First the Blade, Then the Ear

The object of the Christian life is fruit bearing *Christ's Object Lessons*, 68 - 69.

The wheat develops “first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear.” The object of the husbandman in the sowing of the seed and the culture of the growing plant is the production of grain. He desires bread for the hungry, and seed for future harvests. So the divine Husbandman looks for a harvest as the reward of His labor and sacrifice. Christ is seeking to reproduce Himself in the hearts of men; and He does this through those who believe in Him. The object of the Christian life is fruit bearing--the reproduction of Christ’s character in the believer, that it may be reproduced in others.

The plant does not germinate, grow, or bring forth fruit for itself, but to “give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater.” Isaiah 55:10. So no man is to live unto himself. The Christian is in the world as a representative of Christ, for the salvation of other souls.

There can be no growth or fruitfulness in the life that is centered in self. If you have accepted Christ as a personal Saviour, you are to forget yourself, and try to help others. Talk of the love of Christ, tell of His goodness. Do every duty that presents itself. Carry the burden of souls upon your heart, and by every means in your power seek to save the lost. As you receive the Spirit of Christ--the Spirit of unselfish love and labor for others--you will grow and bring forth fruit. The graces of the Spirit will ripen in your character. Your faith will increase, your convictions deepen, your love be made perfect. More and more you will reflect the likeness of Christ in all that is pure, noble, and lovely.

“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance.” Galatians 5:22, 23. This fruit can never perish, but will produce after its kind a harvest unto eternal life.

“When the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come.” 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.
Future News is the monthly newsletter from Future for America. We also coordinate the School of the Prophets for the education of this final generation.

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MISSION STATEMENT
The ministry of Future for America is to proclaim the final warning message of Revelation 14 as identified by the prophecies of the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. The end-time fulfillment of Bible prophecy is no longer future—for it is taking place before our eyes. The historic, prophetic understanding of Seventh-day Adventism is now present truth. We are the final generation. Our emphasis is on the prophetic word including all the counsel of God’s Word. To know what lies ahead is useless if we do not possess the experience to stand during these solemn times. Through obedience to God’s law, and faith in the promises of God’s Word, we are to receive that experience.

Coupled with the prophetic message, Future for America emphasizes all aspects of the medical missionary work. The “entering wedge”—medical missionary work—must be practiced by those who are to finish God’s work in these final hours.

During this time period, country living becomes more essential with each passing moment. Future for America upholds and promotes this end-time truth. God’s people must prepare for the coming storm, and that preparation includes the experience of learning how to survive in a simple fashion, away from the great centers of population.

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It is the privilege of every Christian not only to look for but to hasten the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 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.

**MARCH PROPHECY SCHOOL UPDATE**

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

We are pleased to invite you to a long weekend prophecy school that will be hosted by Future for America and School of the Prophets. It will be held March 22-26, 2017 on the grounds of School of the Prophets. We will be recording March’s prophecy school for distribution in order that all (both attendees and those who cannot make the journey here to Arkansas) may share in the experience. The speakers for this prophecy school include: Duane Dewey, Thabo Mtetwa, Jeff Pippenger, Tyler Sena, Deontay Jefferson, and Timothy Pugh.

If you wish to attend, please plan to arrive Wednesday, March 22. Registration begins Wednesday, March 22 at 5:15 pm. When you register, you will be given an itinerary for the long weekend. Six meetings will be held every day on School of the Prophets campus, beginning Wednesday evening at 6:15 pm and ending Sunday morning.

For those who wish to lodge with us, please note that we cannot guarantee private accommodations. For those who lodge with us you will most likely be located in the small town of Glenwood. There is a 10-minute drive time to the school from Glenwood. Transportation is limited. Please plan on bringing your own vehicle and let us know if you have additional space for carpooling.

The complete package for the week, including the meal plan, booklet, and lodging will be $175 per adult. However, if you are providing your own lodging and wish to go on the meal plan and receive a booklet, the cost for the week is $75 per adult. For all other prices, please see the table below.

If you choose not to lodge with us, you must provide your own transportation. Separately, if you plan to travel by air, the local airport is in Little Rock, AR (LIT). We offer very limited airport transportation—this includes pickup on Wednesday morning or early afternoon, March 22, and the drop off on Sunday morning or early afternoon, March 26. The cost for this service is $80 per person. Please select arrival and departure times within regular business hours if you wish to use us as your means for transportation. We will only provide limited airport transportation and will not be able to service anyone other than the March 22 or 26 dates. All airport pickups are based on a first come first served basis. You must make advanced arrangements with us for this service.

A weekly meal plan is available for all who wish to use it. This includes two plant-based meals that will be provided every day, Thursday morning through Sunday morning.

For families with children, we will be hosting a children’s program that will last for a few hours every day. Please let us know ahead of time if you wish for your children to participate in this program.

**STUDENT UPDATES**

“What a rich blessing to be among brothers and sisters at School of the Prophets studying line upon line the truths of God’s Holy Word! And even though the Arkansas winter brings the chilly air and the clouds (compared to the dry and colourful summer back home in Australia), the light that is shining out from the pages of Holy Writ far exceeds any temporal sunshine that can be experienced on this earth. It is my prayer that each student may grow in the grace and truth of our loving Lord and Saviour, submitting ourselves to His will that we each may take the numerous truths that we learn while here at School of the Prophets back to our homes, where we can pass them onto others, for the glory of God.”

LS – Australia
Dear School of the Prophets,
I thank you for the kindness and service you have shown me here over the past few weeks.

Food is always good and things are well regimented. There are 1843&50 charts everywhere and literature that is conducive to good study.

Keep up the good work, may God continue to bless this school and its associated community activities while it labors for souls in this period of grace we are blessed with.

GP – Australia

It is truly wonderful to be back at School of the Prophets again in 2017 amongst my beloved present truth brethren in Arkansas! Even more so this time because I am accompanied by two of my Australian brethren, brother Graeme Price and brother Luke Stanton! After being here at School of the Prophets for the summer Trimester in 2016, I was able to take the God-given blessings from the insights, learnings and knowledge I had gained here at School of the Prophets and apply them practically to assist in the organization and presentation of the highly successful Present Truth Camp Meetings delivered by Parminder Biant and Brother PS back in my home country of Australia in September and October 2016. The Lord’s hand was guiding those Camp Meetings such that the number of people who attended to hear the Present Truth message from large Seventh-Day Adventist Conference Churches in Melbourne and Sydney was well beyond our expectations. The Lord is choosing his people and hearts and minds are being opened up to His Present Truth message all over the world, and it is my privilege to testify that in Australia it is no different!

My first visit to School of the Prophets as a student was life changing, indeed I can say it was the most profound event in my life up to that point. But being one month into my return visit to School of the Prophets in 2017, this time in the role of a hybrid Student and Teacher, I can truly say that the impact of being here in Arkansas at School of the Prophets among God’s people, in a place such as this, in a time such as this, is even greater than last time, but so too are the responsibilities!

The reasons for this are perhaps not surprising. They include:

The inauguration of the 45th President of the United States (and all that this entails prophetically) having just occurred last Sabbath,

The profoundly significant impact of the approaching waymark of Midnight where our “eternal destiny will be decided” (Selected Messages, book 2, 80.),

The profound light that has been shining so brightly here at School of the Prophets in morning prophecy class,

The increase of knowledge which has been occurring progressively regarding the unsealing of the 7th seal since December 2016, the continued opening up of Daniel 11:5-30 and the effect of every vision, and

The insights into the Alpha Apostasy, the Omega Apostasy and the associated shaking that has been occurring in the Present Truth movement around the world.

Like The Three Angels’ Messages in our Reform Line, all of these factors combine to make my time here very solemn and important. Indeed it was my solemn duty and great privilege to deliver the Sabbath Sermon for the School and the Lambert Fellowship on 21 January 2017, the first day after the inauguration of Donald J. Trump as the 45th President of the United States of America. This is the man who will usher in the Sunday Law in the United States of America, and in so doing become the Perfect Punisher (Seven = Sheba = Oath) of God’s apostate people, and indeed an apostate world, who have broken and/or will break the sacred Oath of God, and in so doing, forsake the blessings of Leviticus 26 and instead open themselves up to be
subject progressively to the curses in that chapter at the Lord’s appointed time in accord with Leviticus 26:18, 21,24 and 28.

It is perhaps not surprising then that we find that Donald J. Trump, having been born on 14 June 1946 and inaugurated on 20 January 2017, was exactly 70 years, 7 months and 7 days old on Inauguration day! What’s more, it was 74 days (if you include the starting day) from US election day (8 November 2016) to inauguration Day (20 January 2017)… thus giving us four sevens (Sheba/Oath) or 7, 7, 7, 7. With this in mind, it was very humbling but no doubt providential that I, not even being an American but rather being Australian, ended up delivering the Sabbath Sermon. I say providential, because it was another Australian, my brother Luke Stanton, who also delivered the Superintendents Remarks in Sabbath School that day… so with two Australians there, we have a doubling!

Another interesting fact that brothers Graeme, Luke and I observed as we waited to board our flight from Melbourne, Australia to the USA, was that the gate through which we all had to board our plane was literally labeled “Gate 9,11”! But the cherry on top is this: brother Luke is 24 years old, brother Graeme is 33 years old and I am 44 years old, thus the age difference between brothers Luke and Graeme is 9 years, and the age difference between brothers Graeme and myself is 11 years or “9/11.” So what do these number patterns mean? Well firstly, I believe there are no coincidences when it comes to God’s providence, thus I believe it was Palmoni the wonderful numberer, attesting in a way that only he can, that my two Australian brothers and I are indeed right where the Lord would have us be as we approach Midnight and the Binding-Off, in a place such as this, in a time such as this, with Elder Jeff Pippenger and God’s people here at School of the Prophets, studying to shew ourselves approved into God, workman that needeth not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15) that we may be rightly fitted to proclaim the Third Angels message, the binding-off message, that is to prepare a people for the coming of the King Manuscript Releases, volume 5, 128.

WP – Australia

Everything that I had looked forward to in coming here is far exceeding my expectations. There is no shortage of interesting thought provoking material to study and dig into in search of hidden gems. The manual labor in the sun and fresh air provide a refreshing invigorating strength. Projects that need to be done throughout the campus make me feel that we are contributing to the needs of the school. The meals are always delicious, and the company of the brethren is a delight. The whole environment that I have been surrounded with is so pleasant that I only wish there was more that I could do to show my appreciation for everything the staff does for us. Getting to know each individual here is probably my favorite thing about the school. Hearing stories about how the Lord has lead in their past experiences encourages me, and makes me more and more fond of them and their desire for a closer walk with God. Having Good influences around is a treasure of immeasurable worth. Its hard to believe that we are close to the end of our first month at School of the Prophets.

I pray that the Lord will lead me and my brothers to know how to make the best of this wonderful opportunity that we have all been blessed with.

NL – USA

First of all, I want to say that I am happy to be at School of the Prophets. Since it was created I longed to be there, but could not for various reasons. Moreover, the fact that I am with other young adults studying the Bible comforts me. Being with others which are interested in the message gives different perspectives, because each one has a different experience. You learn then here a little and there a little from each experience. It is also a preparation for the time with which each one is going to be confronted when they give the message: opposition.
One other thing is that I am glad to have more time for study, but it is yet a struggle to manage the time, and mostly, since there are various subjects that are brought to view, we have to choose which one to prioritize. Despite this, the time passes so fast. We are almost at the end of the first month.

I came to realize, even though I am with brethren in the same faith, the different struggles are still here: Temperance, controlling the thoughts, etc. Moreover, the fact that we are just before Midnight, with the 45th president of the USA already here, and the omega apostasy already showing itself, it gives more solemnity to the times we are living and more weight to the thoughts and actions. I would like to stay here for more than only three months, but I know that I have responsibilities in my country as well.

If I should say something about the physical exercise, I would say that I am very glad. It is very lovely to work outside in the pure air, even though most of the time is to gather leaves because we have to clean up.

May the Lord help each one of you who is reading this newsletter, and hopefully to be part of School of the Prophets. But, know this, that even if you cannot come, wherever you may be, remember that you are already in the school of Christ. And each step that you have to meet, He permits, in order for you to prepare for the celestial Canaan.

VS – France

UNKNOW SIN

By N. Nyoni

I pray that you are well in the Lord, and that the work of preparation is moving forward by His grace. I am sure you are aware of the issues that are currently raging in the movement which are causing a shaking in different parts of the Lord’s vineyard. One of them, which is the main purpose of this email, is the issue of coming to the binding off at midnight and having “unknown sins” in one’s experience which need to be resolved. Elder Pippenger is clarifying this issue, and I believe I see accuracy in what he is saying. He has noted that the issue being resolved at midnight is not concerning sins in one’s experience; for the very definition of sin in the gospel, as well as that of justification and sanctification, remove the possibility of one having unknown sins in their Christian experience.

Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him. Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. 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. Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother. 1 John 3:4–10

What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet. But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For without the law sin was dead. For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died. Romans 7:7–9

“But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.” Romans 1:14, 15

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:… Romans 5:1
Justification is defined in Strong's as follows:
From G1342; to render (that is, show or regard as) just or innocent: -- free, justify (-ier), be righteous. In the following quotation, Sister White confirms the understanding that when a sinner is justified (by complying to the conditions of the gospel), they are regarded as just, innocent and free from sin.

"Herein is the mystery of redemption, that the innocent, pure, and holy Son of the infinite God was permitted to bear the punishment of a thankless race of rebels against the divine government; that through the manifestation of His matchless love, these rebels might be inspired with faith in, and love for God, and might stand before Him repentant, forgiven, guiltless, as if they had never sinned. Angels in heaven marvelled that the wrath of God should be laid on His well-beloved Son; that a life of infinite value in the heavenly courts should be given for the worthless life of a race degraded by sin." Bible Echo, November 25, 1895.

Then in this next quotation, though she does not use the terminology I am employing to explain it, she identifies sanctification as maintaining the state of justification, first obtained at the beginning, all throughout the Christian's experience:

"No outward observances can take the place of simple faith and entire renunciation of self. But no man can empty himself of self. We can only consent for Christ to accomplish the work. Then the language of the soul will be, Lord, take my heart; for I cannot give it. It is Thy property. Keep it pure, for I cannot keep it for Thee. Save me in spite of myself, my weak, unchristlike self. Mold me, fashion me, raise me into a pure and holy atmosphere, where the rich current of Thy love can flow through my soul. It is not only at the beginning of the Christian life that this renunciation of self is to be made. At every advance step heavenward it is to be renewed. All our good works are dependent on a power outside of ourselves. Therefore there needs to be a continual reaching out of the heart after God, a continual, earnest, heartbreaking confession of sin and humbling of the soul before Him. Only by constant renunciation of self and dependence on Christ can we walk safely." Christ's Object Lessons, 159.

Therefore, a continual state of justification, constant renunciation of self and dependence on Christ, translates to a continual regard by heaven of innocence or sinlessness on the part of the Christian who undergoes this experience. And Paul, James and John state that sin can only be sin, when first it is brought to view by the law, and then that law is cognitively transgressed by the human being by reason of yielding to his unlawful desire. So there can be no unknown sins by the very definitions given by the gospel. Perhaps I failed to express myself correctly, please assist if that is the case. But the reason I bring this issue to your attention is because in one of the articles I was privileged to write, and was put in the Future News Newsletter, I employed the term “unknown sins” in connection with the judgment step that takes place at midnight, and I am officially backing away from that. Furthermore, seeing as it is on the public record of Future for America's material, I believe it could potentially cause confusion and contribute further to the shaking unless it is clarified.

At this point, even though I do not fully understand it as yet, I agree with Elder Pippenger that what the Lord is dealing with in our Christian experience at the binding off is not sins, but a natural human condition which must be dealt with in order for us to be sealed for eternity. Perhaps it can be described as “earthliness” in the words of inspiration. I am sure much more is to be said in future to clarify these points, but I thought to identify this as we strive to enter into the unity of the faith as ministries, but more importantly as individuals who are hopefully to form a part of Christ's glorified and triumphant body.

I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech
you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love: Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Ephesians 4:1–3

TRANSFORMED BY GRACE

"In the life of the disciple John true sanctification is exemplified. During the years of his close association with Christ, he was often warned and cautioned by the Saviour; and these reproofs he accepted. As the character of the Divine One was manifested to him, John saw his own deficiencies, and was humbled by the revelation. Day by day, in contrast with his own violent spirit, he beheld the tenderness and forbearance of Jesus, and heard His lessons of humility and patience. Day by day his heart was drawn out to Christ, until he lost sight of self in love for His Master. The power and tenderness, the majesty and meekness, the strength and patience, that he saw in the daily life of the Son of God, filled his soul with admiration. He yielded his resentful, ambitious temper to the molding power of Christ, and divine love wrought in him a transformation of character.

In striking contrast to the sanctification worked out in the life of John is the experience of his fellow disciple, Judas. Like his associate, Judas professed to be a disciple of Christ, but he possessed only a form of godliness. He was not insensible to the beauty of the character of Christ; and often, as he listened to the Saviour’s words, conviction came to him, but he would not humble his heart or confess his sins. By resisting the divine influence he dishonored the Master whom he professed to love. John warred earnestly against his faults; but Judas violated his conscience and yielded to temptation, fastening upon himself more securely his habits of evil. The practice of the truths that Christ taught was at variance with his desires and purposes, and he could not bring himself to yield his ideas in order to receive wisdom from heaven. Instead of walking in the light, he chose to walk in darkness. Evil desires, covetousness, revengeful passions, dark and sullen thoughts, were cherished until Satan gained full control of him.

John and Judas are representatives of those who profess to be Christ’s followers. Both these disciples had the same opportunities to study and follow the divine Pattern. Both were closely associated with Jesus and were privileged to listen to His teaching. Each possessed serious defects of character; and each had access to the divine grace that transforms character. But while one in humility was learning of Jesus, the other revealed that he was not a doer of the word, but a hearer only. One, daily dying to self and overcoming sin, was sanctified through the truth; the other, resisting the transforming power of grace and indulging selfish desires, was brought into bondage to Satan.

Such transformation of character as is seen in the life of John is ever the result of communion with Christ. There may be marked defects in the character of an individual, yet when he becomes a true disciple of Christ, the power of divine grace transforms and sanctifies him. Beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, he is changed from glory to glory, until he is like Him whom he adores.

John was a teacher of holiness, and in his letters to the church he laid down unerring rules for the conduct of Christians. "Every man that hath this hope in him," he wrote, "purifieth himself, even as He is pure." "He that saith he abideth in Him ought himself also so to walk, even as He walked." 1 John 3:3; 2:6. He taught that the Christian must be pure in heart and life. Never should he be satisfied with an empty profession. As God is holy in His sphere, so fallen man, through faith in Christ, is to be holy in his sphere." Acts of the Apostles, 557-559.