 14 (verse 8), is to be repeated, with the additional mention of the corruptions which have been entering the various organizations that constitute Babylon, since that message was first given, in the summer of 1844....These announcements, uniting with the third angel’s message, constitute the final warning to be given to the inhabitants of the earth.” (LDE 199)

We see that Babylon, by this time, is also great economic power:

“And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more: The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble, And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men.” (Revelation 18:11-13)

Since this is a laying open of corruptions (LDE 199) and not simply a list of inventory, we see that Babylon is in the business of merchandising slaves (Greek: soma) better translated as “bodies”, and souls (minds) of men. Thus, Babylon is also a system of profiting from the bodies and minds of men. In describing this same system in Revelation 18 we find startling clues as to the characteristics of this system:

“And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived. And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.” (Revelation 18:23-24)

Prior to the demise of Babylon, we see that her “sorceries” (also a merchandise) deceived all nations. The word sorceries (Greek: Pharmakeia) is literally translated as “medicine.” Furthermore, this system was responsible for human fatalities, even the blood of God’s people (prophets & saints).

“Satan and his angels are wide awake and intensely active, working with energy and perseverance through human instrumentalities to bring about his purpose of obliterating from the minds of men the knowledge of God. But while Satan works with his lying wonders, the time will be fulfilled foretold in the Revelation, and the mighty angel that shall lighten the earth with his glory will proclaim the fall of Babylon, and call upon God’s people to forsake her.” (7BC 985)

The Bible foretells the fact that legislative backing will propel the satanic agenda of global demoralization and physical degeneracy:

“And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. These have one mind, and shall give their power [dunamis – miracle working power: i.e. healing] and strength [exousia – compelling force (legislated)] unto the beast. These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful. And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.” (Revelation 17:12-15)

The driving force behind this movement is the monetary gains possible with the union of beastly policy and worldwide legislative enforcement.

“For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.” (1 Timothy 6:10)

“For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.” (Revelation 18:3-4)

An economy based largely upon unrighteousness (or a “sin sells” mentality) results in a morally and physically debased population:

“Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her. And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning, Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come. And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more: The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble, And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses*, and chariots*, and slaves [or bodies], and souls [or minds] of men.” (Revelation 18:8-13)

These texts describe the merchandizing of humanity to these ends: consumerism driving a buildup of military might and power (symbolized by chariots and horses**) ultimately leading to the degradation of mankind (mental and physical).

**Psalms 20:7 – “Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God.”*

Thus, we see that national greatness, economic prosperity, and health of the population are collectively at risk when we depart from God’s plan. The abovementioned economic plan (Rev 18:11-13) is an attempt to draw financial resources to the aggrandizement of the glory of Babylon. God’s Glory is left out of this plan. The result: moral ruin, economic ruin**, ruined health, eventual collapse of infrastructure.

***“If health care spending and personal consumption continue to grow as they have in the past, investment will decline, and economic growth will slow and maybe even grind to a halt. We can instead move to a more rational system in which people make their own choices.” (Andrew J. Rettenmaier [Executive Associate Director of the Private Enterprise Research Center at Texas A&M University and a senior fellow with the National Center for Policy Analysis.]*

In other words we have total chaos—a world ready for Satan to come as “Christ” and “solve all the world’s problems.”

Jesus warns us of Satan’s plan to impersonate the Great Medical Missionary (2 Thessalonians 2:9); He also tells us how we can both identify him and his agents who are working to prepare the way for Satan’s last great deception.

“Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity [gr. lawlessness].” (Matthew 7:20-23)

First of all we see that we have a group of individuals who have come under the belief that they are working for God, when in reality they are working at cross purposes with Him. Furthermore, not only does this group hear the words depart from me, but is also addressed as “ye that work iniquity.” The Greek word here employed means “lawlessness.” We are to examine the spirits or the workings of man according to the law and to the testimony (Isaiah 8:20) and if they speak not according to this word there is no light in them. Today has our system departed from the plain utterances of the testimonies? Are they walking in obedience to the law of God, even the natural law? Before we answer these questions let us apply another test to this system: a study of the fruit (Matthew 7:20).

“Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.” (Galatians 5:19-21)

- Uncleanness: Greek Word: akatharsia
 - Impurity: physical or moral (does not cleanse system)
- Witchcraft: Greek Word: pharmakeia (not magia)
 - Medication “pharmacy” (includes drugging)
- Murders: Greek Word: phonos
 - Murder, “to be slain with” (will kill people)
- Drunkenness: Greek Word: methe
 - Intoxicant, intoxication (will cloud the mind)
- Enveyings: Greek Word: phthonos
 - Ill Will, intolerance (will detest & persecute those who choose other methods of healing)

“None need be deceived. The law of God is as sacred as His throne, and by it every man who cometh into the world is to be judged. There is no other standard by which to test character. ‘If they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.’ Now, shall the case be decided according to the Word of God, or shall man’s pretensions be credited? Christ says, ‘By their fruits ye shall know them.’ If those through whom cures are performed, are disposed, on account of these manifestations, to excuse their neglect of the law of God, and continue in disobedience, though they have power to any and every extent, it does not follow that they have the great power of God. On the contrary, it is the miracle-working power of the great deceiver. He is a transgressor of the moral law, and employs every device that he can master to blind men to its true character. We are warned that in the last days he will work with signs and lying wonders. And he will continue these wonders until the close of probation, that he may point to them as evidence that he is an angel of light and not of darkness.

“Brethren, we must beware of the pretended holiness that permits transgression of the law of God. Those cannot be sanctified who trample that law under their feet, and judge themselves by a standard of their own devising.” (2SM 50-51)

“We are coming right upon the time when Satan is to work with all manner of bewitching influences, and those who are charmed with them now, or give them the least countenance now, will be all ready to be swept right in to act a part with the devil then. Evil angels are working all the time upon the hearts of men. Satan is working with everyone who is not under the control of the Spirit of God. It is the lying wonders of the devil that will take the world captive, and he will cause fire to come down from heaven in the sight of men. He is to work miracles; and this wonderful, miracle-working power is to sweep in the whole world. It is now just beginning.” (2SM 51)

In an age where technology and chemistry have allowed such advances in medical science that many boast of the “miracles” they perform, is God at the source of these healings? Have we conveyed the truths of the gospel to those we have been healed? Have they been shown the cause of their condition? Have they been pointed to the sin pardoning Savior? Or have the works of man been uplifted as the source of physical restoration and redemption?

“Let not the days pass by and precious opportunities be lost of seeking the Lord with all the heart and mind and soul. If we accept not the truth in the love of it, we may be among the number who will see the miracles wrought by Satan in these last days, and believe them. Many strange things will appear as wonderful miracles, which should be regarded as deceptions manufactured by the father of lies.” (2SM 53)

Thus we see that we have a grave responsibility; if we fail to work as Christ has instructed we will be working towards the aggrandizement of Satan's kingdom. Although we may now think it to be impossible, we will welcome him when he appears, for if we have been working for years in accordance with his character, our hearts are already beating as one.

This is why the trumpet must be sounded. God's church must wake up to her peril!

"The truth for this time, the third angel's message, is to be proclaimed with a loud voice, meaning with increasing power, as we approach the great final test. This test must come to the churches in connection with true medical missionary work." (10MR 314)

Notice the prophet references the connection with the "true medical missionary work." Thus, we see that the differentiation between the true and the false medical missionary work is the subject matter for this examination of the hearts of God's people.

"We need not be deceived. Wonderful scenes, with which Satan will be closely connected, will soon take place. God's Word declares that Satan will work miracles. He will make people sick, and then will suddenly remove from them his satanic power. They will then be regarded as healed. These works of apparent healing will bring Seventh-day Adventists to the test. Many who have had great light will fail to walk in the light, because they have not become one with Christ." (2SM 53)

How will Satan make people sick? We may be looking for some kind of a supernatural attack, but inspiration tells us that his main route has always been through specious temptations.

" 'Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ?' '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? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.' (1 Corinthians 6:15, 19-20) Our bodies are Christ's purchased property, and we are not at liberty to do with them as we please. Man has done this. He has treated his body as if its laws had no penalty. Through perverted appetite its organs and powers have become enfeebled, diseased, and crippled. And these results which Satan has brought about by his own specious temptations he uses to taunt God with. He presents before God the human body that Christ has purchased as His property, and what an unsightly representation of his Maker man is! Because man has sinned against his body and has corrupted his ways, God is dishonored." (6T 369)

By conforming to this false system of healing we, even subconsciously, accept many of the principles of the enemy. His miracles will not speak to

the law and to the testimony, otherwise he would be defeating his own false gospel.

“And the scribes which came down from Jerusalem said, He hath Beelzebub, and by the prince of the devils casteth he out devils. And he called them unto him, and said unto them in parables, How can Satan cast out Satan? And if a kingdom be divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand. And if Satan rise up against himself, and be divided, he cannot stand, but hath an end.” (Mark 3:22-26)

The vast multitude of workers and institutions in the medical field are unwittingly working towards the same common goal. Although many are agnostic, atheist, or indifferent, if they have not chosen to stand in principle with Christ in this work, they are in verity working as agents of the enemy of souls.

“None are in greater danger from the influence of evil spirits than are those who, notwithstanding the direct and ample testimony of the Scriptures, deny the existence and agency of the devil and his angels. So long as we are ignorant of their wiles, they have almost inconceivable advantage; many give heed to their suggestions while they suppose themselves to be following the dictates of their own wisdom. This is why, as we approach the close of time, when Satan is to work with greatest power to deceive and destroy, he spreads everywhere the belief that he does not exist. It is his policy to conceal himself and his manner of working.” (GC 516)

Although we may have inadvertently gone astray from the express commands of Jehovah, let us now take our stand upon the platform of eternal truth: the Word of God.

“Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders.”

2 Thessalonians 2:9

Chapter 8 – The Alpha of Apostasy

In terms of health, many are focused upon the attack from without, in the form of New Age healing. Remember that there are three in the satanic union: the dragon, the beast, and the false prophet (Revelation 16). According to 1 Peter 5:8, the dragon (Satan & spiritualism) appears like a “roaring lion.” Many Christians who are not even of our denomination recognize the obvious dangers of hypnotism, energy healings, transcendental meditation, etc. However, many of the elect are being deceived in far less apparent departure from Biblical principle. While spiritualism attracts our undivided attention as a dangerous philosophy of healing, the more subtle philosophies of the Papacy and apostate Protestantism are positioning themselves for the kill.

This concept is very well illustrated in the hunting tactics of the lion. The lion hunts in a group (a pride). Once a herd is spotted the lions assemble for the hunt. The male lion tags behind as the female lionesses begin stealthy encircling the unsuspecting herd. While the lionesses are moving into position the male lion, at a distance, begins to roar. This distracts the herd, who seeing the roaring lion off in the distance and believing they are safe, are led into a snare. This is a parable of what will happen in the last days:

“Woe unto you that desire the day of the LORD! to what end is it for you? the day of the LORD is darkness, and not light. As if a man did flee from a lion, and a bear met him; or went into the house, and leaned his hand on the wall, and a serpent bit him.” (Amos 5:18-19)

We are told that the delusions of Satan will be so subtle that many will be deceived, even the elect (God’s people).

“In the great final conflict, Satan will employ the same policy, manifest the same spirit, and work for the same end, as in all preceding ages. That which has been, will be, except that the coming struggle will be marked with a terrible intensity such as the world has never witnessed. Satan’s deceptions will be more subtle, his assaults more determined. If it were possible, he would lead astray the elect.” (GC xi)

When John Harvey Kellogg published his book, *The Living Temple*, it introduced what was, up until then, one of the most dangerous attacks

against the true gospel since the organization of Adventism. This book introduced a theology and a philosophy of health that clearly went against the biblical foundational teachings of our faith.

“In a vision of the night I was shown distinctly that these sentiments have been looked upon by some as the grand truths that are to be brought in and made prominent at the present time. I was shown a platform, braced by solid timbers—the truths of the Word of God. Someone high in responsibility in the medical work was directing this man and that man to loosen the timbers supporting this platform. Then I heard a voice saying, ‘Where are the watchmen that ought to be standing on the walls of Zion? Are they asleep? This foundation was built by the Master Worker, and will stand storm and tempest. Will they permit this man to present doctrines that deny the past experience of the people of God? The time has come to take decided action.’ ” (1SM 204)

Thus, this apostasy sought to remove the pillars of our faith by first working on the practical level (as a corrupt philosophy of health), then filtering into and corrupting the pillars of Adventist theology. Ellen White saw that this had the ability to destroy the Advent movement and advocated a temporary separation of the diseased “right arm” from the gospel body.

“You have had access to *Testimonies for the Church*, volumes 7 and 8. In these Testimonies the danger signal is raised. But the light so clear and plain to minds that have not been influenced by deceptive theories, has not been discerned by some. While the misleading theories of this book [Kellogg’s *Living Temple*] are entertained by our physicians, there cannot be union between them and the ministers who are bearing the gospel message. There should be no union until there is a change.” (1SM 199)

With the admonition to keep separate an apostate health message from true theology, God’s people were also given the admonition that the two were not to remain in isolation: once the arm was cleansed and healed it was to be brought back into union with the body.

“When medical missionaries make their practice and example harmonize with the name they bear, when they feel their need of uniting firmly with the ministers of the gospel, then there can be harmonious action. But we must firmly refuse to be drawn away from the platform of eternal truth, which since 1844 has stood the test.” (1SM 199-200)

As this admonition was given regarding the initial departure of the medical work from sound biblical principle we were expressly warned that an apostasy of even greater magnitude would follow.

“I am instructed to speak plainly. ‘Meet it,’ is the word spoken to me. ‘Meet it firmly, and without delay.’ But it is not to be met by our taking our working forces from the field to investigate doctrines and points of difference. We have no such investigation to make. In the book *Living Temple* there is presented the alpha of deadly heresies. The omega will follow, and will be received by those who are not willing to heed the warning God has given.” (1SM 200)

We will give more examination to the “omega” in the proceeding chapter but, in terms of the “alpha,” is this movement still dangerous today? The aftermath of this attack swept away many prominent Adventists who sympathized with Kellogg. Among them were A.T. Jones, E.J. Waggoner, and numerous other physicians and ministers... Today the spirit of “The living Temple” is alive and well in the New Age Holistic Health Movement.

At the very core of the New Age movement is the philosophy of relativism: more specifically, that personal religion should not be confined to a particular dogma or sect; that every religion has its good points and it is perfectly acceptable to pick and choose what best suits the individual. Popular components include: deeply rooted pantheistic Buddhist and Hindu philosophies, Christianity, Judaism, Paganism, Gnosticism, Universalism, etc.... Thus, New Age practitioners may have varied beliefs and values.

We can recognize that the New Age philosophy of health displays a convergence of thought—a type of practical ecumenism. For those in the world searching for the “entering wedge” of the truth, many are finding this entering wedge of confusion instead.

Some of the modalities of New Age health care mimic those traditionally looked upon as God’s healing methods in Adventism: a vegetarian and even vegan diet, a use of simple rational remedies (herbal remedies, massage, hydrotherapy) and an encouragement toward health promoting lifestyle choices. However, a careful examination of New Age healing reveals a relativistic approach to healthy living: a higher critical form of religion in which one’s personal opinions are the standard for the interpretation of all religious systems; a gospel that “confuses what was already confusion.” In stark contrast, we have absolute truth. We are called to live by every word that proceeds from the mouth of our God (the Law and the Testimony). Thus we can have the solid assurance that, when we have met the conditions necessary to receive the promises, we can rely on the word of God to accomplish just what it has said it will do.

With the new age movement advocating some of the biblically based practical methods of healing, we see that the select methods of the “right arm of the gospel” have been amputated from the true gospel and reattached to the synagogue of Satan. A healthy mind is a discerning mind.

A discerning mind is a mind seeking truth. In the new age movement, Satan uses this clarity of thought to his advantage: he brings those brought in by this message to an intellectually higher state of confusion—pagan mysticism.

How can we be sure we are using the “right” arm?

The true gospel, and simultaneously, the true practical working of the gospel are under attack from within and without. But, once again, the Lord has given us guidelines to determine whether we are walking according to His will:

“To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.” (Isaiah 8:20)

“The sins of Babylon will be laid open. The fearful results of enforcing the observances of the church by civil authority, the inroads of spiritualism, the stealthy but rapid progress of the papal power—all will be unmasked. By these solemn warnings the people will be stirred. Thousands upon thousands will listen who have never heard words like these.” (GC 606)

If we are to be awake on the walls of Jerusalem to take part in this final movement that truly delineates truth from error, we must have a thorough understanding of the dangers of subtle deviations from the express command of God regarding the health work. Keep this in mind: a ship captain starting out on a trans-Atlantic journey headed for a port in England only needs to be a few degrees off with his sexton to end up off the coast of Africa.

“To stand in defense of truth and righteousness when the majority forsakes us, to fight the battles of the Lord when champions are few— this will be our test.”

Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, p. 136

Chapter 9 – The Omega: From Cause to Effect

“Before the final visitation of God's judgments upon the earth there will be among the people of the Lord such a revival of primitive godliness as has not been witnessed since apostolic times. The Spirit and power of God will be poured out upon His children. At that time many will separate themselves from those churches in which the love of this world has supplanted love for God and His word. Many, both of ministers and people, will gladly accept those great truths which God has caused to be proclaimed at this time to prepare a people for the Lord's second coming. The enemy of souls desires to hinder this work; and before the time for such a movement shall come, he will endeavor to prevent it by introducing a counterfeit.” (GC 464)

We were warned that the “alpha” was just the beginning of a movement towards a great apostasy in the church. We were also warned that the “Omega of Apostasy” (referred to in the previous chapter) would “soon follow” and “allow nothing to stand in its way.” However, just as Ellen G. White was called upon by God to “meet” the “Alpha of Apostasy” in her day, we are likewise called upon to stand in defense of the truth during the Omega. Let us then familiarize ourselves with the outward characteristics of this dangerous departure from the truth as it is in Jesus.

Please take note that as we unveil the system and infrastructure of the “Omega” deception, care must be taken to identify the fact that there are multitudes in this system who are unwittingly contributing to its ultimate design. These individuals must be warned and given a chance to take their stand on the side of righteousness. As for those on the outside who have experienced the tainted gospel coming from this system, they must be shown that this system, although it seemed to have originated from within the church, is found wanting of its principles. As broad as the injury done, so must be the rebuke and censure...

“Does anyone suppose that the messages of warning will not come to those whom God reproves?...When men endanger the work and cause of God by their own wrong course of action, shall they hear no voice of reproof? If the wrongdoer only were concerned, and the work reached no farther than him, he alone should have the words of warning; but when his course of

action is doing positive harm to the cause of truth, and souls are imperiled, God requires that the warning be as broad as the injury done. The testimonies will not be hindered. The words of rebuke and warning, the plain 'Thus saith the Lord,' will come from God's appointed agencies; for the words do not originate with the human instrument; they are from God, who appointed them their work...God calls for men of decided fidelity. He has no use in an emergency for two-sided men. He wants men who will lay their hand upon a wrong work and say, 'This is not according to the will of God.' " (2SM 152-153)

Then let us, line upon line, precept upon precept, expose the broadly injurious workings of the "Omega of Apostasy."

Note: The proceeding quotes (Statements #1 - #8) referring to the "Omega" are sequentially taken from 1 Selected Messages, p. 204-205.

STATEMENT #1 "In a vision of the night I was shown... The enemy of souls has sought to bring in the supposition that a great reformation was to take place among Seventh-day Adventists, and that this reformation would consist in giving up the doctrines which stand as the pillars of our faith, and engaging in a process of reorganization. Were this reformation to take place, what would result? The principles of truth that God in His wisdom has given to the remnant church, would be discarded. Our religion would be changed. The fundamental principles that have sustained the work for the last fifty years would be accounted as error. A new organization would be established."

In the aftermath and separation following the "alpha," instead of the health work receiving true healing, it was allowed to remain aloof from the God-given directives of the church. However, this mistake was strongly warned against.

"My brethren, the Lord calls for unity, for oneness. We are to be one in the faith. I want to tell you that when the gospel ministers and the medical missionary workers are not united, there is placed on our churches the worst evil that can be placed there. Our medical missionaries ought to be interested in the work of our conferences, and our conference workers ought to be as much interested in the work of our medical missionaries." (MM 241)

An exhaustive search of Ellen G. White's writings will reveal that the term "the worst evil," used to describe the church corporately, only appears in the aforementioned counsel. In the writer's viewpoint, and also according to Julius Gilbert White's book *The Alpha & Omega of Apostasy*, this is referring to the inception of the "Omega of Apostasy." This prolonged separation may have appeared as only a slight deviation from counsel, but the aftermath of this separation brought in a deluge of compromise and

conformity. As we will see, the independently minded medical missionary work took a turn in the direction of Gehazi: a veering off from the prophetic instructions in order to obtain a Babylonian garment and wedge of silver (worldly status and prosperity). Thus began a process of reorganization apart from the dictates of the original inspired directives: instead of remaining in the brotherhood of Adventist brethren, we partnered with the insidiously manipulative “medical fraternity.”

Sister White had much to say in regard to the danger of this entity: unfortunately the messages of warning went unheeded...

“Study the Bible more and the theories of the medical fraternity less, and you will have greater spiritual health. Your mind will be clearer and more vigorous. Much that is embraced in a medical course is positively unnecessary. Those who take a medical training spend a great deal of time in learning that which is worthless. Many of the theories that they learn may be compared in value to the traditions and maxims taught by the scribes and Pharisees. Many of the intricacies with which they have to become familiar are an injury to their minds.” (CH 369-370)

The dangers in alliance with this organization were very pronounced. In fact, Sister White was given the Divine revelation that this entity was as insidiously dangerous to humanity as the sinister workings of secret societies:

“The influence you have gained in the medical profession is large and broad, and in some respects it has been as God would have it. You have caused the light God has given you to shine forth to others, and this light has influenced others to labor in the different lines of the medical work. But according to the light the Lord has given me, something of the spirit of Freemasonry exists, and has built a wall about the work. The old, regular practice has been exalted as the only true method for the treatment of disease. And to a large degree this feeling has leavened the physicians connected with you. They have resorted to drugs in cases of fever—to break it up, as they have thought. This method has broken up fevers and other diseases, but in some cases it has broken up the whole man with it.

“Dr. Kellogg, God has given you favor with the medical fraternity, and he would have you hold that favor. But in no case are you to stand as do the physicians of the world to exalt allopathy above every other practice, and call all other methods quackery and error; for from the beginning to the present time the results of allopathy have made a most objectionable showing. There has been loss of life in your sanitarium because drugs have been administered, and these give no chance for nature to do her work of restoration. Drug medication has broken up the power of the human machinery, and the patients have died. Others have carried the drugs away with them, making less effective the simple remedies nature uses to restore

the system. The students in your institution [Battle Creek Sanitarium] are not to be educated to regard drugs as a necessity. They are to be educated to leave drugs alone.

“The medical fraternity, represented to me as Freemasonry, with their long, unintelligible names which common people cannot understand, would call the Lord’s prescription for Hezekiah quackery*. Death was pronounced upon the king, but he prayed for life, and his prayer was heard. Those who had the care of him were told to get a bunch of figs and put them on the sore, and the king was restored. This means was taken by God to teach them that all their preparations were only depriving the king of the power to rally and overcome disease. While they pursued their course of treatment, his life could not be saved. The Lord diverted their minds from their wonderful mysteries to a simple remedy of nature.

“There are lessons for us all in these directions. Young men who are sent to Ann Arbor to obtain an education which they think will exalt them as supreme in their treatment of disease by drugs, will find that it will result in the loss of life rather than restoration to health and strength. These mixtures place a double taxation upon nature, and in the effort to throw off the poisons they contain, thousands of persons lose their lives. We must leave drugs entirely alone, for in using them we introduce an enemy into the system. I write this because we have to meet this drug medication in the physicians in this country, and we do not want this practice, as in Battle Creek, to steal into our midst as a thief. We want the door closed against the enemy before the lives of human beings are imperiled.” (16MR 287-290)

**The American Medical Association, founded in the mid eighteen hundreds, has kept careful records of what allopath’s deem “quackery.” Many of these can found archived through the AMA’s website: <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/about-ama/our-history/ama-historical-archives/historical-ama-documents.page>*

We have been given grave warnings about partnering with secret societies in these last days of earth’s history:

“[Revelation 18:1-8 quoted.] This terrible picture, drawn by John to show how completely the powers of earth will give themselves over to evil, should show those who have received the truth how dangerous it is to link up with secret societies or to join themselves in any way with those who do not keep God’s commandments.” (7BC 985)

What could possibly be the connection with the Freemasons and the allopathic labor union (the AMA)? There are actually several factors. One of which is the similar purpose of the two entities: to follow the dictates of the “grand architect,” which is the ultimate degradation of humanity (the higher-degree freemasons knowingly, and due to their physically destructive practices, allopathic practitioners by default). Just as those

entering medical schools, many freemasons do not understand with whom they are partnering. But, what appears on the surface to be a benevolent charitable cause or brotherhood hides the fact that it is ultimately following the designs of Lucifer (the “grand architect” of freemasonry).

“I have been permitted to look in upon these secret societies, their feasts, their order, their works, and my prayer has been, ‘Hide them from my sight forever. Let me not understand more.’ One thing I do know, that those who remain in connection with them will be burned up with the bundles of tares, one with them in the last day.” (20MR 286)

Another factor binding the allopath’s and freemasons together was that they historically worked in concert. Corresponding to Ellen White’s representation that the medical fraternity was indeed freemasonry, the allopathic medical fraternity (aka, American Medical Association) was supported and, thus, in many ways controlled by the wealthy financiers J.D. Rockefeller and Andrew Carnegie (both 33 degree freemasons).

However, despite claiming supremacy in medical practice the AMA had no political power prior to 1910. Various schools for training up medical practitioners existed, but all potential licensees took the same state board examinations. But this all changed in 1910.

As urged on by the AMA, the Carnegie “Foundation for the advancement of Teaching” hired a non-medically inclined “educator” to critically review medical education in the United States and Canada. This man, Abraham Flexner, often accompanied by AMA representatives, visited or at least claimed to have visited all the medical schools in North America. His findings: close minority schools, close women’s schools, close schools that practice natural remedies, close schools that graduate physicians who will work for low wages, close schools who do not have and adequate pharmacy, etc. **Please read the article “Around the Continent in 180 days: the Journey of Abraham Flexner,” by Mark Hyatt, MD, for more details.**

Prior to releasing the Flexner report Carnegie invested a large share of his wealth in the pharmaceutical industry. Today this would be looked upon as “insider trading.” At this time, Carnegie and Rockefeller virtually owned the free press. What the press published were headlines sensationally criticizing medical instruction and implanting pandemonium in the minds of the American public. With the creation of this great need of reform, the American Medical Association offered to implement the “benevolent” suggestions regarding how medical instruction should be carried out, and it was given political power. From that time onward the AMA set the standards in medical education and medical practice—eventually even on the global level.

Subsequently, Battle Creek (criticized by Flexner as “training disciples rather than physicians”) merged with University of Michigan. Loma Linda, given a choice of whether to choose a different accreditation for its physicians or follow the ways of the AMA chose to follow the latter (see the *Broken Blueprint*, by Vance Ferrell, p. 160-161, 166-167).

Thus we see the separation of the gospel from the true medical missionary work allowed Satan to interpose and reorganize his own systems into Adventism. Our sanitarium system (which was supposed to one day encircle the globe) was gradually leavened with the principles underlying the hospital system begun by Pope Innocent III.

Thus we shifted from the sanitarium focus to a profit-based system. Furthermore, in terms of the consequences from the great reorganization, our institutions that were to train up missionaries to promote the gospel became required to meet the world’s standard in order to procure accreditation in this system. As a result, we lost sight of “true education” and our youth became increasingly tainted with worldly sentiments: often emerging from this corrupted educational system to work as an agency against the theological pillars of Adventism.

STATEMENT #2 “Books of a new order would be written.”

For the proponents of the omega, the changes to the health work faced a major roadblock: the plain utterances of the Spirit of Prophecy were found in opposition to its agenda (ex: liberal use of drug medications, worldly accreditation, establishment of mammoth institutions, etc.). Thus, when faced with these obstacles, a subtle attack was made upon the inspired writings themselves. Examples of this occurrence: some advocated that the admonitions were time sensitive, that medication was increasingly “less harmful,” and that reforms in medical care allowed us to throw out the sanitarium concept and embrace the medical practices of the world. Books such as *The History of Our Health Message* praised the “providential leadings” that had guided our “primitive” health message into such a magnificent healthcare organization. Compilers for the White Estate began inserting their own opinions around inspired admonitions (such as warnings regarding drug medications, warnings regarding the medical fraternity, etc.).

Furthermore, those who closely knew the prophet, such as Ellen White’s son, Willie White, were entrusted with supreme jurisdiction regarding what his mother “really meant” when she had something to say contrary to the new movement. Ellen White herself addressed this misguided approach to understanding her writings:

“Do not give credence to unauthenticated reports as to what Sister White has done or said or written. If you desire to know what the Lord has revealed through her, read her published works.” (5T 696)

STATEMENT #3 *“A system of intellectual philosophy would be introduced.”*

One of the stated goals of the Flexner report was to establish physicians as “scientists” and agents of social change. In fact, speaking on the situation at Battle Creek, Flexner stated the following: “under the limitations of the therapeutic theories approved by the sanitarium authorities; a critical and investigative spirit is not cultivated,” “the sanitarium is devoted to the application of certain ideas rather than to untrammelled scientific investigation,” and “Scientific unity seems in any case unattainable.” Thus, what was in reality a commendation (our adherence to the standards and practices that God instituted in our health institutions) was seen by the world as a crutch and an inhibition to true development.

Instead of rallying behind the Divine standard we unfortunately accepted the “higher calling” to train up our physicians to be independent thinkers rather than unquestionably obedient to the principles of Jehovah. Furthermore, as the movement grew, the modern “scientific method” (as discussed in chapter 5) became a major underlying philosophy governing Adventist education and, ultimately, a detriment to the exercise of unquestioning faith in those thus ensnared.

Unfortunately, as a denomination, we appeared to have forgotten the warning that “the false science of the nineteenth century, which undermines faith in the Bible, will prove as successful in preparing the way for the acceptance of the papacy, with its pleasing forms, as did the withholding of knowledge in opening the way for its aggrandizement in the Dark Ages.” (GC88 572)

This critical or “investigative” spirit was not long confined to the medical work. Our “entering wedge of the gospel” actually became a route in which our gospel message was attacked and seemingly undermined. Translating over to theological lines of study, the higher criticism, or man’s critical interpretation as to the meanings of the inspired writings, had its toll upon key pillars of Adventist Doctrine. Of special target were the investigative judgment and the nature of Christ: the subjects that especially set us apart from other evangelical denominations. This lessening of the infallibility of the inspired writings led to books being released in the mid 1950’s that began specifically targeting these and other theological pillars of Adventism (*Questions on Doctrine, Movement of Destiny*, etc).

STATEMENT #4 *“The founders of this system would go into the cities, and do a wonderful work.”*

The reorganized “Adventist” health system did not continue to follow the counsel to have many small sanitariums established in rural areas outside the major cities. Instead, mammoth hospitals in urban locales gradually became its hallmark. Thus, it conducts a work in the cities, but as to the character of the work, it is decidedly profit-based. In a profit-based system, the amount of philanthropy often becomes the marker of the benevolence of an organization. Our health system is no exception. Monies “given,” or written off as losses, to those unable to pay their bills are an integral part of the compassionate themes in the annual reports of the Adventist Health System. Although every hospital system suffers similar losses, our denominational healthcare system imposes them as benevolent charitable acts for marketing purposes.

Furthermore, in terms of the “wonderful” accomplishments of this system, we have been praised by notable statesman because of the fact that we operate the largest Protestant healthcare network in the country and even run the largest stand-alone hospital in the US. In John 12:43, the scripture reads: “For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.” How about us today? Do we pride ourselves as a denomination when we are lauded for our healthcare infrastructure? Or, rather, should we not be seeking, by following His commands, the “well done thou good and faithful servant” from our Lord?

STATEMENT #5 *“The Sabbath of course, would be lightly regarded, as also the God who created it.”*

The fact that many of our health institutions are not primarily staffed by Adventists fundamentally desecrates the sanctity of the Sabbath. For how can you teach a patient what it means to keep the Sabbath holy if those entrusted with their care do not even regard the Sabbath themselves? In all our institutions, and by all of our institutional workers, the Sabbath should be held in marked reverence:

“Genuine medical missionary work is bound up inseparably with the keeping of God’s commandments, of which the Sabbath is especially mentioned, since it is the great memorial of God’s creative work. Its observance is bound up with the work of restoring the moral image of God in man. This is the ministry which God’s people are to carry forward at this time. This ministry, rightly performed, will bring rich blessings to the church.” (6T 265-266)

If we are not individually and corporately upholding the sanctity of the Sabbath we cannot fitly reflect the third angel’s message.

“Again and again I have been instructed that the medical missionary work is to bear the same relation to the work of the third angel’s message that the arm and hand bear to the body. Under the direction of the divine Head

they are to work unitedly in preparing the way for the coming of Christ. The right arm of the body of truth is to be constantly active, constantly at work, and God will strengthen it. But it is not to be made the body. At the same time the body is not to say to the arm, 'I have no need of thee.' The body has need of the arm in order to do active, aggressive work. Both have their appointed work, and each will suffer great loss if worked independently of the other." (6T 288)

STATEMENT #6 *"Nothing would be allowed to stand in the way of the new movement..."*

The aftermath of the great medical reorganization of the early 1900's spawned much debate and litigation. Practitioners of natural medicine sought in vain to stem the tide of the emerging medical monopoly. Of great significance in this matter, our church had legitimate documented claim that its medical practice was a part of its religious exercises (and thus protected by the first amendment). It could have opposed and thwarted the plans to restrict medical practice to one sect, but sadly, instead of our church standing up to oppose this unholy reorganization they embraced and aided the movement. The world suffered a tremendous loss as a result of the church's negligence.

This loss continues: today any who stand in the way of the church-approved allopathic practice are ridiculed as quacks and ostracized by the system. Furthermore, those who continue to justify their roles to benefit financially in the practice of modern allopathy are highly esteemed, wealthy, and numerous in our churches today—potentially a formidable foe against genuine medical missionary work. God is calling Adventist physicians and healthcare workers to a higher and holier practice but these who remain critical of His admonitions God Himself will judge:

"The Lord does not want anyone to labor as His representative who follows the wrong customs and practices of worldly physicians in treating suffering humanity. Our physicians need to reform in the matter of making high charges for critical operations. And the reform should extend farther than this. Often an exorbitant sum is charged for even small services, because physicians are supposed to be governed in their charges by the practices of worldly physicians. Some follow worldly policy in order to accumulate means, as they say, for God's service. But God does not accept such offerings. He says, 'I hate robbery for burnt offering.' (Isaiah 61:8) Those who deal unjustly with their fellowmen while professing to believe My word, I will judge for thus misrepresenting Me." (MM 125)

STATEMENT #7 *"The leaders would teach that virtue is better than vice, but God being removed, they would place their dependence on human power, which, without God, is worthless. Their foundation would be built on the sand, and storm and tempest would sweep away the structure."*

Medical missionary work is not the genuine article if we treat it as a secular business (God being removed) even if we teach basic Judeo-Christian values (ex: “virtue is better than vice”).

“In ministering to the sick, more than in any merely secular business, success depends on the spirit of consecration and self-sacrifice with which the work is done. Those who bear responsibilities need to place themselves where they will be deeply impressed by the Spirit of God. You should have as much greater anxiety than do others for the aid of the Holy Spirit and for a knowledge of God as your position of trust is more responsible than that of others.” (MH 511-512)

“No line is to be drawn between the genuine medical missionary work and the gospel ministry. These two must blend. They are not to stand apart as separate lines of work. They are to be joined in an inseparable union, even as the hand is joined to the body. Those in our institutions are to give evidence that they understand their part in the genuine gospel medical missionary work. A solemn dignity is to characterize genuine medical missionaries. They are to be men who understand and know God and the power of His grace.” (MM 250)

An example of departure from these principles could not be clearer than what took place on December 14, 1995. Two of Colorado’s largest healthcare providers PorterCare Adventist Health System and Sister of Charity Health Services of Colorado (a Catholic healthcare organization) merged citing “shared values of healthcare as mission derived from a common Christian heritage.” (*Louisville Times*, December 16, 1995, p. 10). What concord does light have with darkness? Do we truly share a common mission with the papacy? If so, we are no longer emphasizing the third angel’s message—the preparatory message for Christ’s second advent.

STATEMENT #8 *“Who has authority to begin such a movement? We have our Bibles. We have our experience, attested to by the miraculous working of the Holy Spirit. We have a truth that admits of no compromise. Shall we not repudiate everything that is not in harmony with this truth? I hesitated and delayed about the sending out of that which the Spirit of the Lord impelled me to write. I did not want to be compelled to present the misleading influence of these sophistries. But in the providence of God, the errors that have been coming in must be met.”*

The Author has had his own struggles regarding the sending out of these messages. Rebuke, insult and derision have kept back this message long enough. It is time for God’s people to rally around the standard of truth. There is no biblical authority for our health work having taken this misguided direction. If we are truly to be the movement of destiny, we must become one with Christ; our right arm must fully display the same characteristics of our gospel message. For millions and millions of people,

our health institutions are the first and often the only view of Adventist doctrine they will ever receive. For Adventists themselves, millions of members have become leavened with false theology through the practical representation of a corrupt philosophy of health.

“The health reform is a branch of the special work of God for the benefit of His people. I saw that in an institution established among us the greatest danger would be of its managers' departing from the spirit of the present truth and from that simplicity which should ever characterize the disciples of Christ. A warning was given me against lowering the standard of truth in any way in such an institution in order to help the feelings of unbelievers and thus secure their patronage. The great object of receiving unbelievers into the institution is to lead them to embrace the truth. If the standard be lowered, they will get the impression that the truth is of little importance, and they will go away in a state of mind harder of access than before.

“But the greatest evil resulting from such a course would be its influence upon the poor, afflicted, believing patients, which would affect the cause generally. They have been taught to trust in the prayer of faith, and many of them are bowed down in spirit because prayer is not now more fully answered. I saw that the reason why God did not hear the prayers of His servants for the sick among us more fully was that He could not be glorified in so doing while they were violating the laws of health. And I also saw that He designed the health reform and Health Institute to prepare the way for the prayer of faith to be fully answered.” (1T 560)

Furthermore, through our departure from the Divine principles governing our health institutions, we have also been paving the way for Satan to come impersonating the “Great Medical Missionary.”

“The sick will be healed before us. Miracles will be performed in our sight. Are we prepared for the trial which awaits us when the lying wonders of Satan shall be more fully exhibited? Will not many be ensnared and taken? By departing from the plain precepts and commandments of God and giving heed to fables, the minds of many are preparing to receive these lying wonders. We must all now seek to arm ourselves for the contest in which we must soon engage. Faith in God’s word, prayerfully studied and practically applied, will be our shield from Satan’s power and will bring us off conquerors through the blood of Christ.” (1T 302)

We may powerfully present the most intellectually stimulating concepts and ideals, we may even feel that we are converted, but if our practice contradicts the Truth as it is in Jesus, we are missionaries working against our own message. We are delaying the coming of the Lord.

“How can finite man carry the burdens of responsibility for this time? His people have been far behind. Human agencies under the divine planning may recover something of what is lost because the people who had great light did not have corresponding piety, sanctification, and zeal in working out God’s specified plans. They have lost to their own disadvantage what they might have gained to the advancement of the truth if they had carried out the plans and will of God. Man cannot possibly stretch over that gulf that has been made by the workers who have not been following the divine Leader.

“We may have to remain here in this world because of insubordination many more years, as did the children of Israel, but for Christ’s sake, His people should not add sin to sin by charging God with the consequence of their own wrong course of action. Now, have men who claim to believe the Word of God learned their lesson that obedience is better than sacrifice? ‘He hath showed thee [this rebellious people], O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?’ (Micah 6:8)” (10MR 277-278)

Our only safety and security in such a time as this is to humbly and prayerfully join with the voice of the psalmist:

“God be merciful unto us, and bless us; and cause his face to shine upon us **[reference to Revelation 18:1 – Loud Cry; Revelation 22:4 – Sealing]**. Selah. That thy way **[Psalms 77:13 – The Sanctuary Message]** may be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations. Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee. O let the nations be glad and sing for joy: for thou shalt judge **[Daniel 7:10; Revelation 20:12 – The Investigative Judgment]** the people righteously, and govern the nations upon earth. Selah. Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee. Then shall the earth yield her increase; and God, even our own God, shall bless us. God shall bless us; and all the ends of the earth shall fear him.” (Psalm 67:1-7).

“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears.”

2 Timothy 4:3

Chapter 10 – The New Theological Practice

In terms of the Christianity of today, we are confronted with every wind of doctrine, but the most deadly foe to Christianity is compromise with man’s traditions to find excuse for sin. The entrance of “New Theology” in Adventism is leading many to disregard their distinct calling—to help prepare others and be personally prepared to stand in the Day of the Lord. In our very midst, this theology characterizes a movement more deadly and yet subtler than any enemy God’s people have ever faced.

Although the intellectual pretexts of “New Theology” are well established in our church today, and receive much attention as the cause of a great amount of the backslidings in the church, many do not realize the extent to which this leaven of error has permeated our lives. Believe it or not, a “new theology” in practice (or practical life) is now the philosophy of health (or practiced health message) of many in the advent movement.

Note: if you are unfamiliar with the term “New Theology,” you may want to read the book “Reaping the Whirlwind” by Evangelist Joe Crews.

The following are examples of New Theology as practically illustrated through lifestyle (our personal philosophy of health).

- 1) The false doctrine of original sin** states that *“to Sin is not a choice, we are born sinners, we will always be sinners.”*

Practically displayed in a false philosophy of health: “Disease is caused by faulty genetics; lifestyle doesn’t matter because we have no choice in the matter.”

Example: Someone defending a transgression of the natural law—*“We are going to die anyway...I might as well enjoy myself a little while I’m here.”*

- 2) The false doctrine of the unfallen nature of Christ** states that *“Christ did not need to overcome sin in the way we do, therefore we do not need to overcome. It was easier for Him to not commit sin than for us.”*

Practically displayed in a false philosophy of health: “It is perfectly acceptable not to live a healthy life in all aspects because we are not required to be perfect.”

Example: “A little wine here or there...a few puffs of cigar smoke...a little pepperoni on my pizza, even though I know it’s bad for my health...is not going to make me lose my salvation. God knows my heart. I’m a good person.”

- 3) **The false doctrine of salvation by justification alone** states that “We are saved and made righteous once and for all. We can then return to our sins because we are no longer under the law.”

Practically displayed in a false philosophy of health: “All we need to do is ask to be healed and we can get a pill, a high tech treatment, a knee replacement, etc. We can then continue living the unhealthy lifestyle that ‘9 times out of ten’ resulted in our illness.”

Example: A COPD (primarily tobacco-related lung disease) patient stating “I need a breathing treatment so I can go take a smoke break.”

Note: the deadly nature of this doctrine is clearly represented by the fact that, though medication use is rampant and may suppress unpleasant symptoms and even appear to cure; most people are still dying because of lifestyle-related diseases. This is due to the fact that there was no fundamental change to remedy the cause (improper lifestyle), no repentance for transgression (violation of natural law), and no true healing (only a change in form and location). Thus, this “gospel in practice” embraces the satanic power to manipulate disease and legitimizes, through a practical representation, the false principles of “New Theology.” These subtle “miracles of healing” are wrought every day and they are indeed deceiving “the very elect.”

- 4) **The false doctrine of the imperfectability of Christian character** states that “We will never be perfect...striving to daily obtain perfection of character and victory over besetting sins through Christ is tantamount to salvation by works!”

Practically displayed in a false philosophy of health: We can keep making unhealthy lifestyle choices because “we don’t need to be perfect.”

The health message, when properly conducted, reveals to the world our highest calling as followers of Christ: to overcome (Revelation 3:21). Satan has sown the tares of “New Theology” among God’s faithful because he knows that if God’s church is not yet overcoming, Christ is not yet coming (His way has not been fully prepared):

“Christ is waiting with longing desire for the manifestation of Himself in His church. When the character of Christ shall be perfectly reproduced in His people, then He will come to claim them as His own. It is the privilege of every Christian not only to look for but to hasten the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, (2 Peter 3:12, margin). Were all who profess His name bearing fruit to His glory, how quickly the whole world would be sown with the seed of the gospel. Quickly the last great harvest would be ripened, and Christ would come to gather the precious grain.” (COL 69)

Thus, “New Theology” in pretext or practice plays a role in destroying the pursuit of character perfection, empowered by the grace of Christ, for which every good Christian soldier is to earnestly contend.

“Those who strive lawfully will have complete victory at last, but there is too much striving that is not done in the Spirit of Christ. We should strive to obtain the victory over every unholy passion of the soul, over every spiritual weakness, over every defect of character. We should seek to excel in the graces of the Spirit of God, in meekness, patience, goodness, love, peace, and joy. If we strive for this, it will be a worthy, lawful striving that will be rewarded of God. In contending for the faith, we must be careful to stand as did Christ before the people; we must have a spirit that will correspond to the purity and greatness of the doctrines we advocate. We must teach the truth as it is in Jesus. We must labor as does the husbandman, with diligence and patience, that we may be partakers of the fruits. We must do the will of God before we can receive the promise. ‘For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.’ ‘Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things.’ ” (ST 4-14-1890)

Even with great power and intellectual enlightenment, we are powerless in proclaiming the gospel message without first conforming our thoughts, feelings, and consequent actions to the will of the Lord. May the love of Christ constrain us to reach the higher standard of character: by His grace the casting aside of every besetting sin and by faith the embracing of His righteousness.

“And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in.”

Isaiah 58:12

Chapter 11 – Closure: For Such a Time as This

“I wish to tell you that soon there will be no work done in ministerial lines but medical missionary work. The work of a minister is to minister. Our ministers are to work on the gospel plan of ministering.” (CH 533)

We are told that persecution will unite against the proclamation of the truth in such a way that it will hedge up the standard routes of gospel presentation. We need not be dismayed. Remember that Christ Himself encountered such opposition and met it with the gospel in practice—with practical object lessons revealing principles of heavenly truth.

“Again, Christ had truths to present which the people were unprepared to accept or even to understand. For this reason also He taught them in parables. By connecting His teaching with the scenes of life, experience, or nature, He secured their attention and impressed their hearts. Afterward, as they looked upon the objects that illustrated His lessons, they recalled the words of the divine Teacher. To minds that were open to the Holy Spirit, the significance of the Saviour’s teaching unfolded more and more. Mysteries grew clear, and that which had been hard to grasp became evident.” (COL 21)

Even now, during times of peace, evangelistic efforts should be using this entering wedge as a way of reaching minds filled with confusion and blighted by human philosophy and vain deceit.

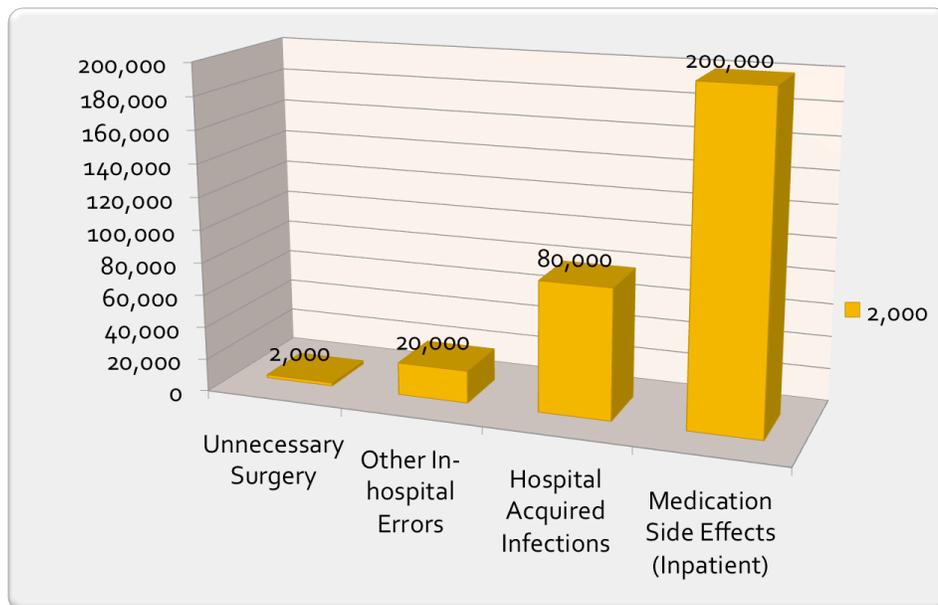
“You will never be ministers after the gospel order till you show a decided interest in medical missionary work, the gospel of healing and blessing and strengthening....It is because of the directions I have received from the Lord that I have the courage to stand among you and speak as I do, notwithstanding the way in which you may look at the medical missionary work. I wish to say that the medical missionary work is God’s work. The Lord wants every one of His ministers to come into line. Take hold of the medical missionary work, and it will give you access to the people. Their hearts will be touched as you minister to their necessities. As you relieve

their sufferings, you will find opportunity to speak to them of the love of Jesus.” (CH 533)

Now more than ever we have opportunity for this type of evangelism. Public health experts have identified a growing crisis in our current healthcare system. The underlying factor is that very little resources are being put into prevention and wellness initiatives.

In an ideal healthcare system (according to the US Public Health Service) the vast majority of resources should be used for primary prevention (prevention education, etc.). This would decrease the disease burden on our acute care infrastructure, leading to less hospitalizations, and untimely, deaths. Unfortunately, our health system is the reverse of where it should be, with the vast majority of resources used for treating highly acute conditions (cardiac bypass surgery, bariatric surgery, ICU hospitalizations). This system increases the number of extremely sick individuals while it does little to prevent illness. This is good news for healthcare profits but bad news for public health. Flaws are becoming more and more evident in our health system due to the burgeoning level of disease and disability resulting from the profit based medical monopoly (in the US, a person is over twice as likely to die from a complication of hospitalization than a stroke).

Healthy Hospitals?



Over 300,000 deaths per year due to hospital visits!

Sources:

JAMA. Vol 284, No 4, July 26th 2000

Jason, et al. (Lazarou et al), Incidence of Adverse Drug Reactions in Hospitalized Patients, Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA), Vol. 279. April 15, 1998, pp. 1200-05

All this leaves a huge void...and a perfect wedge to fill it—the proclamation of Biblical Health Reform! We should have no shortage of workers. The active promulgation of our health message calls for the enlisting of the entire Seventh-day Adventist church:

“Here is Battle Creek, with a large church, the members of which are called upon, in the name of the Lord, to go out into the field and help their fellow beings, to bring joy to those in sorrow, to heal the sick, to show men and women that they are destroying themselves.” (1NL 136)

“When the third angel’s message is received in its fullness, health reform will be given its place in the councils of the conference, in the work of the church, in the home, at the table, and in all the household arrangements. Then the right arm will serve and protect the body.” (6T 327)

If we are truly God’s people we cannot stand to see our brothers and sisters being destroyed for a lack of knowledge. For “the sake of securing their patronage” we cannot let our foundation be modified to fit the standards and practices of the world! Our fundamental purpose for carrying forth this work was never to make our denomination rich monetarily. Rather, it is to plant seeds leading to a rich harvest of souls for God’s kingdom. Brethren, let us learn from Gehazi’s mistake in 2 Kings chapter 5! The prophet in Israel entrusted him with a message of health and healing, but he turned it into a method of securing monetary gain and worldly honor (symbolized by the Babylonian garments). Because this policy is rampant in our healthcare system today is no excuse for its continuance.

“The policy principle is one that will assuredly lead into difficulties. He who regards the favor of men as more desirable than the favor of God will fall under the temptation to sacrifice principle for worldly gain or recognition. Thus fidelity to God is constantly being sacrificed. Truth, God's truth, must be cherished in the soul and held in the strength of heaven, or the power of Satan will wrest it from you. Never entertain the thought that an honest, truthful physician cannot succeed. Such a sentiment dishonors the God of truth and righteousness. He can succeed; for he has God and heaven on his side. Let every bribe to dissimulate be sternly refused. Hold fast your integrity in the strength of the grace of Christ, and He will fulfill His word to you.” (MM 71-72)

Let us then not be directed by the potential for monetary gain or the praise of men, but cling to the promise of eternal riches and give glory to God.

In conclusion, let us reflect upon the workings of God in dealing with His people in times past. He is ever ready to heal, ever willing to forgive, and ever ready to pardon those who forsake the errors of their ways and choose to serve Him with an undivided heart.

“...It was for the purpose of making plain His merciful designs that He kept sending His servants the prophets with the message, ‘Turn ye again now everyone from his evil way.’ (Jeremiah 25:5) ‘For My name’s sake,’ He declared through Isaiah, ‘will I defer Mine anger, and for My praise will I refrain for thee, that I cut thee not off.’ ‘For Mine own sake, even for Mine own sake, will I do it: for how should My name be polluted? and I will not give My glory unto another.’ (Isaiah 48:9, 11)

“The call to repentance was sounded with unmistakable clearness, and all were invited to return. ‘Seek ye the Lord while He may be found,’ the prophet pleaded; ‘call ye upon Him while He is near: let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.’ (Isaiah 55:6-7)

“Have you, reader, chosen your own way? Have you wandered far from God? Have you sought to feast upon the fruits of transgression, only to find them turn to ashes upon your lips? And now, your life plans thwarted and your hopes dead, do you sit alone and desolate? That voice which has long been speaking to your heart, but to which you would not listen, comes to you distinct and clear, ‘Arise ye, and depart; for this is not your rest: because it is polluted, it shall destroy you, even with a sore destruction.’ (Micah 2:10) Return to your Father’s house. He invites you, saying, ‘Return unto Me; for I have redeemed thee.’ ‘Come unto Me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David.’ (Isaiah 44:22; 55:3)” (PK 319)

As God’s people today, are we truly representing the truths of the gospel in our health message? If we are to take seriously the prophecy that the health work is to be the last work done in ministerial lines, we must rend our hearts, and, as with the “alpha of apostasy,” “meet” the omega and pray for the revelation of God’s “Holy Arm” in fully practicing the truth for this time. Does the call for the realignment of our denominational establishments, to meet the Divine standards, sound like too extreme a measure or too great a sacrifice to make? Let us examine this principle for a moment...

“If morality and religion are to live in a school, it must be through a knowledge of God's word. Some may urge that if religious teaching is to be

made prominent our school will become unpopular; that those who are not of our faith will not patronize the college. Very well, then, let them go to other colleges, where they will find a system of education that suits their taste. Our school was established, not merely to teach the sciences, but for the purpose of giving instruction in the great principles of God's word and in the practical duties of everyday life.

“This is the education so much needed at the present time. If a worldly influence is to bear sway in our school, then sell it out to worldlings and let them take the entire control; and those who have invested their means in that institution will establish another school, to be conducted, not upon the plan of popular schools, nor according to the desires of principal and teachers, but upon the plan which God has specified.

“In the name of my Master I entreat all who stand in responsible positions in that school to be men of God. When the Lord requires us to be distinct and peculiar, how can we crave popularity or seek to imitate the customs and practices of the world?” (5T 25)

God's church is the apple of His eye. He loves us and is ever ready to forgive and pardon. But a house built on iniquity will most assuredly crumble. A house divided shall not stand... But behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in true unity... As gloomy as may seem the current outlook, God's church on earth will never fail. Its commission proceeds throughout the eternal ages...

“Satan will work his miracles to deceive; he will set up his power as supreme. The church may appear as about to fall, but it does not fall. It remains, while the sinners in Zion will be sifted out--the chaff separated from the precious wheat. This is a terrible ordeal, but nevertheless it must take place. None but those who have been overcoming by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony will be found with the loyal and true, without spot or stain of sin, without guile in their mouths. We must be divested of our self-righteousness and arrayed in the righteousness of Christ.” (2SM 380)

Do not be beset with disappointment and despair at what seems like an impossible task. The reward awaiting His faithful is beyond computation. Reader, behold the patriarchs standing at the entrance of the New Jerusalem. Enter into the communion with holy angels, become awed at the expansive foliage and seemingly endless bounty of fruit descending from the Tree of Life. See the One whom your sins have pierced. Express your gratitude to the One who forever will call forth the praises from your gracious lips. Experience the eternal promises of the faithful. Place your sights and place your hearts' desires on heaven.

Are you longing for such a place? Are you living for such a place? Is it your desire to lay aside every weight and encumbrance that may be keeping you from accepting Jesus' gift of righteousness, not as a theological premise, but as a faith that works by love? Do you recognize the need then of our theological truth and its true practical revelation "being made whole"? If this is so in your life today, and if you are willing to heed first this injunction personally, let us hold fast our faith and, by His strength, endure and prosper in this glorious faith *and* this glorious work till the end.

"When the medical missionary work thus wins men and women to a saving knowledge of Christ and His truth...it is a work that will endure." (6T 280)

Appendix – Listing of Ellen G. White Book/ Article Abbreviations

Citation Book or Article

1BC	Bible Commentary, The SDA , Vol. 1 (2BC for Vol. 2, etc.)
CD	Counsels on Diet and Foods
CH	Counsels on Health
COL	Christ's Object Lessons
DA	Desire of Ages, The
EW	Early Writings
GC	Great Controversy, The
GC88	Great Controversy, The (1888 edition)
HL	Healthful Living
HP	In Heavenly Places
LDE	Last Day Events
MH	Ministry of Healing, The
ML	My Life Today
MM	Medical Ministry
1MR	Manuscript Releases, Vol. 1 (2MR for Vol. 2, etc.)
1NL	Notebook Leaflets, Vol. 1 (2NL for Vol. 2)
OHC	Our High Calling
PK	Prophets and Kings
1SM	Selected Messages, Book One (2SM for Book 2, etc.)
SR	Story of Redemption, The
ST	Signs of the Times
1T	Testimonies for the Church Vol. 1 (2T for Vol. 2, etc.)
TSDF	Testimony Studies on Diet and Foods