

THE THREE ANGELS' MESSAGES.

Do you know what the three Angel's flying over the earth mean? Do you know that these three Angel's have a very important message for you today? You can find these three Angel's message's in your Bible. If you don't have a Bible, the verses are reproduced below for you.

Revelation 14:6-12 "And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, (7) Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters. (8) And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. (9) And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, (10) The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: (11) And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name. (12) Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus."

Have you ever heard these messages before? Would you like to understand them? Very well, here we are going to carefully explain these verses, phrase by phrase, and help you understand this important message.

Revelation 14:6 "And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven. . . ."

First of all, the "I" in this text refers to John, one of the Apostles of Christ, who had been exiled to the Island of Patmos. At the time of his seeing this angel "fly in the midst of heaven," he was in vision.

Now an angel is also known as a "messenger." So here in this vision John sees "a messenger," flying in heaven. However, the focus of this paper is more to do with the actual message itself, rather than the messenger.

Revelation 14:6 . . .having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people. . . ."

What is the "everlasting gospel?" The Bible tells us:-

Romans 1:16 "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth. . . "

So, we read here that the gospel is the "power of God unto salvation."

Now the dictionary defines "salvation as: -

"Being saved from sin and its consequences." - OXFORD.

Well, this is Biblically correct, for the Bible tells us:-

Matthew 1:21 "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call His name JESUS: for He shall save His people from their sins.

So, now we see that the Gospel is the power of God unto salvation from our sins. Well then, what is sin? Again the Bible supplies the answer:

1 John 3:4 "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law' .

So we see that sin is the transgression of, (disobeying), the law. But what are the consequences of disobeying God' s law?

Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death. . . ."

So the Gospel is the power of God unto Salvation from sin and from the wages of sin. . .death. Okay, but how? The rest of the above text answers that:

"...but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. .
."

The best loved Bible text' s tell us the everlasting Gospel in a nutshell:

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."

So, the Gospel is the power of God unto salvation from sin and death through His gift to the world which He loved, His Son Jesus

Christ. But is it really for me? Did Jesus really die for me? Friend, I don't care how bad you have been, and neither does God. He loves YOU. He gave His Son for YOU. No matter how sinful or evil your past has been, God has the power to save YOU. Look at this text:

Hebrews 7:25 "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them."

And look at this wonderful promise:-

John 1:12 "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:"

Do these texts include YOU?? YES THEY DO!! Look:-

Revelation 22:17 " And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."

But "when?" some of you may ask. NOW, is the answer! You may come to Jesus right now. This is why it is called the "everlasting" Gospel, God's love for you will NEVER run out. His love is everlasting.

2 Corinthians 6:2 "...behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation."

"But what must I do?" some ask. Well, someone asked that in the Bible once, and here was the answer:-

Acts 16:31 "And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."

So, the "everlasting Gospel" spoken of by this messenger is the power of God unto salvation from our sins and death by the gift of His Son in whom we are to believe. But is it enough just to "believe?" Now wait, the angel's message went on...

Revelation 14:7 "Saying with a loud voice, Fear God..."

So how do we do this? Moses tells us how -

Deuteronomy 6:2 "That thou mightest fear the LORD thy God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged."

So, according to the Bible, to fear God is to keep His commandments. Why? Again the Bible supplies the answer:

Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14 "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every good work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil."

This is interesting! For we see that this first angel also speaks about God's Judgement! So, we must not only believe in Jesus Christ, but we must fear God, and that is done by obeying His commandments. However, the angel also tells us to do something else:-

Revelation 14:7 ..."Fear God, and give glory to him..."

And just what is giving God glory? God Himself tells us what His glory is:

Isaiah 43:6 "I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back: bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth; **7** Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him".

Also, once on Mount Sinai Moses asked God to show him His glory:-

Exodus 33:18 "And he said, I beseech thee, shew me thy glory."

And this the LORD said He would do, in the next verse:

"And He said, I will make all My goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy."

And then the LORD did:-

Exodus 34:5-7 "And the LORD descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. (6) And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, (7) Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation".

So would it be fair enough to say that from the above texts that God' s glory is His name, and His character? I believe so, seeing as when Moses asked to see God' s glory, God showed Moses His Character. We also notice that we have been created for His glory.

But why do we need to fear God by keeping His commandments anyway? Isn' t believing on Him enough? No, and the reason for this the angel goes on to give:

Revelation 14: 7 "...for the hour of His judgment is come..."

Now did you notice this angel said God' s judgment "is" come? Many people speak of a "judgment day to come..." but this angel' s message doesn' t say that God' s Judgment "will come..." or "shall come..." but rather, ' is come." that means that it' s already happening! Have you ever thought of that?

Consider this, the Bible tells us that when Christ returns, He will hand out His rewards:

Revelation 22:12 "And, behold, I come quickly; and My reward is with Me, to give every man according as his work shall be."

But in order for Him to do this, He will have had to judge us before He comes back. Not after He comes back. No-one ever receives the results of their exams before they sit the test. Just the same that Jesus can' t hand out rewards before the judgment, but rather after.

So then, when did the judgment start? Does the Bible tell us when it started? Yes it does: -

Daniel 8:14 " And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days: then shall the sanctuary be cleansed."

The Jewish day of Atonement was on the tenth day of the seventh month, at which time the earthly sanctuary was cleansed. This day of Atonement was looked upon by the Jewish nation as a day of Judgment> It was, in fact, a type of the judgment going on in heaven now. (The Investigative Judgment.)

The 2300-day period, (* illustrated on the next two pages,) representing 2300 years, according to Biblical prophecy, reaches to the cleansing of the Heavenly Sanctuary, or the Investigative Judgment. According to Hebrews 8 and 9, the earthly sanctuary was a "pattern," or a "shadow of heavenly things..." In other words, it was a copy of the great original Sanctuary in Heaven, one which has been built by God' s hands, and not mans. And it is there, in the great heavenly Sanctuary that this investigative judgment is

now taking place.

(* see separate graphic)

So who exactly is being judged? The Bible explains:

Revelation 20:12 "And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works."

So, first of all the dead are being judged. What of the living? Are we being judged too? We will be, soon, and that is why the angel tells us to, "...Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come."

There are, in fact, three phases of the judgment. And although you may not find the word, "investigative" in the Bible, it is just a descriptive term used to describe a part of the judgment. Much the same as we use the word, "Trinity," although it is nowhere in the Bible, the truth of the trinity is. There is, first, the investigative judgment, which comes before Christ's return; then there is the judgment of those lost in this world and the fallen angels done by Christ and the saints during the 1,000 years after the Second coming; then there is the executive judgment, the time when the judgment's passed upon the lost are carried out. And this is done at the end of the 1,000 years.

So, if you ever hear someone say that there is a day of judgment coming, they are correct, but that will be a day of "executive Judgment." Then it will be too late to make yourself ready to face God. But it's not too late yet. Even now, though the angel has said that the hour of God's judgment "is come," there is still time for you to heed the gospel call and follow Jesus.

Now this first angel's message goes on...

Revelation 14:7 "...and worship Him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters."

Now we see here that we must also worship God. Why, and how? Why, because He is our Creator. And how, as the angel told us, "fear God and give glory to Him..." So this message is dealing with the correct way of worshipping God. And as we shall see soon, all three of these angel's bear a message that deals mainly with the correct way to worship God. The Bible tells us:-

John 4:24 "God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth."

If we are to fear God and give glory to Him in our worship, then we

need to worship Him in the way that He has requested. And that is "in Spirit and in truth." Now the Bible also tells us:-

John 16:13 "Howbeit when He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth..."

So God's Spirit will guide us into the true ways of worshipping Him. Unfortunately, God has a bitter enemy. The Devil, or Satan, hates God and everything He stands for. Satan has attacked God and His Government on all counts, including worship. And this is spoken of in part, by the second angel's message:

Revelation 14:8 "And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication."

"Babylon" in the Bible means, confusion, rebellion, false system, counterfeit worship, everything evil, in fact. In another part of Revelation we have this description of Babylon:

Revelation 18:1-4 "And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. (2) And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. (3) For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. (4) And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues".

So Babylon is, in fact, everything opposite to God and His government. Therefore if God has a truthful system of worship we would expect Babylon to have a false system of worship, and we find that it does.

Notice that in both text's above there is mentioned "wine of the wrath of her fornication." Pure wine in the Bible is a symbol of pure doctrine, therefore this kind of wine must mean false doctrine. So Babylon would cause all nations to "drink" her false doctrines, and we find that indeed she has.

So just who is Babylon? The Bible gives many different identifying features of this false system of worship set up by Satan, and we need to be sure that whatever we think Babylon to be, that it fits ALL of these features set out in the Bible. If, whatever we think Babylon to be, fails in so much as one point, then it is not the Babylon of the Bible.

The Bible gives another name to this false system. It also calls it "THE BEAST." Now please be certain of one thing. In identifying this false system of worship, it is the system itself that is being identified. We do not condemn people within the system itself, seeing as God is the judge. But we do need to examine the Bible's given characteristics and give a name to this false system, and see if it matches ALL of the features mentioned.

Now in order to identify who "Babylon" is, we need to go to another book of the Bible.

In the Book of Daniel there is a beast power brought into view, first of all as a "little horn power," and several identifying characteristics are given to it.

Daniel has had a dream, in which he has seen four most unusual animals coming up out of the water. (Water in the Bible is a symbol of many people. See Revelation 17:15). A lion with the wings of an eagle. (This lion represented the kingdom of Babylon, built by King Nebuchadnezzar, the eagle's wings represented the speed at which it rose to power.) Next came a bear with three ribs in its mouth, with one side raised higher than the other. (This represented the next world empire, Medo-Persia, the higher side showing that one would be ruler over the other, and in fact the Medes did rule over the Persians; the three ribs represented the three kingdoms she needed to conquer in order to rule the then known world, Babylon, Egypt, and Lydia.) Then there came up a four headed leopard, (which represented the kingdom of Greece, ruled by Alexander the Great, until he died, and then it was divided up among his four generals.)

Then up came an exceedingly dreadful and terrible beast, and it had ten horns on its head. In fact, these four Beast's paralleled the great metal man in Daniel's dream of Daniel chapter 2, with the ten toes of the image paralleling the ten horns.

This fourth Beast was Rome. (**Daniel 7:25**). This was the Empire of the Caesars. This was the Empire that was ruling the world when Christ came to die for us. In fact, it was on a Roman Cross that Christ died for our sins.

Now as for these ten horns, they represented ten king's:

Daniel 7:24 "And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall arise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings."

These ten kings, who ruled over their ten kingdoms, came into being when Western Rome was divided between the years 352 A.D. and 476 A.D. (You can read these things for yourself in the

Encyclopaedia' s of today.) It was divided up thus:-

The Alemanni in Germany; the Franks in France; the Burgundians in Switzerland; the Vandals in North Africa; the Seuvi in Portugal; the Visigoths in Spain; the Ostrogoths in Austria; the Lombards in Lombardy and the Heruli in Italy.

After this division, Daniel was shown that a "Little Horn Power," would arise. This it did. Now this "little horn power" had six identifying characteristics that made it stand out from all the rest. As the Bible says,

Daniel 7:20 "...whose look was more stout than his fellows."

These six characteristics are:

1. He was to be "diverse" from the other horns (or Kingdoms).
2. He was to subdue three other kingdoms. (uproot 3 other horns).
3. He would "speak great words against the Most High."
4. He would "wear out the saints of the Most High."
5. He would think "to change times and laws."
6. The saints and time and the law would be given into his hand for a time.

We will now identify this little horn power through the pages of Papal history:-

1. He was to be "diverse" from the other horns (or kingdoms). Now the ten kingdoms into which western Rome was divided were political powers. However, this little horn power (Daniel 7:8), was something different! When the Papacy arose, she was first and foremost an Ecclesiastical power, yet she claimed the right to also rule over the temporal affairs of the state. And she did exercise this power, and in so doing formed a union of the church and state, with the church in command. In this way she was "diverse" from the other ten kingdoms.

2. He was to subdue three other kingdoms. (uproot 3 other horns). When she first came to power, the Papacy did just this. History records the fact that three divisions of Rome, the Heruli, the Vandals and the Ostrogoths, who being Arians, (people who denied the divinity of Christ), and who also objected to being dictated to by the Bishop of Rome, refused to recognize his authority and resented his interference. Consequently the Bishop of Rome took steps to bring them into subjection, and finally subdued them - the Vandals in 334 A.D., the Heruli in 493 A.D., and the Ostrogoths in 538 A.D. Thus has the Papacy fulfilled the first two specifications as set out in the prophecy of Daniel. Isn't it significant that today the Pope's tiara is composed of a triple crown?

3. He would "speak great words against the Most High." In the church of Rome today, is not the Pope exalted to the place of God? Has he not been called "God on earth.?" Have not the priest' s of Rome also been given the power to forgive sins, a power belonging to God alone? **(Mark 2:7)** The following statement proves the point. It is taken from a Catholic publication by M. Gaume, entitled, "THE PRIESTHOOD," a work which was approved by 9 Bishop' s and also by Pope Gregory the 16th, who reigned from 1831 to 1846, and who, as a token of his appreciation of the work, sent to Gaume the cross of the order of Saint Sylvester. In this work Gaume said the following: -

"What human tongue can describe the dignity of the priesthood, and the greatness of the priest! The kings of the earth are mighty, who command armies, and shake the world by the sound of their names. But behold! There is a man still greater. There is a man, who daily, when it pleases him, opens the gates to heaven, addresses himself to the Son of the Eternal, to the Monarch of the world, and says, ' come down from your throne, come.' Obedient to the voice of this man, the Word of God, by whom all things were made, leaves instantly the abode of glory, incarnates Himself in the hands of this man, more mighty than kings, than angel' s, than the August Mary, and this man says to Him, ' You are my son; this day have I begotten you; you are my victim.' and He allows this man to immolate Him, to place Him wherever he wishes, and He gives Him to whomsoever he chooses. This man is the priest.....The priest is not only Almighty in heaven, and over the Godman, but he is almighty on earth and over the mystical body of Jesus Christ. Behold! A man has fallen into the hands of the Devil; what power will be able to deliver him? Call to the assistance of this unhappy man the angels and archangels. Holy Michael Himself, chief of the heavenly host, conqueror of Satan and his revolted legions, and they will never be able to sever the chains of the sinner who has placed his confidence in the wicked one. The priest can do it, ' much more.'

"Suppose that the Redeemer visibly descends in person to His church, and stationed Himself in the confessional to administer the sacrament of penance, while the priest occupies another. The Son of God says, ' I absolve you,' and the priest also says, ' I absolve you,' and the penitent finds himself absolved just as much by one as by the other....

"Thus the priest, Mighty like God, can instantly snatch the sinner from hell, render him worthy of pardon, and a slave of the Devil, be made a son of Abraham. And God Himself is obliged to submit to the judgment of the priest, to grant or refuse absolution. The sentence of the priest precedes, God submits to it! Can anyone conceive of a greater power?"

Can anyone conceive of greater or more blasphemous words being spoken against the Most High? How accurately, thus far, has the papacy fulfilled the specifications of this prophecy.

4. He would "wear out the saints of the Most High." Does not the history of the Dark Ages bear faithful witness to the terrible lengths to which the Papal church went in its persecutions? One need only read such books as "FOXES BOOK OF CHRISTIAN MARTYRS," or "THE GREAT CONTROVERSY," to recall what has happened in the past. This is so well known, in fact, that it will suffice to here give but one corroborative extract taken from a Roman Catholic paper, "THE WESTERN WATCHMAN," SAINT LOUIS, DEC. 24, 1908.

"The church has persecuted, only a tyro in church history will deny that...One hundred and fifty years after Constantine the Donatists were persecuted, and sometimes put to death...Protestants were persecuted in France and Spain with the full approval of the church authorities. We have always defended the persecution of the Huguenots, and the Spanish Inquisition. Wherever or whenever there is honest Catholicity, there will be a clear distinction drawn between truth and error. When she thinks it good to use physical force, she will use it."

5. He would think "to change times and laws." Has the Papacy tried to change times and laws? Indeed she has. The first appointed "time" in the Bible was the Day, which in the beginning began from the evening, and ended with the evening. (see **Genesis 1; Leviticus 23:32; Mark 1:32**). But Rome changed that time, and midnight now marks the beginning and ending of the day. But there's more. For centuries the year began with the Jewish month, Nisan, or approximately the 24th of March, (by our calendars today). But in 1582, Pope Gregory the 13th invented a new calendar, starting the year with January 1, and today we know this calendar as the Gregorian Calendar.

But what of the law? Has the Papacy tried to change the law? Is it at all possible that they would attempt such a heaven-daring act? Yes, indeed, this they have done, and what is more, they are very proud to tell you so, listen to their claims:-

"The Pope's will stands for reason. He can dispense above the law, and of wrong make right by correcting and changing laws." - Pope Nicholas, Dist, 96.

"The Pope has power to change times, to abrogate laws, and to dispense with all things, even the precepts of Christ. He can pronounce sentences and judgments in contradiction to the rights of

Nations, to the Law of God, and to man." - "In Defense of the Sabbath," F.L. Sharp.

Now the only appointed "time" in the Law of God is found in the fourth Commandment, the Seventh-day Sabbath, which God Himself blessed and sanctified. **(See Genesis 2:1-3; Exodus 20:8-11)**. But this day Rome has ruthlessly set aside as the day of worship, and supplanted it by appointing in its stead the first day of the week, SUNDAY. Not only do the Papal authorities admit to making this change, but they even boast of it in no uncertain terms, and hold their act up as evidence of the authority which they claim is vested in them, as we read in the following extracts: -

"The Bible say' s ' Remember that thou keep holy the Sabbath day." The Catholic church say' s NO! By my divine power I abolish the Sabbath Day, and command you to keep holy the first day of the week.' And lo, the entire civilized world bows down in reverent obedience to the command of the holy Catholic church!" - Father T. Enright, C.S.S.R. of Redemptorist College, Kansas City, Mo. In the American Sentinel, June 1, 1893.

"Sunday as a day of the week set apart for the obligatory public worship of God Almighty...is purely a creation of the Catholic church." - American Catholic Quarterly Review, January, 1883.

Cardinal Gibbons, in a letter to a Mr. E. E. Franke, under the date of October the 3rd, 1899 says, "The Catholic church changed the day of rest from the last day to the first day of the week because the most memorable of Christ' s works was accomplished on Sunday. They, (the Protestants), cannot prove their point from Scripture; therefore, if sincere, they must acknowledge that they draw from their observance of the Sunday tradition, and therefore, weekly, are contradicting themselves."

"The observance of Sunday by the Protestants is an homage they pay, in spite of themselves, to the authority of the (Catholic) church." - Plain Talks about the Protestantism of Today, by Monsignor Segur.

"You may read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, and you will not find a single line authorizing the Sanctification of Sunday. The Scripture enforces the religious observance of Saturday, a day we never sanctify." - Faith of our Fathers," by James Cardinal Gibbons of Baltimore.

"The Bible commands you keep the Sabbath day. Sunday is not the Sabbath day; no man dare assert that it is; for the Bible says it plainly as words can put it that the Seventh Day is the Sabbath, i.e. Saturday. For we know Sunday is the first day of the week...I will

give \$1000.00 to any man who will prove by the Bible alone that Sunday is the day we are bound to keep...the observance of Sunday is solely a law of the Catholic church...the church changed the Sabbath to Sunday, and all the world bows down and worships upon that day, in silent obedience to the mandates of the Catholic church." - Father T. Enright in "Weekly Call," February 22, 1884. With what boldness do the Papal authorities lay claim to the Sunday institution as a day of their own appointing. And with what confidence do they challenge the Protestant world to produce Scriptural authority for their observance of that day. And in absence of such Biblical authority, upon what grounds do Protestants, who worship on that day, deny the accusation that they, "worship upon that day, in silent obedience to the mandates of the Catholic church.?"

But still further, a Roman Catholic shall ALWAYS win in a debate on this topic with a Protestant, if the Protestant claims that the Bible is his only rule of faith and practice, for the Sunday institution cannot be found anywhere inside its covers. The following proves the point. It was said by a Doctor James Blake, a Roman Catholic, during a debate with a Protestant: -

"Christ never wrote, but God the Father did. He wrote the Ten Commandments on the tables of stone, and the only commandment He emphasized was that to keep the seventh day. 'Remember the Sabbath day,' and there is no command so often repeated through the Old Testament. If the Bible alone is to be the gentleman's rule of faith, he is bound by this commandment; but does he observe this commandment? No, he does not. Why, then, does he not observe it? Because the church thought fit to change it. Here the gentleman admits the authority of the church to be superior to the hand-writing of God the Father; and yet he will look you in the face, and declare the Bible, without church authority, is his rule of faith."

And are not first-day observers doing this very thing? i.e. when they continue to observe the first day after being enlightened as to its origin? Are they not practically confessing "the authority of the church to be superior to the handwriting of God the Father.?" It cannot otherwise be done with a full knowledge of the facts. For when, "without a word of remonstrance" they, "bow down to the mandates of the Catholic church," by observing this first day, and fear to disregard their command, while they do not fear to break God's command, in so doing, do they not place the authority of the Catholic church above the authority of the God of heaven? May we say with the Apostle Peter:

Acts 5:29 "...We ought to obey God rather than men."

The Papacy has also deleted the Second of the Ten Commandments from the Decalogue and split the Tenth Commandment in two. This was done because the Second Commandment forbids the setting up of and bowing down to, idols. Yet many faithful and sincere Catholic's bow down to images seeing it as simply the normal part of worship...totally oblivious to the Second Commandment which forbids such actions. Will the Papacy stand guiltless in the day of judgment for daring to alter God's law and thus render millions of souls guilty of its violation? NEVER. Such action is open rebellion against the Most High.

6. The saints and time and the law would be given into his hand for a time.

Now the text that this characteristic is taken from reads as follows:-

Daniel 7:25 "...and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time."

Concerning the interpretation of the expression "time, and times, and the dividing of time," we will find practically the same expression used, with an interpretation given, in the Book of Revelation:

Revelation 12:14 "And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent."

and the interpretation is found above it in verse 6:

Revelation 12:6 "And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days."

This 1260 days must be interpreted as all prophetic time is, in accordance with **Numbers 14:33, 24** and **Ezekiel 4:6**, where God gives each day the same equivalent as a year. Therefore 1260 days is actually 1,260 years.

Now in dealing with the prophecy before us we need to do a little arithmetic. A "time" in the Bible equaled one year. We see this when the King of Babylon was mad "seven times," in Daniel chapter four. History bears the record that he was mad for seven years. So, "Time," is one year, "times" is another two years, and "the dividing of time," is half a year, making the time 3 and a half years. Remembering that according to the Jewish Calendar there was only

360 days in a year, we have exactly 1260 days. ($3 \times 360 = 1260$).

Making the days into years, does the prophecy hold up? Did the Papacy in fact rule the world for 1,260 years? Yes, indeed she did. And the events that marked off the start and the end of this long reign of Papal supremacy are of such a definite character, that there can be no mistaking it.

In the year 533 A.D. the Emperor Justinian issued an edict appointing the Bishop of Rome the head of all the churches. But owing to the three Arian powers already referred to, the edict given could not have taken full effect until the Ostrogoths, (the last of the three kingdoms to be subdued), had been driven from Rome. This was accomplished in the year 538 A.D. Finally the last opposing horn had been plucked up, and the Papacy was now free to enter upon that career of ecclesiastical tyranny for which she had long been preparing; and the mystery of iniquity which had been working so long, was given full liberty, over the saints, times, and laws.

Now that we have the year 538 A.D. firmly in place, we shall now add 1,260 years to the date, and inquire of history for evidence to confirm the prophecy which called for the breaking of the Papal power at the end of this period. Adding, then, 1,260 to 538 we come to 1798 A.D. What do we find? History records the fact that in 1798, "The France Directory ordered the invasion of Rome, General Berthier entered the city on February the 10th, 1798, and took possession of the castles at St. Angelo. Pope Pious VI was called upon to renounce his temporal sovereignty, and on his refusal, was seized, February 20, and carried away to Siena, and afterward to.. Valence...where, worn out by age and the rigor of confinement, he died." - In Defense of the Sabbath, F. L. Sharp. Thus at the end of the 1,260 years, true to the Bible, the power of the Papacy was broken, and for a short time it was practically abolished. Even when, on March the 14th, 1800, another Pope was elected and placed upon his throne, he held no temporal power whatsoever. Thus the Papacy' s power was stopped, for a time.

To some people who may be reading these facts for the first time, it seems appropriate to ask a question here. Seeing as whatever constitutes this Beast power must meet ALL of the six characteristics, can you think of any other power in the whole history of mankind that has ruled the world for 1260 years? If you believe the "BEAST" to be the United Nations, in what way have they ruled the world for this long? In what way has the United Nations changed God' s law? Or spoken blasphemy against the Most High? No...there is only one world power who matches all of these characteristics, (and we have more in the Bible to show you

following), and that is the Papacy. Papal Rome.

Having thus identified the Papacy as this "little horn power," we will now move to identifying it as "the Beast," as mentioned by the third angel.

In **Revelation chapter 13, and the first three verses**, there is brought to view "a Beast," having seven heads and ten horns. This "Beast" is in all respects the counterpart of the "little horn" we just looked at. However, in the prophecies of Revelation, we find more characteristics that identify the Papacy as this power even more. The seven heads on the Beast represent Rome's seven successive forms of government, while the ten horns, as with the Beast of **Daniel 7**, represented the 10 division's of the Roman Empire. Let's read these texts: -

Revelation 13:1-3 "And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. (2) And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority. (3) And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast."

We notice that one of the heads on this Beast was "wounded to death," this no doubt is reference to the overthrow suffered by the Papacy in 1798 which we have just looked at, when the Pope was taken prisoner, and all the world thought that this was the end of Papal rule. Hence why it was referred to as a "deadly wound." We notice, however, that this wound was healed, and this symbolizes the revival of the Papacy again which began with the election of another Pope in 1800.

Since that time the healing of that wound has been progressing, slowly but surely, until now we see that the Pope once more ranks as a temporal ruler, recognized by every nation in the world. The complete healing of this wound will occur when once again the Papacy holds supreme power over the nations.

Now let's look at some more test's:

Revelation 13:11-16 "And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. (12) And he execrates all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. (13) And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, (14) And deceiveth them that dwell

on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. (15) And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. (16) And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads."

We see here another Beast power is brought to view, exercising all the power of the first Beast. We also see that this second Beast power causes all to worship the first Beast power. Now we have already seen that this first Beast power is the Papacy, but just to be sure the Scriptures give us another identifying characteristic, which is found in verse 18.

Revelation 13:18 "Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six."

The Pope, as the head of the Papacy, has taken many different titles. We shall now examine several of these titles and show something quite interesting.

The first title we will look at is "Vicarius of the Son of god." These words are written in the Pope's tiara, in the Latin language. The most notable thing is, when you give to each letter its Roman value, the number adds up to 666:

V = 5	F = 0	D = 500	"Vicarius Fili
			Dei"
I = 0	I = 1	E = 0	
C = 100	L = 50	I = 1	
A = 0	I = 1		
R = 0	I = 1		
I = 1			
O = 0			
U = 5			
S = 0			

112	+	53	+
		501	=
			666.

To prove that this is not just a coincidence, the Pope has other titles, and they all add up the same:

"DUX CLERI" means, "The Head of the Clergy," and it adds up thus:

D = 500	C = 100	
U = 5	L = 50	
X = 10	E = 0	
	R = 0	
	I = 1	

515 +	151	= 666.

"LUDOVICUS" is another title given to the Pope, it adds up thus:

L = 50	
U = 5	
D = 500	
O = 0	
V = 5	
I = 1	
C = 100	
U = 5	
S = 0	

666.	

So we see that this is the number of "the Beast," the number of a man - the Pope. This is a further proof that the Papal church is the first Beast whose "deadly wound was healed" and whom the two horned Beast is to "cause the earth and them which dwell therein to worship."

Now, obedience is the highest form of worship, and the prophecy here indicates that in harmony with this principle, an attempt is to be made to compel all the world in some way to obey the dictates of the papal church; and, as a sign of allegiance, "he causeth all...to receive a mark."

Having fully identified Papal Rome as "the Beast" of **Revelation 13:1** we will look now for the "mark" that is to be imposed. Before we do, however, let us go to the Bible again and read there another text or two:

2 Thessalonians 2:3 "Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; **4** Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God."

We shall now establish that the "man of sin," is none other than the Head of the Papacy, the Pope, simply by quoting their own claims: -

"We hold upon this earth the place of God almighty." - The Great Encyclical Letters of Leo the 13th, page 304.

"To make war with the Pope is to make war against God, seeing as the Pope is God and God is the Pope." - Moreri' s History.

"The Pope is all, in all, and above all, so that God Himself, and the Pope, the Vicar of God, are but one consistency." - In Defense of the Sabbath, F. L. Sharp.

On the Pope' s arrival to New Zealand, one Maori lady was reported in the New Zealand Herald as saying that she didn' t wish to kiss him, because, quote, "I didn' t want to kiss God."

Thus, the head of the Papal church not only itself claims to be God, but others also affirm that belief, hence he is "showing himself that he is God," therefore he reveals himself as "the man of sin," - "the son of perdition."

But in what way has the Pope exalted himself "above all that is called God.?" There is but one way by which he can do this, and that is by over-riding or changing God' s law. And, as statements already given have shown us, he claims to have the power to do this.

In their demonstration of such power we have seen that the Papal church has presumptuously abolished the observance of the Sabbath, a day appointed by God Himself, and in its place instituted the observance of Sunday. While they boast of having done this, they go further and claim that the institution of Sunday observance is a "MARK" of their power and authority:-

To the question, "Does the Roman Catholic Church claim the act of changing the observance of the Sabbath from the seventh day to the first day of the week as a mark of her power?" Cardinal Gibbons, through his secretary, replied as follows:-

"Of course the Catholic church claims that the change was her act. It could not have been otherwise, as none in those days would have dreamed of doing anything in matters spiritual or religious without her, and the act is A MARK of her Ecclesiastical power and authority in religious matters."

From "The Doctrinal Catechism," page 174, (3rd Edition):-

"Question: Have you any other way of proving that the church has power to institute festivals of precept? Answer: Had she not such power, she could not have done that in which all modern religionist' s agree with her; she could not have substituted the

observance of Sunday, the first day of the week, for the observance of Saturday, the seventh day, for which there is no Biblical authority."

From a personally signed letter from J. Gibbons we read: -

1. Is Saturday the 7th day according to the Bible and the Ten Commandments?

I answer yes.

2. Is Sunday the first day of the week, and did the church change the 7th day, Saturday, - for Sunday, the first day?

I answer yes.

3. Did Christ change the day?

I answer no! Faithfully yours, J. Card. Gibbons."

So then, what is the Beast? It is the Papacy. And what is the mark of the Beast? It is exactly what they tell us it is, the Sunday institution. And this is the "mark" that will be enforced upon "all, both rich and poor, small and great, free and bond," when the image to the Beast is fully formed. This image will become fully formed when apostate Protestantism clasps hands with Roman Catholicism and in the form of a church union or confederation, move the state to pass laws to compel the observance of the first day of the week as the day of worship.

Let it be clearly understood, however, we are not saying here that all those who observe Sunday as their day of worship have the mark of the Beast. This is not so. There are many people who believe with all of their heart that Sunday has been appointed by God, and they are not aware of the origins of the day. We believe that God in His great mercy accepts the worship from such honest people:

Acts 17:30 "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent."

However, when a person has become enlightened, and have had their attention drawn to the counterfeit nature of this spurious, man made Sabbath, and, after their own investigation, or their failure to investigate, they continue in their observance of that day, can they reasonably expect that God will accept such service, branded as it is with the sign of allegiance to a rebel power? We will need to examine what God Himself has to say about that.

While the "Beast" seeks to impose a mark upon all men, God also has a distinguishing mark, or sign of allegiance. It will not be difficult to perceive that it is the object and purpose of obliterating this mark that the mark of the Beast is sought to be imposed.

The fourth Commandment of God points out specifically that the Seventh Day is the Sabbath of the LORD. Let' s read it: -

Exodus 20:8-11 "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. (9) Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: (10) But the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: (11) For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it."

Now seeing as this is "the Sabbath of the LORD..." it stands that only the LORD can change it. God also tells us to:

Ezekiel 20:20 "And hallow my Sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between me and you, that ye may know that I am the LORD your God."

What reason was given for hallowing the Sabbath? God has declared it to be a sign between Him and His people. At this point some may argue that the Sabbath was only given to the Jews, but according to **Genesis 2:1-3** it was given to Adam and Eve, who were not Jews. If we are so quick to pass the Sabbath off as Jewish, and that being a good reason to abandon its observance, then shouldn' t we also cease observing the counterfeit Sabbath in its place? Also, Jesus said that "Salvation is of the Jews," so to be consistent we should reject Salvation; Jesus was a Jew too, should we also reject Him? The Bible too, was written almost all by Jews, do we reject that just because it is "Jewish."?

But far from being "Jewish," Adam and Eve had it given to them, 2,300 years before the first Jew ever walked the earth. Hence the first word of the Commandment was "Remember," which indicates it had been known of before. In the New Earth according to **Isaiah 66:23** we will be keeping the Sabbath too. Also, God required the "stranger" to obey the same laws of which the Sabbath was a part, **Leviticus 24:22; Numbers 15:16**. Also, according to **Mark 2:27, 28**, the Sabbath was made for "man." Man is spelt "m-a-n" not "J-e-w." To remain consistent, if m-a-n means J-e-w, then we had best give up all our wives and give them to the Jews, for the Bible tells us that God Created the woman and brought her, "unto the man." Note again, "man" does not mean "Jew," but all

mankind. The Sabbath was given to all mankind, which of course included the Jew.

So, according to **Ezekiel 20:20**, God has given the Sabbath as a sign between Him and His people. And why not? Is not the worshipper of Mohammed identified by his observance of the sixth day of the week? And is not the first day - the day of the sun - the mark that identifies the pagan in his worship? so too the Seventh-Day is the distinguishing mark - the heaven appointed mark - of the worshippers of Jehovah God, the Almighty. And whatever man may think regarding the importance or unimportance of the day upon which he chooses to worship, when God Himself appoints a day to be observed, and plainly declares that particular day to be a sign between Him and His people, it is His sign, and the observance of any other day, (after our having been made aware of the facts), is decidedly a rejection of the divinely appointed sign, and a dishonoring of the One whom we profess to serve.

But, as opposed to this sign, as we have already seen, the Papacy has been instrumental in abolishing the observance of the Sabbath of Jehovah, and, in its place has instituted Sunday observance, and now claims their act to be a mark of their power and authority. But against worshipping the Beast and receiving his mark the LORD has given a very definite and positive warning, coupled with the most terrible threatening of His wrath to be found in the Bible. This warning is to be found in the message of the third of the three angels:-

Revelation 14:9-12 "And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, (10) The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: (11) And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name. (12) Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus."

Thus does the God of Heaven warn men against worshipping the Beast and receiving his mark. Such a warning should be sufficient to arrest attention, and cause men to more seriously consider the course they are pursuing in yielding obedience to a law that is in direct opposition to the law of God, and which has no higher authority than that of the Roman Catholic Church.

So that we might fully sense the subtlety of the imposition of this opposing mark, let us notice that:-

Just as the seal of God is given in connection with worship:

Revelation 7:3; Ezekiel 20:20, So the mark of the Beast is given in connection with worship: **Revelation 13:12, 15, 16**.

Just as the seal of God is the sign by which worshippers of the true God may be identified: **Ezekiel 20:20**, So the mark of the Beast and his image may be identified: **Revelation 13:16, 17**.

Just as the seal of God is placed in the foreheads of His servants: **Revelation 7:3**, So the mark of the Beast is to be received in the foreheads or right-hands of its worshippers: **Revelation 13:16**.

Just as the Beast warns, "as many as would not worship the Beast should be killed," **Revelation 13:15**, God warns that "If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of god, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation..."

It may do us well to recall another text of Scripture here, which shows us our option in this matter even clearer:

Acts 5:29 "Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men."

This angel' s message is not "scare tactics," it is a warning from the heart of a God of love, who wants the best for His children. You will notice that there is no "middle of the road," here. You will one day have to choose between either receiving God' s seal, or the mark of the Beast. If you choose to keep the Sabbath and thereby receive God' s seal, you may be put to death for refusing the mark of the Beast. But then again, look at what God has said will happen to you if you do receive the mark of the Beast!

Based on the following text, who' s "death" ought we fear?

Matthew 10:28 "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."

Remember, the first' s angel' s message was to "fear God..." So who then will be able to stand in this time when the mark of the Beast will be imposed upon all people? ONLY THOSE WHO FEAR GOD AND GIVE HIM GLORY. And how is that done? By partaking of HIS EVERLASTING GOSPEL!

Remember that the Gospel is the Power of God unto Salvation from sin, and sin is the transgression of the Law, of which the Sabbath is

a part! So isn't it better for us to receive the Everlasting Gospel into our hearts and lives, and become Commandment keepers, and thus receive God's seal rather than the Beast's mark, by observing the Sabbath instituted by God, rather than the Sunday institution set up by the Papacy?

The Word of God is clear that there will be a number who will refuse to receive this mark:

Revelation 15:2 "And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God."

How did these people get the victory over the Beast, and his image, and his mark, and his number? The third angel tells us. After such heaven sent warnings against receiving the mark of the Beast the angel shows us the contrast:

Revelation 14:12 "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus."

So we see within this text these people understand the Everlasting Gospel. And that is why they can stand against the Beast and his mark. They "keep the commandments of God," because they "fear God."

They keep, "the faith of Jesus," because they love God, and understand His Gospel. They don't keep it out of a fear of death, but have followed the word of Christ:

John 14:15 "If ye love me, keep my commandments."

This is why they choose to "keep the commandments," because they love Him.

Do you, dear friend, love God? Do you now see that these three angel's have a message that is very important for you today? Have you experienced the power of the Everlasting Gospel in your life? If not, pray for it today. Ask God into your heart, surrendering your will to Him, and ask Him to give you the "power of God unto Salvation," from sin.

If you are a Christian, but have lived in ignorance to the facts surrounding the observance of Sunday, God will not condemn you. (**Acts 17:30**). But what are you going to do about it now you have been made aware of the issues involved? Are you going to risk a "let's wait and see," attitude? Why not become a Sabbath Keeper, not because you're scared of death, but because you love God. In so doing, you will stand with the commandment keepers, and then the following Bible promise you will be able to claim: -

Revelation 22:14 "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city."

The last part of the Third Angels message is “the faith of Jesus” Revelation 14:12 counsels us as follows: “Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, **and the faith of Jesus.**” That is to keep the “faith of Jesus.”

This chapter will explain:

1. What is the faith of Jesus?
2. How do we obtain the faith of Jesus?
3. How do we keep the faith of Jesus?

1. What is the faith of Jesus?

First we look at Galatians 2:16, which tell us that we are justified by the faith of Jesus. This verse reads as follows, “**Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ,** and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.”

Then we look at Romans 3:22 Even **the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe:** for there is no difference:

Here the “righteousness of God” is by “the faith of Jesus” “unto and upon all them that believe.”

And Galatians 3:22 But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that **the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.**

Which tells us that “the promise” is given to all that believe, by the faith of Jesus

Therefore we are “justified” (*i.e. treated as though we had not sinned*), we receive “the righteousness of God” (*Jesus righteousness placed to our account and we are counted righteous in the sight of God*), and also are given “the promise of God” (*The promise of the seed i.e. “Jesus,” Galatians 3:16, 21*) all by “the faith of Jesus.”

“What constitutes the ‘faith of Jesus’ that belongs to the third angels message? Jesus becoming our sin-bearer that He might become our sin-pardoning Saviour. He was treated as we deserve to be treated. He came to our world and took our sins that we might be able to take His righteousness. And faith in the ability of Christ to save us amply and fully and entirely is the faith of Jesus.” ⁽¹⁾

As the only safety for the Israelites was blood upon the door-posts. (*Exodus 12:7,13*). So the only safety for the sinner (*for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God Romans 3:23; 5:12*) is in the blood of Jesus Christ alone, which cleanseth us from all sin. (*1 John 1:7*)

Faith in Christ is the sinners only hope.

Unless we have a saving knowledge of Christ crucified for us, and by faith lay hold of the righteousness of Christ, we are lost. Christ, "was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed" (*Isaiah 53:5*). "Saved by the blood of Jesus Christ," will be our only hope for time and our song throughout eternity. ⁽²⁾

2. How do we obtain the faith of Jesus?

Romans 10:17, So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Now Let us turn to Revelation Chapter three:

Verses 14-22 And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

The Faithful and True Witness here is Jesus Christ, the beginning of the creation of God (*He created all things Colossians 1:13-16*;

Revelation 1:5).

The "Gold tried in the fire" is faith and love (*1 Peter 1:7; Psalms 119:127*).

The "white raiment" is Christ's righteousness (*Revelation 3:5; Revelation 19:8, (the only righteousness we can have is the "righteousness of God" (Romans 3:22) by faith in Jesus as our sin-bearing Saviour)*

The "eyesalve that we mayest see" is the ability to discern between right and wrong, between good and evil, between the words of God and the words of the devil. For spiritual things must be spiritually discerned (*1 Corinthians 2:14*).

We are counseled by the True Witness to "buy" these items, but how can we do that when we have nothing to buy with?

But we do have one item that we can use and that is ourselves. Jesus Died on Calvary to purchase us, we are twice His. He made us and He brought us Then all we can do is give ourselves to Him fully and unreservedly. What then is it to buy the eternal treasure?— "It is simply to give back to Jesus his own, to receive him into the heart by faith. It is cooperation with God; it is bearing the yoke with Christ; it is lifting his burdens." ⁽³⁾

This does not mean that we can sit back and do nothing. It means that we live a life of "right doing by the power of God." A life of letting Jesus control our lives by saying "I will commit the keeping of my soul to Him." By living this way we purchase the "gold" of faith and love, we purchase the "white raiment" of Christ's righteousness and the "eyesalve of spiritual discernment that the True Witness counsels us to buy of Him (*Revelation 3:14-20*).

When we come to Jesus and fall at His feet crying "Lord," Thou hast promised to save all who come unto thee in the name of Thy Son. I am a lost, helpless, hopeless soul "Lord," save or I perish." ⁽⁴⁾ He takes our sins and guilt upon Himself (He paid the price), giving us a clean heart (A heart with no sin in it, *Psalms 51:10*), and with open arms accepts us and then places upon us His perfect "robe of righteousness," (*Isaiah 61:10; Zechariah 3:1-7*) which is not a covering for our sins because he came to save us "from" our sins not "in" them (*Matthew 1:21; Revelation 1:5*). When God looks upon this robe He sees the righteousness of Christ. Christ died for our sins, He has brought our sins for we can not bear them ourselves.

3. How do we keep the faith of Jesus?

"We need to dwell upon Christ's efficiency until, by a living faith, we see Jesus as He is — see Him in His fullness, a sin-pardoning Saviour. One who can pardon all our transgressions. It is by beholding Him that we become changed into His likeness." ⁽⁵⁾ (2 *Corinthians 3:18*).

"We are to keep before the mind the sin-pardoning Saviour in His true position — coming to die to magnify the law of God and make it honourable, and yet to justify the sinner who shall depend wholly upon the merits of the blood of a crucified and risen Saviour." ⁽⁶⁾

"By beholding, man can but admire and become more attracted to Him, more charmed, and more desirous to be like Jesus until he assimilates to His image and has the mind of Christ. Like Enoch he walks with God. His mind is full of thoughts of Jesus. He is his best friend." ⁽⁷⁾ (*Philippians 2:5*).

"Christ looks at the spirit, and when He sees us carrying our burden with faith, His perfect holiness atones for our shortcomings. When we do our best. He becomes our "righteousness by faith." ⁽⁸⁾

"Righteousness by faith," which is manifested by the obedience to God's commandments, means that we continue to be justified (treated by God as though we had never sinned) because we continue to keep "His righteousness 'by faith,'" and this is manifested in our lives by obedience to all God's commandments. ⁽⁹⁾ If we continue in our sins without forsaking them there is no justification therefore there is no sanctification. ⁽¹⁰⁾

. . . "By a life of perfect obedience to God's law, Christ redeemed man from the penalty of Adam's disgraceful fall. Man has violated God's law. Only for those who return to their allegiance to God, only for those who obey the law that they have violated, will the blood of Christ avail. Christ will never become a party to sin. Bearing the penalty of the law, He gives the sinner another chance, a second trial. He opens a way whereby the sinner can be reinstated in God's favor. Christ bears the penalty of man's past transgressions, and by imparting to man His righteousness, makes it possible for man to keep God's holy law."

To sum up: As we come to Jesus in faith confessing and forsaking our sins, accepting Him as our personal Saviour, trusting entirely in the merits of His priceless gift on the cross of Calvary and also His righteousness (for we have none of our own), giving ourselves to Him to use according to His will. He gives us a clean (sinless) heart and taking us in His loving arms places upon us His pure white robe

of righteousness. We are then justified by faith. We have then purchased from the True Witness (Jesus), the gold tried in the fire (faith and love), the white raiment (Jesus righteousness) and the eyesalve (spiritual discernment). Then as we live on we continue to be justified by His righteousness, being obedient to all God's commandments which is righteousness by faith. We then have the "faith of Jesus" faith in the ability of Christ to save us amply and fully and entirely. This ties together the two parts of Revelation 14:12, the keeping of God's commandments and the keeping of the faith of Jesus. We can only be saved at last through faith in the righteousness, faith in the obedience, indeed faith in all the merits of our crucified and risen Saviour, Jesus Christ. For there is salvation in no one else. (Jude 24-25 Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen)

- (1) Selected Messages Book 3, page 172.
- (2) Selected Messages Book 3, page 172.
- (3) The Youth' s Instructor, 5th September 1995
- (4) 1 Selected Messages pages 365, 366
- (5) Selected Messages Book 3, page 183
- (6) Selected Messages Book 3, page 169
- (7) Selected Messages Book 3, page 183
- (8) Selected Messages Book 3, page 180
- (9) S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 1 page 1118 i.e. Righteousness = obedience to the law which is the opposite of unrighteousness which equals transgression of the law. 1 John 5:17, 1 John 3:4. That is Righteousness by faith is keeping the law by faith.
- (10) Selected Messages Book 1, page 397
- (11) S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 6 page 1092, (MS 126, 1901).