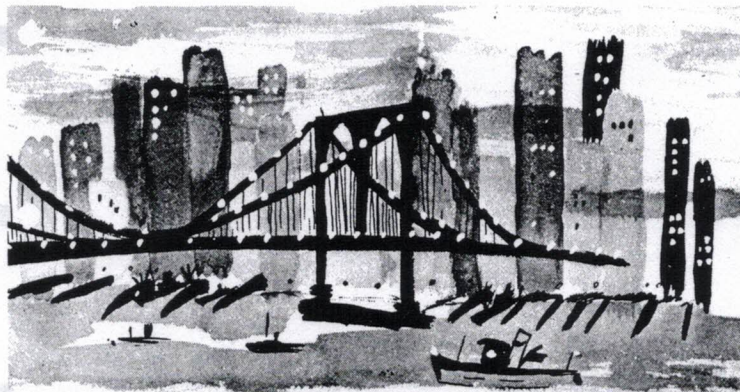


✓
March/19.



"Watchman,
what of the night?"

The watchman said, The morning cometh, and also the night: if ye will enquire, enquire ye: return, come. Isaiah 21:11-12

ARE YOU AN INFIDEL?

"So perfect is the character represented which men must have in order to be Christ's disciples that the infidel has said that it is not possible for any human being to attain unto it."¹ Concerning this character which the follower of Christ must possess, we need to ask some questions, and note the answers.

1. What are the conditions for eternal life under grace?

The conditions of eternal life, under grace, are just what they were in Eden, - perfect righteousness, harmony with God, perfect conformity to the principles of His law. The standard of character presented in the Old Testament is the same standard that is presented in the New Testament.²

2. What was the standard in the Old Testament?

Speak unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say unto them, Ye shall be holy: for I the Lord your God am holy.³

3. What is the New Testament standard of character development?

But like as He who called you is holy, be ye yourselves also holy in all manner of living.⁴

4. What is the relationship between character, holiness, and God's law?

The law of God, which is perfect holiness, is the only true standard of character.⁵

5. What is the science of holiness?

All righteous attributes of character dwell in God as a perfect, harmonious whole. Everyone who receives Christ as his personal Saviour is privileged to possess these attributes. This is the science of holiness.⁶

6. What is imperfection of character?

We need to understand that imperfection of character is sin.⁷ Sin is the transgression of the law.⁸

7. For what purpose did Christ come into this world?

Ye know that He was manifest to take away our sins; and in Him is no sin. . . He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.⁹

8. Who was Jesus Christ?

To human eyes, Christ was only a man, yet He was a perfect man. In His humanity He was the impersonation of the divine character. God embodied His own attributes in His Son, - His power, His wisdom, His goodness, His purity, His truthfulness, His spirituality, and His benevolence. In Him, though human, all perfection of character, all divine excellence dwelt.¹⁰

9. What kind of human nature did Christ assume as the Son of man?

Think of Christ's humiliation. He took upon Himself fallen, suffering human nature, degraded and defiled by sin. He took our sorrows, bearing our grief and shame. He endured all the temptations wherewith man is beset.¹¹

10. Did Jesus live on this earth as a God, or as a man?

The obedience of Christ to His Father was the same obedience that is required of man. . . He came not to our world to give the obedience of a lesser God to a greater, but as a man to obey God's holy law, and in this way He is our example. The Lord Jesus Christ came to this world, not to reveal what a God could do, but what a man could do, through faith in God's power to help in every emergency.¹²

11. Can man of himself meet the requirements of God?

O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.¹³

12. Must the fallen nature of man be eradicated before man can walk before God in perfection of character?

The life that I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God.¹⁴

The Lord now demands that every son and daughter of Adam, through faith in Jesus Christ, serve Him in human nature we now have.¹⁵

13. Since man cannot of himself meet the standard set by God, and since God demands that we serve Him in the human nature we now possess, will God then give us the character by which we can obey the commandments perfectly?

A noble, all-around character is not inherited. It does not come to us by accident. A noble character is earned by individual effort through the merits and grace of Christ. God gives the talents, the powers of the mind; we form the character. It is formed by hard, stern battles with self. Conflict after conflict must be waged against hereditary tendencies. We shall have to criticize ourselves closely, and allow not one unfavorable trait to remain uncorrected.¹⁵

14. What only will keep us from reaching the goal?

Let no one say, I cannot remedy my defects of character. If you come to this decision, you will certainly fail of obtaining everlasting life. The impossibility lies in your own will. If you will not, then you cannot overcome. The real difficulty arises from the corruption of an unsanctified heart, and an unwillingness to submit to the control of God.¹⁵

15. If I co-operate with God, what will happen?

As the will of man co-operates with the will of God, it becomes omnipotent. Whatever is to be done at His command may be accomplished in His strength. All His biddings are enablings.¹⁶

16. To what has Christ bidden us attain?

Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect.¹⁷

If you are the children of God, you are partakers of His nature, and you cannot but be like Him. Every child lives by the life of his father. If you are God's children, - begotten by His Spirit, - you live by the life of God. In Christ dwells "all the fulness of the Godhead bodily;" and the life of Jesus is made manifest "in our mortal flesh." That life in you will produce the same character and manifest the same works as it did in Him.¹⁸

17. What provision has been made for man through Jesus Christ?

The plan of redemption contemplates our complete recovery from the power of Satan. Christ always separates the contrite soul from sin. He came to destroy the works of the devil, and He has made provision that the Holy Spirit shall be imparted to every repentant soul, to keep him from sinning.

The tempter's agency is not to be accounted an excuse for one wrong act. Satan is jubilant when he hears the professed followers of Christ making excuses for their deformity of character. It is these excuses that lead to sin. There is no excuse for sinning. A holy temper, a Christlike life, is accessible to every repenting, believing child of God.¹⁹

18. Will the time ever come on this earth, when a group of people in fallen human nature will stop sinning?

Here is the steadfastness of the saints, they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.²⁰

The people of God. . . look up steadfastly into heaven, and see the glory of God, and the Son of man seated upon His throne. In His divine form they discern the marks of His humiliation; and from His lips they hear the request presented before His Father and the holy angels, "I will that they also, whom Thou hast given Me, be with Me where I am." Again a voice, musical and triumphant, is heard, saying: "They come! they come! holy, harmless, and undefiled. They have kept the word of my patience; they shall walk among the angels."²¹

What are YOU? An infidel? The word, infidel, is a negation of a word, the root of which in the Latin - fides - means faith. In other words an infidel is really one whose faith cannot grasp the knowledge of God. How appropos is the statement - "The knowledge of God that works transformation of character is our great need."²² "So perfect is the character represented which men must have in order to be Christ's disciples that the infidel has said that it is not possible for any human being to attain unto it." Again - what are you - an infidel?

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- ¹Ellen G. White, In Heavenly Places, p. 201
²Ellen G. White, Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, p. 116
³Leviticus 19:2 ⁴I Peter 1:15 ARV
⁵Ellen G. White, Sons and Daughters of God, p. 51
⁶Ellen G. White, Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 7, p. 276
⁷Ellen G. White, Christ's Object Lessons, p. 330
⁸I John 3:4 ⁹I John 3:5, 8
¹⁰Ellen G. White, Youth's Instructor, Sept. 16, 1897
¹¹Ibid., December 20, 1900 (4BC:1147)
¹²Ellen G. White, Our High Calling, p. 48
¹³Jeremiah 10:23 ¹⁴Galatians 2:20
¹⁵Ellen G. White, Christ's Object Lessons, p. 331
¹⁶Ibid., p. 333
¹⁷Matthew 5:48
¹⁸Ellen G. White, Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, p. 118
¹⁹Ellen G. White, Desire of Ages, p. 311
²⁰Revelation 14:12 ARV margin
²¹Ellen G. White, The Great Controversy, p. 636
²²Ellen G. White, Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 8, 329

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(March 73 VI-3)

Notes and Comments

"A Fresh Interpretation"

Seventh-day Adventist colleges may now apply for federal aid. The church has long warned against accepting such funds, but guidelines have now been established for accepting available monies. The action does not soften the denomination's stand on separation of church and state. Rather, it is a fresh interpretation on the church's attitude toward accepting public finance. All applications must pass the close scrutiny of the General Conference.

Southern Tidings, January, 1973, p. 5

For years Seventh-day Adventists have insisted on strict separation of church and state. Their publications have editorialized against federal aid to religious bodies. But the denomination has now drawn up new guidelines whereby SDA schools can apply for government aid, provided that a church-drafted statement accompany the application. The statement makes it clear that the schools are "inextricably bound up with the total purpose of the church" and that the government must keep hands off of SDA policy in granting funds. Limits are set on how much can be accepted. And there must be the "avoidance of anything that would smack of establishment of religion on the part of the government."

The guidelines represent not a change in traditional SDA philosophy but rather "a fresh interpretation of the church's attitude toward acceptance of public aid" in line with changing views of the nations courts, said an SDA source.

Christianity Today, January 19, 1973, p. 49

"A Question, Please?"

If the government grants funds after being advised that the school is "inextricably bound up with the total purpose of the church", and we accept them under these conditions, is this not an "establishment of religion"?

Is all of this "double-talk" really necessary if we have not "softened the denomination's stand on separation of church and state?"

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Jesus is coming again - and soon! Would you like to tell people this fact on every letter you send? Special seals have been provided for this purpose. Attached is a seal which can be obtained in sheets of thirty-six per sheet. Note the texts used do tell "how" He will come again. This is very important! Write to Douglas Colton, P. O. Box 291, Southwest City, Mo., 64863. Price: - 25¢/Sheet, minimum order \$1. 50 or more sheets, 20¢/sheet. Colors: Blue, Red, or Lavender.

I will come again—John 14:3
1 Thess. 4:16, 17; Acts 1:10, 11



Behold He cometh—Rev. 1:7

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Mississippi Legislature Enacts Saturday Law

Sunday Laws Repealed

Saturday Protected As All Sunday Bans Lifted

Nonsense? Fantastic? Impossible? Granted. But come now, just suppose tomorrow's newspapers did carry such headlines as these. What then?

If legislation regulating conduct on a day recognized as a day of worship, is legal and proper, would not Saturday laws be far more Biblical than Sunday laws? Consider the Fourth Commandment of the Decalogue. It states: — "The seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work." Exodus 20:10. Saturday is the seventh day of the week, not Sunday. The religious world that seeks the protection of Sunday Blue Laws carefully celebrates the resurrection of our Lord on Easter Sunday of every year. The Bible states this to be the first day of the week. See Luke 24:1-3. On the previous day, the followers of Jesus, not knowing of any change in the Law of God, rested on "the sabbath day according to the commandment." Luke 23:56.

Well did Cardinal Gibbons of the Roman Catholic church write: — "You may search the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, and you will not find a single line authorizing the sanctification of Sunday. The Scriptures enforce the religious observance of Saturday, a day which we never sanctify." p. 89, **THE FAITH OF OUR FATHERS**, 88th Edition. So then Biblically, a Saturday Law wouldn't be so bad after all!

But who wants a Saturday law? Not those who do observe

the seventh day of the week for the Sabbath. For the most part these followers of the Lord Jesus believe that under the New Covenant, the Law of God is to be written on the hearts and minds of men, and not on the statute books of the State. They believe that the witness of the Holy Spirit is powerful enough to produce in the lives of men what the Lord has promised. He declared — "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them." Hebrews 10:15-16. Believing this, they, however, recognize that the State has jurisdiction to legislate in areas that regulate man's relationship to his fellow men; in other words, laws that conform to the last six of God's Ten Commandments. Yet in the areas which concern man's relationship to his God — the first four commandments — these Bible believing Christians believe that the State exceeds its authority and power when they seek to enact such legislation.

True, there are those who point out that the morals of society need to be improved. No one will deny this. But legal enactments do not bring men and women to the foot of the cross. It is still through the foolishness of preaching that men are saved. (See I Corinthians 1:21) If these religious leaders who desire to spend time appearing before legislative committees to encourage the passage of religious legislation, would spend more time preaching a plain, "Thus saith the Lord," instead of "Thus saith tradition," they would not have to worry about the family and the home. A pulpit on fire for God will have results! Truth implanted in human hearts is the best remedy for the ills of society—not regulatory religious legislation!

Our Constitution was written to preserve and safeguard the rights of all, minority as well as the majority. The Founding Fathers were well aware of the results of religious legislation in the history of the Colonies. The flight of Roger Willams from Massachusetts to find protection among the Indians of what became Rhode Island was not ancient history to those who wrote the Constitution. Included in this document was the Bill of Rights, the first of which reads — "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion." Thus no citizen of the United States would be denied equal protection under the law in matters of religious conviction for no regulating laws were to be enacted. This same protection is enjoined on the States in the 14th Amendment which reads that no State shall "deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws." If a Saturday Law were enacted to protect the interest of those who worship God on the seventh day of the week, and all Sunday laws were to be repealed, this would render unequal protection to those who worship on Sunday the first day of the week. Just so, the present Sunday legislation on the statute books of the State of Mississippi denies equal protection to those who observe a different day of the week, be he the Moslem who worships on Friday, or the conservative Hebrew, the Seventh-day Adventist, or the Seventh-day Baptist who worships on Saturday. Let us therefore, erase from the laws of the sovereign State of Mississippi all religious legislation, and let us leave to the pulpit and the home the matter of one's relationship to his God.

For further information, write to the Adventist Laymen's Foundation of Mississippi, Inc., P. O. Box 237, Florence, Miss., 39073.

(ADV.)

If you wish to meet the Sunday issue when it is introduced in your State Legislature, we will help by providing format, and other materials. Write to us.