



2 Cor. 5:18

# Open Face

*One interest will prevail, one subject will swallow up all others. Christ our Righteousness*

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## Forgiveness and Justice

David Clayton



**A**lmost every view of the plan of salvation sees the issue as a legal question. In fact, I have never seen an explanation of the reason why Jesus had to die and why sinners are condemned to death, which did not explain it in legal terms. The basic idea is this:

God has sentenced me to die. Why? I have committed sin, I have transgressed the law, therefore, a sentence of death hangs over me. How does God cancel that sentence? How does he clear the record of sin from the books so that He can declare me innocent? The popular concept says that when God sees the blood of Christ, God changes His mind about me and He says, "I forgive." Because of the death of His Son, God is able to change His mind.

### What is forgiveness?

This popular concept views forgiveness as an attitude of mind. If one person does something that hurts another, then the one who is hurt should not harbor ill feeling against the one who

hurt him. This is seen as, "forgiveness." Men have attributed this concept of forgiveness to God, so the idea is, when I do wrong, God's attitude towards me changes, God has hard feelings against me, and God says, "before I can change my mind and I can feel good about you again, I've got to have blood and if its not yours then it's going to be the blood of my Son! When that blood is shed and I see that blood, I will cancel the record of your sin in my mind, and in the books and I will think well of you again." Maybe this is a crude way of expressing it, but ultimately, this is really how popular theology views the issue of God's forgiveness.

Something is very wrong with this concept. What does the Bible say about God? "God is love," and God does not change. If God ever literally changes His mind about anything, then it cannot be true that God is unchangeable. All of God's ways are perfect, all of His ways are ways of love, therefore, it is impossible for God to ever change. When we have to understand God's forgiveness in terms of God changing, then we should realize that this concept of God's forgiveness is a false concept. This is where people have gone wrong, they have not understood the biblical concept of forgiveness. The sacrifice of Christ was *not* made so that God could change his mind.

### For Christ's sake

And yet the Bible says, in Ephesians 4:32,

*And be ye kind one to another,*

*tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. (Eph 4:32)*

Why has God forgiven you? It is "for Christ sake." This is a basic, fundamental teaching of the Bible, God forgives, "for Christ sake." But what does that mean? Does it mean that God's attitude changes because of Christ? Is forgiveness really a change of attitude, or is there something more to biblical forgiveness? Does forgiveness affect God or does it affect man? Does it affect some ethereal, intangible thing called, "justice," something with no name, no face to which God and man are subject? What does forgiveness really mean and who does it affect?

The undebatable truth is, God always loved me, always had His hands reaching out to me. When I discovered that fact it changed my life. I learned to appreciate Him, and this appreciation has grown with every passing day. He never had a negative thought towards us and as we build upon that principle we will find that our understanding of God and His word will become more clear. Our picture of Him will be more

### Also in this issue:

Waldensian Center notice .....	7
The Spice of Life .....	8
Campmeeting Reports .....	10
Letters .....	11
Florida Campmeeting Notice .....	12

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*Open Face* is dedicated to the promotion of the truths committed to the Advent movement, as believed and taught by the early Adventist pioneers. In particular to the restoration of those truths which have been cast down to the ground and trampled underfoot by the papacy, and adopted by her daughters.

Our purpose is to motivate our readers to commit themselves wholly to the task of personal preparation for the coming of the Lord, and to the taking of the final warning message to every nation, kindred, tongue and people.

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in keeping with the truth that, “God is Love.”

So, God’s forgiveness is not, and never was about God changing His mind towards us.

### Biblical forgiveness

Lets look at a passage in Luke that clarifies this issue:

*Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. (4) And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him. (Luke 17:3-4)*

In this statement, Jesus was trying to express the kind of nature that God has. He presented the scenario of a person who continually transgressed against another – as much as seven times in a single day. His command to us is that we should forgive such a person. According to the passage, what are the conditions on which we

are to forgive that person? It is ***on condition that he repent***. But suppose the person does not repent, am I to forgive him? The popular answer is, “of course we should forgive.”

But let us consider something for a moment here, if we do not repent of our sins, will God forgive? The answer is, no. According to the Bible, God does not forgive if we do not repent, and God is not asking us to do what He does not do.

Why must a person repent before he can be forgiven? The answer becomes clear when we understand what biblical forgiveness really is:

Contrary to popular belief, forgiveness in the Bible, is not a change of attitude in the mind, forgiveness is actually ***a restored relationship***. Forgiveness is not a one sided transaction, but is an experience in which ***both*** parties are reconciled. A better word for this biblical concept of forgiveness is really, “reconciliation.” It is not just simply that God’s mind changes about us, but it is an experience which brings a person back into unrestricted fellowship and harmony with God.

If it was simply a matter that the mind of the offended party needed to be changed, then there would be no need for forgiveness, because God, the offended Person, always thought well about us. He never ever had a single negative thought towards even the vilest sinner. Yet God says the sinner must repent before he is forgiven. Why is this so? What is the reason for it? Let us consider the following scenario:

If a friend comes to my home and steals a thousand dollars, the common understanding of forgiveness requires me to forgive the person. This means that I should take the person back into my friendship as though it had never happened. So the next time this friend comes visiting I must let him have free access to my house again. This time he makes off with two thousand dollars! But I know that I am supposed to forgive him, so I keep a good attitude towards him and treat him as though he never did anything wrong and I let

him have the run of my home, yet again. Not surprisingly, next time he gets away with ten thousand dollars. If I keep this up, soon I won’t have any house left, and even though I have the spirit of Christ, something in me is becoming more and more disturbed. The truth is, our relationship is deteriorating rapidly because a good relationship must be built on trust!

This person needs to at least come to the place where he says, “I recognize I was wrong and I’m sorry,” if he does this, at least there is a basis for us to rebuild our relationship. He might steal from me again, but at least, I know on the basis of his apology that this is not his intention. If he doesn’t intend to do it and it happens, and I know he is sorry, I have something to work with because he wants to do better.

The problem is when he wont recognize that there is something wrong. If he doesn’t repent, then I will have to make sure he doesn’t cross my doorway again, until he recognizes he has done something wrong!

So in the Biblical sense of forgiveness, God does not restore a relationship until we recognize that there is something wrong with us. When we repent and we say, “God, I have done something that hurts you, I don’t know how to help it, but I’m sorry I hurt you,” God says “there is a basis for us to be friends again: I never expected you not to fail again, you are just a poor worm you can’t do anything without me, but if you recognize you need my help, I can work with you.” That’s why he says, “repent.”

We can see that repentance, forgiveness, and cleansing are not really different events. They are basically different aspects of the same experience. The Bible teaches in Col 2:10 that, “you are complete in Him.” When we come to God, in Christ, we are forgiven, we are set apart, we experience a life which is complete. The fact is that forgiveness, from the biblical perspective, is best described by the English word “Reconciliation.” It is a process by which humanity and God are brought

together again in a relationship where the shadows and barriers between them are removed. It is not a process by which God's thinking is adjusted.

### Limited concepts

It is true that sometimes when we look at the Bible it uses terms which seem to suggest that it is God's mind which needs to change, but does God intend that we should accept these statements superficially without considering the kind of person He has revealed Himself to be? It is important for us to consider the entire revelation which God gives of Himself in the Bible and not just to limit ourselves to some sections of His word.

When people asked Him, "shall a man put away his wife for every cause?" Jesus' answer was, "No." When they responded by pointing out that Moses had given permission for divorce on trivial grounds, Jesus said, "Moses allowed this because of the hardness of your hearts." But was it Moses who had given the command authorizing divorce? Of course not, those commands were from God – in fact, it was Jesus Himself who had given those instructions to Moses back at Mount Sinai. Jesus was not going back on His own word, He was not contradicting Himself. In essence, He was saying, "there was a time when I dealt with you in this way because of your limited understanding, there was a time for childish reasoning, now you are going into the light of something greater, and it is time for a greater understanding of God and His purposes. God is leading you into a greater understanding of His true nature and you can't stay with those limited concepts."

Many of us are still limited to Old Testament thinking in too many things! It is true that in the Old Testament, there is a major emphasis on forgiveness of sins rather than the removal of sin, however, a proper understanding of the gospel as revealed in the life and teachings of Jesus and His apostles, leads to the conclusion that the gospel is about **removing sin**, removing the **nature of sin**, not simply overlooking

individual actions of sin, as was emphasized in the Old Testament. In the Old Testament when a person stole something, he got forgiveness for one action. He brought his lamb and by this act, said, "I'm sorry I stole." He killed the lamb and his individual act of sin was forgiven, but at the same time there might have been covetousness in his heart and he might have had eyes on his neighbor's wife. Those sacrifices never took away sin, they only expressed regret for individual actions.

### The real problem

In the Old Testament every act of transgression was treated as an individual sin, but in the New Testament a greater understanding of sin is revealed. There we see that the problem is not what we are doing, it is not the one sin. In solving the problem of sin, it is not the stealing or the killing or the lying which needs to be dealt with. Rather, the root of the problem must be dealt with and the problem is whatever is causing these harmful actions. Jesus made it plain in the following passage:

*And he said, That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man. (21) For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, (22) Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: (23) All these evil things come from within, and defile the man. (Mark 7:20-23)*

I once heard the story of a woman who went to prayer meeting week after week and constantly prayed the same prayer. Every week her prayer would be, "Lord, please take these cobwebs away from my heart." At first, there were hearty amens from the other brethren, but as the same request continued, week after week, month after month, the amens were fewer and more muted. Finally, one night when it was the turn of another brother to pray, he said, "Lord, please **kill** the spider which is making all these cobwebs in

our sisters heart!"

The problem is not the cobwebs, the problem is the spider. The problem is not the wrong actions which men do, the problem is the nature which is producing these wrong actions. Our actions only show what we are.

At the end of time, there will be a judgment based on an examination of our actions, there is no question about that. But it is not because actions really are the problem, it is because those actions reveal the truth about a person's nature. Those actions prove that a person possesses either the carnal nature of the lost sinner, or the nature of Christ, the heritage of the born-again Christian. So, our actions will be examined, but our actions are not what saves us or makes us lost, it is our relationship to Christ. It is whether we have the carnal, or the spiritual nature.

In the Old Testament God presented His truth in heavily veiled illustrations. God was teaching people that sin is the thing which brings death. Every sin was accompanied by the corresponding death of an animal! But as the Bible tells us, the blood of bulls and goats could never take away sin. **Forgiveness never really solved the problem**, it never really dealt with the problem, it just expressed the reality that there was a deeper problem. It is in the New Testament that we come to grips with the real issue. God is not trying to cancel actions, God is trying to get rid of the root, the disease inside.

### Why Jesus had to die

That is why Jesus had to die, that is why He had to take our humanity with its weakness - that is why he had to bring divinity to unite with humanity so that divine nature could defeat the sin principle and put it to death in human nature, thereby producing a new human life where sin has been defeated.

Now he says, "I have this life, do you want it?" It is ours if we choose to believe, to unite with Him by faith, He came to do for us what we could not do. The Bible tells us in Roman 8:3,



*For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. (Rom. 8:3,4)*

No wonder the apostle Paul exclaimed, “thanks be to God for His unspeakable gift!” God has given us eternal life and this life is in His son, it is a gift of God, a life that is divine, and also human, coming from the new father of the redeemed human race, one who has conquered on our behalf and gives us His victorious life, freely as a gift.

Can we by trying change the color of the Ethiopian’s skin? Can we by trying remove the spots from the leopard? Only God can work this miracle. No human being can accomplish it. God could not have left salvation in my hand, He could not have left in up to me, I, myself, could never have made it, but I thank God for the gift of His Son.

All of us were cursed by Adam, his actions put all of us under the curse, but God says, “I am not sending my son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world. I am going to do for you what you cannot do, and if you will believe, that’s all I’m asking of you.” The wonderful thing is, even the most worthless one of us can believe, we have that capacity, we can read the word of God and believe it, and He says, “if you believe what I have done for you in my son, and will accept my grace and my gift you shall have salvation.”

When we view things from the perspective of the law, from an Old Testament perspective, we find our understanding of the plan of salvation being based on legal issues. The law cannot condemn a person for being a carnal person, but it can condemn him for committing acts of sin. The law does not ask what we are or what goes on in our hearts, it asks, “what have you done?” and it condemns the individual

action. Therefore the law keeps us always measuring ourselves from the perspective of our actions, rather than the perspective of our nature. When we relate to God on the basis of law we fail to deal with the true issue, we have to stay on the legal level. Everything about our Christian structure has to be built on that idea that it is a legal issue, and we inevitably build our ideas on that foundation.

### **A miracle of God**

We need to see that it is not about a response to the law, it is about God changing our nature, it is about a miracle which **only God** is able to accomplish. When I started focusing on the message of Righteousness by faith, somebody commented, “you know what I realize? I realize that many Adventists are denying the new birth. What they believe in is salvation by education.” The more I have become familiar with the arguments, the more I have come to realize that it is true. People teach you that if you are educated the right way from childhood you will grow into righteousness. But why does Jesus say, “except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of heaven?” The word of God says we must be born again because the way we are born the first time puts us at enmity with God. The carnal mind is not subject to the will of God and it cannot be

The Christian life is a miracle. It is an act of God and can only become a reality by the supernatural indwelling of His holy spirit. We need to understand that we must come in contact with supernatural things. Christianity is not just another religion where its advocates grope around, trying to achieve moral excellence by studying a certain philosophy. It is not a matter of Christianity teaching more noble morals than other religions. The God of Christianity is a God of miracles and He accomplishes one of the greatest miracles when He transforms a carnal sinner into a spiritual saint.

Adam brought sin, but Christ brought righteousness, the problem is solved.

There was death, but Christ brought life, there was condemnation, but He brought righteousness.

### **Why the law?**

The question is, “why then, the law?” What part does the law play, since death is solved and condemnation is solved by Christ alone? Romans 5:20 says

*Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: (Rom 5:20)*

In other words man was condemned by Adam’s sin. Adam’s offence brought all of us under condemnation. We all felt the consequences of “the offence.” But the law came into the picture to make that condemnation even greater. Adam’s sin resulted in the condemnation of all men. All men became carnal and capable of only sinful actions. But most people don’t understand this. God brought the law into the picture to show us what our behavior should be like, and so the law says to us, “you must obey,” and you say, “I shall, I shall,” but you don’t, and you discover something is wrong with you. “I can’t, I can’t,” and the law becomes our school master to drive us to Christ.

May God help all of us to come to the place where we recognize that when the law says, “you must, you must,” our response must be to turn to Christ. We must not stop with the law, otherwise it will be the end of the road for us, we will obtain nothing but disaster, frustration, emptiness and eventually death. The law’s purpose is to point us to Christ, that’s why it entered the picture, that we might be justified by faith. So the law has a legitimate purpose, it has a good place in God’s plan, but that place is not to save us, but to bring us to Christ to make us understand our incapability, our nothingness so that we might turn to Christ.

### **Justice**

If we continue our reasoning on the basis of the limited Old Testament concepts, then we come to this question,

“what is the opposite of forgiveness?” If a man is not forgiven, according to the limited concept where we are dealing with justice and legal issues, what is the consequence? Justice demands the person’s condemnation. If the person is not forgiven, then justice must take its course. Human beings work on the level of justice, because no man can change a man’s heart, so we have to operate on the basis of justice. We don’t have a problem with legal systems, because the Bible says that God puts them in place to be a terror to evil doers. Where people don’t have natural inclinations to do good, rules have to be put in place to discipline them and to preserve order.

The law is placed there for the person who is naturally against it –the law is not made for a righteousness person (1 Tim. 1:9), but if we deal with the limited concept of the legal system, we would recognize that the opposite of forgiveness is justice and condemnation. The systems of this world operate on this judicial level.

Let us suppose that a man killed somebody forty years ago, then ten years later he became a Christian and turned his life around and became a model citizen. All thoughts of murder are removed from his mind. Forty years later the police discover that he had committed this act of murder so long ago in the past. What will happen to this man? He will be condemned and possibly be executed. What he is now, does not matter, it is the action which he committed forty years ago which is considered. The law must be satisfied, this is how justice works,

When people understand things only on the judicial level, they naturally begin to impute attitudes and motives to God in keeping with their own limited understanding. Out of this kind of misconception has grown doctrines like “eternal burning hell.” Those who teach this horrible doctrine, say that God’s judgment is of such a nature that if you sniff your fingers at the wrong time and you don’t happen to say, “I’m sorry,” God will roast you over an eternal burning fire for all the ages of eternity. They

will say that “justice demands it!” What a tyrant would be this thing called “justice,” so that even God must subject himself to it, and do things so utterly contrary to His nature of love and mercy!



That is where we end up when we view the great controversy and the plan of salvation as a legal issue. Seventh-day Adventists have a modified version of it in our faith. We may not teach the doctrine of eternal burning, but we still believe in this inflexible system of action and law and penalty, whereas really and truly what God has been doing all this time has been working to overturn the consequences (not penalties), that sin brought upon humanity.

In the Old Testament, the issue was, sinful actions and penalties. This cannot be denied. The law entered at Mount Sinai, and where the law enters there must be penalties. Where there is law there must be penalty, So when God brought in the system of law He also introduced penalties and judicial systems; but there is a higher level where God is operating on the basis of action and consequences.

Adam brought death and corruption into the human family. The real consequence of sin is separation from God, which leads ultimately to death. So sin kills us not because God chooses to separate from us and hurt us, or wound us, but it kills us because it brings a barrier between us and God which results ultimately in our death.

If we look at the people in the Bible who never died, such as Enoch and

Elijah, we will see that they were people in whom God abolished sin. Moses almost made it into that number, he almost never died, but at the end, self-will (sin) got the better of him, and so God could not allow him to go into the promised land. God had to teach the lesson that sin in the smallest degree will destroy us. So Moses had to die, the lesson had to be taught.

When we think of justice, what concepts do we often associate with the word?

1. **Punishment:** We associate this with justice, and what is punishment? It is *suffering* imposed upon a person because he does wrong.
2. **Retribution:** We also associate justice with retribution, which is *suffering* in proportion to the transgression.
3. **Vengeance:** Then there is also vengeance. Vengeance is hurting a person to satisfy your own feelings of being hurt.

All of these are attitudes we have attributed to God because we have dealt with him on the judicial level. People attribute these things to God and so they end up dead scared of Him, anxious to please Him so that His punishment wont fall on them, so that His vengeance wont reach them. They think that He wants to cause them suffering because of their wrongs, they think that He wants them to suffer in proportion to the sins they have committed, they think He wants to hurt them to satisfy Himself for the hurt they have caused Him. They don’t understand that all this time God’s heart is wounded and bleeding as His hands are stretched out and He is pleading, saying, “come to me that I might give you life, don’t you understand that I love you and all I want to do is to take away your sin forever so that your suffering and mine will come to an end?”

### A True Picture of God

In the New Testament we see Jesus working hard to give humanity the right understanding of God and to enable us to grasp these truths:

*For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. (18) He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. (John 3:17-18)*

He that believeth not is condemned already, but not by God. God never condemned him, his own resistance of God, his unbelief, condemns him to death, condemns him to a life of separation from God, condemns him to a life of misery not because God wants it to be so, but because God is unable to save those who refuse to come to him.

In Luke 9:52,55 we read,

*. . . and they went, and entered into a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for him. (53) And they did not receive him, because his face was as though he would go to Jerusalem. (54) And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did? (55) But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. (Luke 9:52-55)*

Who was it that sent fire from heaven in the time of Elijah? It was God who did it. Now the disciples came, and they wanted to do the same thing because these Samaritans were also rejecting the Son of God. They thought they had as much justification as Elijah did, but Jesus rebuked them sharply, saying, "you don't know what manner of spirit you possess."

But if it was right in Elijah's time, why was it wrong in the disciples time? does God change? No He doesn't. In the Old Testament God had to teach some lessons graphically, insomuch that he did certain things that are not always easy to understand. He had to operate in harmony with the system of law which He had set up. Laws require penalties and those penalties must

be carried out, otherwise the system of law means nothing at all. This is why Moses had to die when he broke the law at the last moment before entering the promised land. Nevertheless, we should always remember that although Moses died without seeing the promised land, under the system of law, yet, under the system of grace, he has already received his reward in heaven!

God had to deal with people that way under the Old Covenant, because they were primitive in their understanding and in their religion, and they had to be dealt with in keeping with the primitive system. But now Jesus had come to introduce the age of the kingdom. He was bringing greater maturity and understanding of God's nature, character and ways and Jesus had to let his disciples see things as they really are. Basically, He was saying to them, "you don't understand what was happening in the Old Testament. You thought that was God's attitude and God's mind, but that is not how God feels about people. Even when I did it back then in the Old Testament, it hurt me badly to have to do it, but now the time has passed when I teach people by those methods. Now is the time for the reality and it is time to understand what God is really like."

Let us learn the difference between the symbol and the reality. If we don't understand what was happening there under the Old Covenant, we get very confused and we end up with a kind of Mosaic God who sometimes is nice, but sometimes is very bad.

Our God is not like that. It is true that God killed persons in the times of the Old Covenant. It is true that He commanded the death of many thousands of people. These things cannot be honestly denied by any Bible student. However, when we realize that the entire system of the Old Covenant was representational, that it was a type and a teaching tool, then we recognize that the Old Testament behaviour of God does not represent the way He really is in terms of His character, and that many of the actions which He commanded in the Old Testament are not

necessarily eternal actions. For example, when He put Moses to death on Mount Horeb, this was an illustration of the danger of sin, but it was not the reality of Moses' destiny. God Himself brought Moses back to life and gave Him everlasting life. Moses' reality is everlasting life, through God's grace, not eternal death as suggested by his death on Mount Horeb, because of his transgression of the law. The death on Horeb was illustrative, not reality. There were undoubtedly many, many such instances in that age and under that system. That is why when we consider the ultimate destiny of people, we must view the question from the perspective of God's love and grace, and not the perspective of the system of law, nor even from the perspective of God's actions in the Old Testament.

*For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. (16) The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: (Rom 8:15-16)*

*For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest, (19) And the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words; which voice they that heard entreated that the word should not be spoken to them any more: (20) (For they could not endure that which was commanded, And if so much as a beast touch the mountain, it shall be stoned, or thrust through with a dart: (21) And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, I exceedingly fear and quake:) (22) But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, (23) To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, (24) And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of*

*sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel. (Heb 12:18-24)*

Do you have the assurance that He is your Father? Can you speak to Him freely and openly without reservation,

knowing of the unfathomable love of the Almighty Being who condescends to be our Friend? Do you know it?

Let not the spirit of fear abide in our hearts, let there be no reservation between our wonderful God and us. Love

Him, cleave to Him, and believe His promises. He has glorious things in store for us.



## **Waldensian Center Begins New Term February 2, 2010**

We are often reminded, “The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few (Matthew 9:37).” The cause is in desperate need of missionaries, ministers, Bible workers, canvassers, and medical missionaries. The times demand that these Gospel workers know how to support themselves in secular labor as well. This all demands a thorough training in both the secular and spiritual lines.

The great commission includes everyone of us. God is calling you! He asks “...Whom shall I send, and who will go for us (Isaiah 6:8)?” Are you wanting to respond “Here I am, use me”, but you need training? Do you need some direction to know where and how to begin?

Waldensian Center will provide just such a training. The new term will begin, February 2, 2010. For more information, please see:

[www.7thdayhomechurchfellowships.com](http://www.7thdayhomechurchfellowships.com) or contact David Sims at [david@historyinfo.net](mailto:david@historyinfo.net) or 530-294-1115 or 619-851-0953.

“...ye are not your own? for ye are bought with a price...” Strength, time, intellect, are but lent treasures. They belong to God, and it should be our

resolve to put them to the highest use.

“The Lord has called us out from the world that we may be witnesses for his truth; and all through our ranks, young men and women should be trained for positions of usefulness and influence. They are privileged to become missionaries for God; but they cannot be mere novices in education and in their knowledge of the word of God, and do justice to the sacred work to which they are appointed. In every land the want of education among our workers is painfully apparent. We realize that education is not only necessary to the proper fulfillment of the duties of domestic life, but necessary for success in all branches of usefulness . . . . Whatever business parents might think suitable for their children, whether they desire them to become manufacturers, agriculturists, mechanics, or to follow some professional calling, they would reap great advantages from the discipline of an education. . . . They need to be thoroughly furnished with the reasons of our faith, to understand the Scriptures for themselves. Through understanding the truths of the Bible,

they will be better fitted to fill positions of trust. They will be fortified against the temptations that will beset them on the right hand and on the left. But if they are thoroughly instructed and consecrated, they may be called, as was Daniel, to fill important responsibilities. Daniel was a faithful statesman in the courts of Babylon; for he feared, loved, and trusted God; and in time of temptation and peril he was preserved by the power of God. We read that God gave Daniel wisdom, and endowed him with understanding.” {CE 197.3}

“Those who obtain a knowledge of God’s will, and practice the teaching of his word, will be found faithful in whatever position of trust they may be placed. Consider this, parents, and place your children where they will be educated in the principles of truth, where every effort will be made to help them to maintain their consecration, if converted, or if unconverted, to influence them to become the children of God, and thus fit them to go forth to win others to the truth.”—Extracts from an article in the Bible Echo for Sept. 1, 1892. {CE 198.1}



### **WALKING IN THE LIGHT**

*The disciples separated from the organization because they desired to walk in the light. The protestants likewise separated from the Roman institution for the same reason. The SDA movement followed suit, the Godhead movement likewise. In all cases, those who came out were condemned by the majority who settled down into complacent satisfaction with stale doctrine.*

*Today, it is no different. God is still leading men into light, but the principle of human nature remains. Those who are satisfied to believe that they have it all, continue to condemn those who move forward. It will always be this way.*

*May God help us to be always ready to walk in the light, regardless of where it leads us.*



# The spice of Life

*Lenworth frankson*



For many centuries Cayenne pepper has been prized for its amazing powers of healing. Recent studies have supported the fact that this little wonder fruit has many healing properties for a number of the common health problems such as angina, arthritis, asthma, bruises and strains, clogged arteries, cold and flu, constipation, headache, neuralgia, obesity, pain, sinusitis, sore throat, toothache, ulcers, and many more.

It is said that there are only a handful of “super herbs” on earth that can match cayenne for versatility, taste, therapeutic value and safety. The amazing and puzzling thing about this fruit is that it cools and warms you at the same time. It feels like its burning but in fact it actually reduces the pain from burns. It hurts when the amateur eats it, yet it helps the body to generate an internal form of morphine-like pleasure. It is selectively good for your body cells and yet at the same time it is lethal to intestinal bacteria and parasite cells.

The sting or bite in cayenne is from a compound called “capsaicin” found in hot peppers throughout the world. Capsaicin has a chemical structure very similar to the active ingredient in ginger, both of which have a pungent bite and many therapeutic uses. So the question is; what does cayenne do to the body or how does it affect our bodies? Hundreds of studies have been done on capsaicin and cayenne which suggest the following: It thins the blood, blocks pain, enhances nerve conduction, increases mucus flow, changes fat metabolism, it has many antioxidants which slows oxidation and aging, it releases endorphins, inhibits cancer, it protects the stomach from alcohol and aspirin, it has nutritional value and it kills microorganisms. It is not really

possible to discuss all the health benefits of cayenne in this limited medium, but here are a few to consider:

**Allergies:** Our body’s reactions to respiratory allergies are usually sneezing, itchy eyes, runny and plugged up noses, coughing and wheezing. To treat this with cayenne, take two powdered capsules of 40,000 heat units with lunch or dinner and you should start seeing results in about a week.

**Angina:** Angina is a type of chest pain or discomfort caused by reduced blood flow to the heart muscle. It is a symptom of coronary artery disease. Signs of heart problems must be treated with immediate medical attention. If you are experiencing any type of angina you should definitely speak to your doctor. As you work with your doctor, add cayenne to your diet, preferably one to two capsules at lunch or dinner. The capsaicin in cayenne triggers the release of a substance called “calcitonin gene related peptide” which is a potent dilator of the blood vessels that surround the heart. Cayenne will not reduce or change the effectiveness of any heart medication but may begin to change the real causes of the angina, which drugs never do.

**Arthritis:** Millions of people suffer from rheumatoid arthritis. In some cases it is so severe that it requires medical attention. Rheumatoid arthritis involves inflammation, and erosion of the bone ending connective tissue. Osteoarthritis involves the dissolving of the spongy cartilage that cushions the pounding between bone endings. Using cayenne as an ointment can relieve some symptoms of both rheumatoid and osteoarthritis. One study showed that more than 80% of patients using capsaicin ointment felt relief in morning stiffness and other related arthritic symptoms.

**Asthma:** Poor diet, air pollution, stress, over exertion in exercise, pollen, rag-

weed and food allergies can trigger an asthma attack in those with this condition. The capsaicin in cayenne seems to be very helpful in relieving an asthma attack. Taking cayenne supplements once or twice daily will help to open the bronchial passages of asthma sufferers.

**Baldness:** Although baldness is mostly a genetic condition, those with poor circulation of the scalp, can use the cayenne pepper to slow progression. One recommendation to help increase the blood supply to the scalp is to mix ½ teaspoon in the gel from the aloe plant and apply at bed time, then rinse off in the morning.

**Bruises and Sprains:** Using cayenne on the skin of mild bruises and simple sprains can reduce pain without the use of dangerous drugs like Tylenol, or addictive drugs like codeine.

**Cancer Prevention:** Although controversial, it has been shown that the regular use of cayenne in moderation can protect you from cancer. Over use of chili can have the opposite effect, by causing stomach cancer as seen in one study of Mexicans. Research has shown that capsaicin helps prevent the cancers caused by chemicals found in over cooked foods, moldy grains or legumes, and even nicotine from cigarette. Just remember that a little is great, too much is harmful.

**Colds and Flu:** Cayenne increases the flow of mucus which will wash away invading viruses. Cayenne also dilates blood vessels which speeds the delivery of healing immune factors to the site of the infection. Making a hot tea and gargling two to three times a day will help sore throats and eating it daily will help in the prevention of catching colds.

**Constipation:** Low fiber and fluid diets often result in constipation. There is no substitute for adequate hydration of our body cells so we should always



drink adequate amounts of water throughout each day. Cayenne helps to prevent constipation by increasing the flow of juices in the intestinal tract. Moderate intake will encourage regularity but too much can cause diarrhea.

**Cooling Effect:** Cayenne is good at opening up our blood vessels. It opens up the blood vessels near the surface and causes sweating. It increases an initial warming sensation but is actually bringing the body's internal heat to the surface to be dissipated. Research shows that cayenne triggers the hypothalamus to cool the body.

**Diabetes:** This is a common sickness of abnormal blood glucose regulation. Inadequate insulin production, or insulin resistance are common problems and sufferers often end up with high amounts of sugar in their urine. Here are three ways that cayenne can help diabetics:

- 1) Cayenne can increase circulation to tissue on the outside or surface. This area often gets starved opening up the possibility of poor circulation and even gangrene
- 2) It can lower blood glucose levels
- 3) If applied on the surface in an ointment form it can help in reducing the pain that sometimes is related to diabetes.

**Gas:** Most people at some point in their lives –from the President to the Pope –will experience this. Intestinal gas is more likely to be produced when we eat foods that we do not digest well. As we age our bodies lose the ability to properly digest certain types of foods. Reducing these kinds of foods and encouraging aerobic bacteria in the intestines is one solution to the problem. More vegetables, less sugar and fat in the diet along with frequent moderate exercise can also help. Cayenne can help in the prevention and elimination of gas. Here are three ways:

- 1) As a stimulant it encourages the flow of secretions from the intestines, including the digestive enzymes which help to prevent fer-

mentation of carbohydrates

- 2) Cayenne moves food through our digestive system more quickly to reduce the chance of fermentation
- 3) Cayenne helps to kill the unfriendly bacteria in the gut that cause gas through putrefaction.

**High Blood Pressure:** Today, millions suffer from hypertension. Otherwise known as the “silent killer” hypertension slowly wears out the vascular network and the organs that are connected. It is a serious disease because in many cases the first symptom a person might have is that of a stroke or a heart attack. Cayenne may help in some cases. High blood pressure can be caused by many factors including stress, obesity, too much salt or alcohol, insufficient calcium, magnesium, potassium or other reasons. Constriction of blood vessels over time can lead to hypertension which increases the pressure in the narrow tubes. Cayenne can effectively reduce blood pressure in this kind of hypertension by expanding the diameter of the blood vessels thereby creating more room for blood flow and reduction of pressure. Lowering the pressure also means sparing the tiny delicate capillaries in the kidneys, heart and brain from the constant pounding of high blood pressure.

**High Cholesterol:** For high cholesterol sufferers, let me just say that studies indicate that countries that eat more hot peppers have a lower incidence of heart disease. One study suggested that animals that were fed a high fat and high sugar diet when given capsaicin were able to lower the bad and raise the good cholesterol. Capsaicin reduces the absorption of fats and cholesterol in the intestines, and slows down the making of excess cholesterol in the liver.

**Nausea:** If you experience nausea due to motion sickness here is a simple remedy to consider. Before beginning the trip take a teaspoon of cayenne powder mixed in a tablespoon of olive oil. Another solution for motion sickness is to take an equal blend of cayenne,

ginger and licorice. For morning sickness in pregnancy take ginger and cayenne mixed together.

**Sore Throat:** Cayenne has been found to relieve the severity and duration of a sore throat. Mix one to two capsules of the powder in a cup of warm water and gargle; the symptoms should subside.

**Toothache:** Capsaicin dissolves easily in alcohol, therefore, a simple way to make a toothache tincture is to blend a half to one teaspoon of cayenne powder in about 4 ounces gin and let it sit for a day. Strain and apply a few drops of this tincture to the toothache area when necessary.

**Toxin Protection:** Our skin is the largest organ in the human body with over 2000 pores per square inch. The main function of the skin is to eliminate waste products. Cayenne encourages sweating and detoxification.

**Ulcers:** Eating hot cayenne pepper when someone is developing or has an ulcer is definitely not what comes to mind for most people, however scientific studies since 1937 suggest that people who eat more hot peppers get fewer stomach problems, including ulcers. It is very important to mention here that eating too much hot pepper will produce irritation and eventually ulcers but on the other hand, just the right amount can prevent and even cure ulcers. Scientists have found that the capsaicin in the cayenne pepper helps healing of ulcers by dilating blood vessels in the stomach which promotes healing, increasing the flow of protective mucus over the ulcer and killing the bacteria that in many cases causes peptic ulcers.

**Worms:** We all know that for many animals and humans the colon is infested with worms and parasites. These worms and parasites sap our energy, change the environment in our intestines and lower our immune system. Cayenne can help. A Louisiana State University study showed that hot sauce killed microorganisms including

*Continued on page 12*

# Campmeeting Reports

## Tennessee

Roan Mountain, Tennessee, is a beautiful place. It is reputed to be even more beautiful in the full bloom of Fall when the trees turn brown, orange, red and gold. Unfortunately those who came to the Roan Mountain campmeeting missed the full glory of the fall colours by a couple of weeks.



Roan Mountain campmeeting speakers

The trees were just beginning to change colour when the campmeeting came to an end. Brother Malcolm McCrillis (the host) explained that an abundance of rain had resulted in a late fall. However, that was the only blessing which we missed at the Roan Mountain campmeeting.

This campmeeting was held late in the year, running from September 29 to October 4. The fact that it was so late with school still being in session, away from the regular vacation times and the weather beginning to turn cold, made some of us think that this campmeeting might not be well attended. It turned out that we were very wrong. From the beginning there was a good crowd which grew to be about 130 people on the Sabbath. People came from all around with some being from as far away South as Florida and as far North as Maine.

The speakers for the campmeeting included Ken Corklin, Lynnford Beachy, Dr. William Van Grit, Howard Williams,

David Clayton, Jim Raymond, Ron Arnold, Reuben Luna-Marté and Elaine Nailing. Elder Willis Smith was also scheduled to speak, but had to cancel at the last moment because of illness.

Everybody was, for the most part, unified in their emphasis. Most of the messages were focused on Righteousness by Faith and God blessed us with a harmony in the presentations which contributed to a spirit of unity and thanksgiving. Some of the messages which were not directly focused on Righteousness by Faith included those by Dr. Van Grit, Ron Arnold and Elaine Nailing.

Dr. Van Grit did an eye-opening series of presentations in which he highlighted the role which the SDA church played in corroborating with Hitler and the Nazis during World War two, while Ron Arnold's messages were focused on health. I missed Sister Elaine Nailing's presentation as I had to leave before the final meeting, however, I understand that she did an excellent presentation on Church-State issues.

There was no question in my mind that God's presence was specially manifested at this campmeeting. Some people came out of curiosity, but most came to hear what the Lord had to say. At the end, we all had a clearer and more beautiful understanding of who Jesus was, what He means to us and what the plan of salvation was all about.

Plans are already in place for next year's campmeeting. The date is

already set for October 5-10. By God's grace I hope to be there with the expectation of greater blessings and a more perfect union with God in Christ. Who knows what will have happened by then? I for one, hope that we will all enter into the fullness of what God has given us in Christ this coming year. What a campmeeting it will be then if this dream is fulfilled!

## Ohio

From Tennessee, Brother Howard Williams and I traveled to Ohio where we had meetings in Newark for a few nights. Our hosts were Don and Janet Cox. It was good to fellowship with the brethren who came to the meetings, some of whom we had not seen for several years. Again, God blessed in the presentations as Christ and His righteousness took center stage in these meetings.

From Newark we traveled to Cleveland where we spent the week-end with Elder Willis Smith. Meetings were held in the "God's Word, God's Way Sabbath Chapel," on Friday and Sunday Evening and all day Sabbath. This time spent in Cleveland was especially good because there was an opportunity for clearing up some misunderstandings which existed in the minds of some brethren who had heard negative reports of what we were preaching, or who had misunderstood some



Sister Angela with her children in Ohio

of the things which we had said.

I found it very interesting that in the presentations on Righteousness by Faith over the past few years, most people have had objections to what they *thought we were saying*, rather than objections to what we were actually saying. It has been remarkable to me to see that in most cases, ten minutes of open, honest discussion has been enough to clear up misunderstandings. For the most part, when people understand they are able to get a grasp of the beauty of the message and their questioning is turned into joy. Much of the remaining resistance to the message has to do with the fact that people have so set their minds against what they believe we are saying that they refuse to listen to anything we say.

### Washington

While we were in Roan Mountain we received an invitation to come to Washington State to hold a series of meetings on the week-end following the Ohio meetings. We were scheduled to return to Jamaica on the Monday after the last meeting in Ohio. Accepting this Washington invitation meant that we would return home for two days and then return to the USA on the Thursday of that week. Nevertheless, we had resolved to go anywhere there was an opportunity to present the message of righteousness in Christ and we immediately agreed to go to Washington.

These meetings were organized at very short notice by brother Steve Noyes and his wife Saci. Saci had been in Hungary during the summer and had attended our meetings there. This had given her a desire to have similar meetings in her area so the brethren there could get a taste of the beauty of the message.

We left Jamaica on Thursday with the expectation of arriving in Seattle at about midnight. However, an overzealous immigration officer delayed me for two hours and we missed our connect-



Olen, David, Steve & Howard in Washington

ing flight out of Atlanta. As a result we did not arrive in Seattle until Friday, near midday. However, we soon saw that this delay was all a part of God's plan. We discovered that the lady who shared seats with us was a Christian. Howard struck up a conversation with her and in response to his question, "why did God's Son have to die, before God could forgive us?" She replied, "you know, I have thought about that question, but I really don't have an answer." Like Phillip with the Ethiopian eunuch, Howard began at that point and opened up the Scriptures, explaining about the two Adams, the broken curse and why Jesus really had to die. This lady was overjoyed. At times she clapped her hands and exclaimed for happiness. She gave Howard a piece of paper and asked him to write down the texts. It was a blessed experience and we parted as good friends. A few days later we received an email from this lady which read in part:

*"I thank God for both you gentlemen and for giving me the opportunity to meet you. I have enjoyed poring over some of the literature you gave me and have already shared some of your teachings. I've also visited your website and explored some of the teachings posted there. The teaching on the Godhead and the third person missing has really caught my attention. I've been taught and have embraced the teachings of the Trinity; now I will have to study this further."*

The joy both Howard and I received from this encounter cannot be explained but I am sure that those of us who have had similar encounters will understand how thrilled we were.

The meetings were held in Wenatchee, about two and a half hours from Seattle. Some of the people who attended were new to me, but there were also a few whom I had met about seven years ago when I had last attended a campmeeting in Washington. It was a joy to meet these brethren again and to find new

friends, but the greatest joy was being able to share the truth of God's grace in Christ.

Meetings were held on Friday afternoon, All day Saturday and on Sunday. Considering the sudden nature of the meetings, we were pleasantly surprised to find more than thirty people turning up for the meetings on the Sabbath. A fair number of these also returned on Sunday.

Here, as everywhere else we found that the gospel made a deep impression on the minds of many who attended. These ideas were new to some, while others who had heard snippets, were thankful to have their questions answered and their misconceptions cleared up.

At the end of the meetings a decision was taken to have a campmeeting next year, with people having time to prepare and to plan to be there. The date for these meetings is, July 7-11, 2010.

God is working to uplift His truth and this in only to be expected. We are living in the last moments of time, and as has been long expected, the message of Christ and His Righteousness has returned and is being lifted up. I thank God that I can have a part in it. My sincere, heartfelt prayer is that all who sincerely love the Lord will embrace this message in all its beauty and unite with Christ in opening it up to the world.





# Spice of Life

*Continued from page 9*

the ones found in oysters. It also killed the bacteria that can cause common intestinal infections (shigella, E. coli and salmonella) in one minute flat.

Cayenne is not a cure for every ailment or sickness, but it definitely has a place among the few "super herbs" known to us. It is one of nature's most healing and therapeutic foods and if applied topically or taken internally it is a great natural remedy.

Our God provided these plants for us knowing well the health benefits mankind would receive from studying and using them for the enhancement of health, vigor and vitality.



# Florida Campmeeting 2010

The 2010 Florida Campmeeting will be held at the *Florida Lions Camp* in Lake Wales, Florida, beginning on February 23, at 7:00pm and running through to Sunday morning, February 28, 2010.

This camp is equipped with meeting rooms as well as various types of accommodations to suit any preferences in style or price- they have lodges which are like hotel rooms, cabins which hold several guests sharing space, RV sites for those traveling with their own homes, and tent sites for real campers. We have rented the meeting spaces, but each attendee will need to contact the camp director to reserve whatever accom-

modations they would choose.

You can investigate the options with pictures at the following website:

[www.lionscampfl.org/rentals.html](http://www.lionscampfl.org/rentals.html) .

Go to the bottom of the page and click on the FACILITIES page to see the pictures- then click on each individual picture for more details and pictures of the item. Then after deciding, simply call the camp director, Robert Cage, at (863)696-1948 to make the reservation. For any further questions call : Jerri Raymond at(407)291-9565.



## ***Open Face***

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