



2 Cor. 5:18

# Open Face

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

No. 67

JULY 2009

## The Nature of Righteousness

David Clayton



In the book of Hebrews Paul says in chapter 12 verse 14,

*Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: (Heb 12:14)*

All Christendom knows that God is righteous, He is holy and He is totally contrary to sin. Even if the Bible had not told us, we know instinctively that in order to see God we have to be righteous, and from the beginning of time the search of humanity has been to find this righteousness which qualifies man for eternal life in fellowship with God.

The first pitiful effort to find it was made by Adam and Eve. When they discovered that sin had made them unfit to appear in God's presence, the Bible says that they sewed fig leaves to-

gether, and by putting on garments made of leaves they tried to make themselves fit for companionship with God. Of course as soon as God appeared they knew it was not enough and they ran to hide from His presence.

### Strange ways of seeking

People have tried in many ways to obtain righteousness. Back during the middle ages, there was a Catholic monk by the name of Simeon. In seeking righteousness, he climbed up on a pole, and stayed there for thirty-seven years. At first his pole was three meters high, then he moved to one six meters tall, then eleven meters and finally twenty meters high as he tried to get away from the crowds which came to see him. He remained there through the sun the rain and the snow. Food would be passed up to him in a bucket. Here is what history records of this man:

*"Simeon the Stylite spent thirty-seven years of his life standing on a pillar. He ate as little as possible, and did his utmost never to sit or lie down: he would tie himself to a pole fixed to the top of his pillar so as to sleep upright, or, on laxer occasions, he would sleep leaning on the balustrade that also prevented him from blowing off his perch during storms. He had no roof, and no walls apart from the open balustrade; a leather garment, long hair, and a beard were all he had for protection against the elements ..."*

*"He prayed all night, bowing fre-*

*quently and low (this being his only exercise): one witness stopped counting after his 1,244<sup>th</sup> bow. He slept very briefly towards dawn, and was ready to greet the crowds that thronged around him every day ...."* (<http://gvanv.com/compass/arch/v1402/saint.html>)

This man believed that the greater his self-abuse, the greater would be his degree of righteousness and his approval in God's sight. So tightly was this rope bound about his body that it was imbedded in the flesh which rotted around it. Worms found their way into ulcers on his legs. For a year during which he stood on one foot, he replaced the maggots that fell from his sores and said, "Eat what God has given you." (*The Other Side of Rome - by John B. Wilder, p.60*)

This strange and misguided person was given the label of "saint" and is today known as "St. Simeon the Stylites." What was this man seeking as he abused himself in this terrible way? He was looking for purification of soul, for righteousness, for a way to please God. And what did he gain from it? Nothing. It never made him one degree more righteous.

In every religion on this planet, people

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Open Face  
Manchester, Jamaica W.I.

July 2009

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

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

*Open Face* is published at least once quarterly, and is sent free of cost to all who desire to receive it.

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are looking for a way to find righteousness, a way to obtain God's favour and eternal life. In some religions we see men lying on beds of nails, abusing their bodies to purify their souls and we wonder how people could be so misguided. But is this any different from the approach of many who call themselves Christians? For many of us, even the things which we eat, become a part of the search for righteousness. We dress right, we eat right, we carefully obey the rules of the church, so that we may become righteous, that God may be pleased with us, and so bestow his blessings. These things may have some benefit but if we do them in order to obtain salvation, in what way are we different from pagans? The works may be different, but the principle is the same.

### Not good enough

Some of the hardest statements in the Bible were made by Jesus, and in Matthew chapter 5 we find a few of them. Matthew 5:20 says,

*For I say unto you, That except*

*your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven. (Mat 5:20)*

Let us remember the kind of life that the Pharisees lived. They paid tithes on mint and anise and cummin, they fasted twice per week, they were always praying, always giving something to the poor and if you wanted to find people whose lives were outwardly righteous, then you had to look for the Pharisees. Now Jesus comes and He says, "this is not good enough, if you don't have a greater righteousness, it is impossible to enter the kingdom." I guess many of those people were thinking, "this is a hard saying, but what shall we do? I guess we just have to try harder!"

Jesus went on to say that the one who was a murderer was not just the one who took somebody's life, but even the man who was angry with his brother without a cause was already guilty of murder. A man doesn't become an adulterer only by going to bed with somebody else's wife, but by just having the desire or intention in his mind. In many churches, there are men, who think about this, and recognize that they are not fit for heaven, but they keep hoping that someday, by hard work and careful discipline, and re-educating their minds, they may be able to bring their very thoughts under discipline and so be qualified for heaven.

But look at what Jesus said at the end of that chapter; He went on to make things even more difficult. In verse 48 He says,

*Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect. (Mat 5:48)*

What do you do when you read a statement like this? Some people throw up their hands and give up. But the average church person says, "I must try harder. Even to be as perfect as God is, I must TRY harder."

The truth is that many of these people who make these desperate efforts at self discipline in the effort to please

God are totally sincere. They truly are doing what they think God requires. It is not always the case that they delight in self-abuse, but rather, that they are genuinely ignorant of the nature of true Righteousness and how to obtain it. It is critical that we understand this for if we do not get this right we may put in the most strenuous efforts and find at the end that it was all in vain.

In order to come to grips with this issue, let us consider the question, what is righteousness? How shall we define it? One of the more popular definitions says that, "righteousness is right doing." Many Christians have felt that this definition is a very good description of righteousness because of course in 1 John 3:4 the Bible says,

*Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. (1 John 3:4)*

So it seems a matter of simple reasoning. We conclude that if sin is the transgression of the law, then obviously righteousness is the opposite of sin and therefore must be simply, obedience to the law. So, we conclude that in order to avoid sin, we simply stop disobeying the law and in order to obtain righteousness, we simply obey the law.

On the surface this seems a reasonable conclusion and in fact, with some slight variations, this is the basic foundation principle on which every **non-Christian** religion is based, though in most cases the rules which are to be obeyed are different. The sad fact is that Christians have become so misguided, so unfamiliar with the principles of the gospel that they have embraced the same basic philosophy as the heathen in seeking salvation: The basic idea behind this philosophy is that, being saved or being lost is something we earn by what we do, by how well we obey.

### Righteousness in the law

Of course when we define sin and righteousness in terms of what we do, then our reference point must be the law for the law is God's standard by

which He makes us know what is right and what is wrong. But let us look at what the Bible says in Galatians. 3:11,12:

*But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith. And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them. (Gal 3:11-12)*

Let us consider what we are told here. How do the just live? It says the just live by **faith**, but the **law** is not of faith. So obviously the just cannot live by the law. In seeking righteousness we will not find it if we seek it on the basis of obedience to the law. Verse 21 says,

*Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law. (Gal 3:21)*

What these verses tell us is that God might have made righteousness available through the law if it was possible. But such a thing is impossible and therefore in seeking righteousness we cannot relate to the law. Many Christians see their religious experience in light of the law, and their relationship with God in light of the law. If they have managed to be reasonably obedient to the requirements of the law, they feel that they are in God's favour, but if they have been disobedient, they feel that they are alienated from God and need to start obeying before God can accept them. In building on this foundation they are building on something which cannot work, for by the deeds of the law, no flesh shall be justified. Righteousness cannot be produced by our obedience to the law, even though righteousness is "right doing."

### Without the law

This point is further emphasized in Romans 3:21:

*But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets. (Rom 3: 21)*

Notice what this verse says. It speaks

about God's righteousness, and it says this is **without the law**. This is a strange phrase, what does the apostle Paul mean when he says, "without the law?" What he is saying is that there is righteousness that exists, and obtaining it has nothing to do with the law. How is that possible? This righteousness is declared to be the righteousness of God. Now if it is "without the law," obtaining it cannot be on the basis of observance of the law, or relationship to the law. It cannot depend on our right-doing or our wrong-doing.

The thought is continued in verse 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: (Rom 3:22)*

### Two Kinds of Righteousness

Here we see the Bible comparing two types of righteousness. There is the righteousness of the law, and there is the righteousness of God which is without the law. It is important for us to recognize that there is a righteousness that does not have anything to do with obedience to the law. This righteousness is said to be **God's righteousness**. Now the righteousness of the law says, "the man who does these things shall live in them (Gal. 3:12)." But what does the righteousness of God say? Verse 22 says it is "unto all and upon all who simply **believe!**" Notice, one requires **doing**. That is the law. The other requires **believing**. That is God.

This truth was clearly brought out in the experience of Abraham. We read in Romans 4:3,

*For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness. (Rom 4:3)*

Amazing! Like everybody else Abraham wanted righteousness. The Bible says he believed God. What did he do? Something happened in his mind, in His attitude towards God and when it happened, immediately God counted him as righteous. Immediately he obtained what people have been

seeking so hard for, and he obtained it simply by believing God.

The apostle Paul understood the way of righteousness thoroughly and gave his testimony in Philippians 3:6-9. He says,

*Concerning zeal, (I was) persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: (Phil 3:6-9)*

Here he mentioned all his works, his carefulness in obedience to the law and the lineage which would have made him one of the most outstanding followers of the law in Israel. His countrymen would have considered him one of the holiest men among the Jews. He referred to these achievements as the "righteousness which is in the law." But then he said that he counted all this as nothing but filth so that he might be able to obtain the "righteousness which is of God," and he finished by showing how it is obtained, that is, "by faith." The point is, there is a righteousness which does not depend on the observance of the law, and this is the only righteousness which is worth having.

Let us consider that since God is perfect, absolutely righteous, the only kind of righteousness which He can accept is perfect righteousness. For him to accept anything less, would mean that He had compromised and since He is perfect it cannot be possible for Him to compromise. The only righteousness He can accept, is absolute righteousness.

Since He requires perfect righteousness, then it is clear that only God Him-

self can produce this righteousness. In actual fact, all who are seeking to become righteous by what they do, are really trying by their efforts to become like God! This kind of attitude can be only described as “crazy.” It is crazy for a poor corrupt sinner to try to produce the life of the almighty God, by his efforts. But that is how confused many of us have become.

### Danger in the wrong way

So anybody who is seeking righteousness must go to God to get it. The only way we can obtain it is as a gift from God. The one who seeks it in any other way will wear himself out and achieve nothing. This is what the Jews, as a nation did. Romans 9:30-32 says,

*What shall we say then? That the Gentiles, which followed not after righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness which is of faith. But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness. Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumblingstone; (Rom 9:30-32)*

Who could have tried harder than Israel? The Bible says they “followed after righteousness.” It is what they were seeking night and day, yet they never obtained it.

But here are the Gentiles. Are they seeking righteousness? Not at all, but they hear the gospel and what do they do? They believe it, and immediately they have found what the Jews, in working so hard did not find. It was faith and faith alone which obtained the blessing of righteousness. We must learn that all our good intentions will not help us in the search for righteousness if we seek it in the wrong way, and that is what this experience of the Jews teaches us.

What are we saying then? Is the law contrary to the righteousness of God? Is God’s righteousness against the law? How can the law be important if it can-

not make me righteous? How can it be necessary if I do not need it in order to be righteous?

### God’s Character expressed

The Ten commandments have been said to be a transcript of God’s character. Maybe it would be more correct to say that they are an expression of God’s character. In other words, the Ten Commandments tell us what God is like and they are an expression of God’s will for men. But obviously, if this is what God wants for us, then it must be an expression of what is in His heart. A person of integrity will only make laws which he considers to be just and good. It is evident then that the law can never be contrary to God’s righteousness because if it truly is a description of God, a transcript of His character, then it is indeed a transcript, or a description of true righteousness. Therefore Paul tells us in Romans 7:12,

*Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good. (Rom 7:12)*

But the commandments are not righteousness *in themselves*. They do not bring or produce righteousness, they only *describe* righteousness. When God came down on mount Sinai and gave the ten commandments to Moses, righteousness did not suddenly come into existence, it was only an expression of something which had always been there. God only described His character and put it into words in the Ten Commandments.

If we can understand this, then we will be able to understand what the law is. We will understand that the Ten Commandments are a description of righteousness. Can we find righteousness in the description? No! If we want righteousness, we must go beyond the description.

In actual fact, the reality is that this is the confusion that many Christians have. They go to the law, which is only a description of righteousness and seek to find righteousness in the law. But if we want righteousness, we must go to the source of righteousness, and there

is only one such place in the entire universe.

Let us consider an illustration. I have a photograph of my wife. If you look at this photo, you can see what kind of hair she has, you can tell something about the way she smiles, you can see the colour of her skin and you may obtain a lot of information about her just by looking at this picture. You could perhaps pick her out in a crowd just by the fact that you have looked at this photograph. Suppose I take this photograph with me everywhere I go and I am always kissing it, and hugging it. Suppose I take it to bed with me at night, will that satisfy me? Of course not! Not unless I am crazy. This picture is only a description and it serves as a reminder. But it is not soft, it is not warm, it is flat, it cannot satisfy. To obtain satisfaction, I must find the real thing.

So in the same way, if you are looking for righteousness, you must go beyond the description found in the law, or else, all you will do is frustrate yourself.

### God alone is Righteous

Matt 19: 16-17 brings out this truth very clearly. It says,

*And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments. (Mat 19:16-17)*

Now verse 17 says that *only God is good*. This is an absolute truth. It is very important that we believe it. Jesus Himself said it. Since this is so, what are some of the implications we can gather from this fact? Well for one thing, it means that anywhere in this universe that we find somebody who is good, we can know that God is living in that person. Wherever we find anybody good we have found where God’s life is. When we understand this, then right away we know that in our

search for righteousness, our focus has to change. The challenge for me is not that I should produce righteousness, for how can I produce the life of God? The challenge is for me to receive the life of God, for God alone is good.

### **Righteousness is a person**

So we see that righteousness is a *Person*, and that person is God. But of course righteousness is also “right doing,” because God always does what is right. But are WE going to produce the character of God by what we do? Are we going to produce a righteousness equal to God’s by our efforts? This is impossible. Only God can be God! Praise His name.

Let us push the thought a little further. We do not know how long Lucifer had been living in heaven, it might have been a million years, it might have been more. But for most of that time, he was good. The Bible says in Ezekiel 28:15 that he was perfect in all his ways, until one day iniquity was found in him. What happened to cause this iniquity to appear in Lucifer? All that happened was that he chose to separate from God. He rejected God’s control of his life and thus rejected God Himself. As soon as he did this, instantly he became evil, because the unchangeable fact is, God alone is good. There is deep truth in that simple fact. When we understand this, we know what we need to be afraid of, we know what we need to be looking for, and we know that human works will never put us there.

### **Righteous by nature**

Let us consider a question which will help us to have a better understanding of this matter: The question is, why does God do what is good? Why is He always engaged only in doing what is best for the creatures in His universe? Is it because He is obedient to a rule? Is it because He is commanded to behave in this way? It is a bit silly to think that God does not steal because His law says, “thou shalt not steal.” The fact is, God does not need law to do what is right. He does good because His *nature* is good. It is the way He is

and because He is good, He cannot do what is wrong. The thought of wrongdoing is totally contrary to His nature. So if God is good, and God is living inside of us, what will be the consequence? We also will behave in a way that is good and we will do it because God is living His good life in us.

Is this idea a practical one? Is it possible for somebody to live in me in such a way that his very nature is manifested in my behaviour? Is it possible for Him to live in such a complete way that I don’t even need rules to make me do what is right? This is what the Bible means when it says that we may have God’s righteousness which is without the law. We may be made righteous by receiving God’s nature, a righteousness which is based upon receiving life itself, rather than the righteousness which comes by what we do in observing the rules and regulations laid down by the law.

### **A new, spirit**

Let us remember how this happens. The Bible teaches clearly that man is made up of a body and a spirit (*write for our booklet “Human and Divine Spirit”).* Though we have a fallen sinful body, this is not the real problem of humanity. The problem of sin resides in our minds, or in our spirits, and we read in Romans 8:7

*Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. (Rom 8:7)*

If we are to become righteous, what needs to change is our minds. God needs to find a way to take away the carnal nature of our minds and to give us His own mind, His own spirit of righteousness. On that inward level, it is possible for God’s spirit to unite with our spirit, and for us to obtain the same life that God has. This is why observance of the law will not do it. Keeping the commandments will not take away the carnal nature from a person, neither will it give us the new spirit which we need to have. The commandments can only affect the outside,

they can change our behaviour to some extent, but they cannot change the inside, they cannot change the mind.

In order to receive a righteous nature, there is only one way for man. Through faith in God’s gift, he is to be born again thus receiving God’s righteousness by receiving the holy spirit which is the very life of God. This is the experience by which the old life is removed and we receive a new life.

Now our spirits, or our minds are the things which need to change, and it is not repairs that we need, but a new mind. So God promises us a *new* mind. He says in Ezekiel 36:26,

*A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. (Ezek 36:26)*

Again he says in 2 Cor. 5:17,

*Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. (2 Cor 5:17)*

What God plans to do is to unite His spirit with our spirit. It is true that I am born carnal, a slave to sin. But when God’s spirit unites with my spirit, whose life do I have? Paul says, “he that is joined to the Lord is one spirit!” (1 Cor. 6:17). Instead of giving me the righteousness found by obeying the law, God Himself becomes my life! Now I do not depend on the commands of the law to make me do what is right for it is God in Christ who is actually living in me!

### **Only by birth**

The Bible teaches us that God has ordained that life should be passed on in only one way. God created the world in one week and the Bible says that on the sixth day He ended his work. So when did God finish His creation? It was finished six thousand years ago. As far as we know, God has never created life again since that time. The Bible says He ended His work of cre-

ation on the sixth day. But although God created only two people originally, today there are six billion people on the earth. How did all that life come to be here? It came to be here by reproduction. It was passed on by birth. This is an important principle which we must understand.

There is only one way in which life is passed on, and this is by birth – by procreation. This is God’s principle which has been established from the beginning. Life is passed on from one to the other. There has never been any other way of receiving life. Men have tried to create life in a test tube, they have tried to improve the one that we have, to renew it and sustain it. But the only way that life has ever been passed on, is by birth. God made one man, and the life which we all share today is an extension of that single man’s life. God never created anybody after He created Adam. So humanity is simply that single life extended and multiplied thousands and millions of times until we are where we are today with six billion people living on the earth. The Bible teaches this truth in Acts 17:26 where it says,

*And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; (Acts 17:26)*

### **Birth determines Nature**

At this point there is another important fact which we need to recognize. It is the truth that every living thing receives its nature at birth. We can change our characters but can we change our natures? If an animal is born a dog it will always be a dog and it will always behave like a dog. If you are born a human you will always be a human. What about if you are born a sinner? Is this characteristic of being a sinner a natural part of man’s nature as well? The Bible tells us that it is. Listen to what it says in Romans 5:19,12:

*For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many*

*be made righteous. (Rom 5:19)*  
verse 12 says,

*Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: (Rom 5:12)*

These verses tell us plainly that the actions of one man, Adam, affected the entire race of humanity and brought sin into the experience of all. My nature at birth was that of a sinner. Who was responsible for this? Adam is the person who was responsible! I received my nature from Adam, not just my human nature, but my sinful nature. The fact is that once you are born with a certain nature, there is only one way it can change. You must be born again. As we have already seen, the only way you can receive nature is by birth, or by creation! If a person is to have a new nature it must be by birth.

### **The power of natural law**

The law of nature, or natural law, is the most powerful law there is in all creation. The laws of nature are the foundation principles established by God to govern creation from the very beginning. These laws are controlled by permanent principles of science established by God, which impact even on the spiritual world. Let us look at an example:

There is a law in nature which says you must always fall down. It is called, “the law of gravity.” If I made a law - a legal rule - that the next time you fall you must fall up instead of down, with the promise of a beating if you disobey, what will you say? You will say, “get out the strap.” You know that you are going to get beating after beating because it is impossible for you to fall up. Natural law demands that you fall down and you cannot defy natural law. **A legal law cannot overcome a natural law.** The legal rule which says that you must fall up, cannot overcome the natural one which says that you must fall down.

However, there is another natural law called the law of aerodynamics and by

means of this law, people fly every day. They defy the law of gravity because they apply another natural law. Now the commandment that you must fall upwards, will never make a person fly. All it will do is make you frustrated because you cannot do it. But if you apply another natural law, the law of aerodynamics, then this natural law will enable you to overrule the first natural law of gravity. Natural law is always greater than legal law.

Let us read one final passage which describes God’s plan to use natural law to set us free from the natural law of sin. In Romans chapter 7, Paul speaks of the experience of a man who is without Christ but convicted by the commandments, of his need to obtain righteousness. He says,

*I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. (Rom 7:21)*

He says there is a law working in him. He finds a law at work in his body. What kind of law is he speaking of when he says, “I find a law,” is it a legal law or is it a law of nature? It is a law of nature of course. Paul says there is something at work in me. Now if it is a rule in my nature I cannot fight it. The way this law works is like this; when I try to do good I find myself doing the bad thing. In Romans 8:2 Paul refers to this law as the law of “sin and death.” He continues,

*For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: (Rom 7:22)*

Which law is this which he delights in, inwardly? This is the Ten Commandments. In his mind he can see that it is good and he desires to do it. Now are these commandments natural law or a legal law? It is a legal law, and again I say, a legal law cannot overthrow a natural law. So of course Paul cannot keep the legal law which is telling him to do what is right, because the natural law of sin is working in him and he describes how helpless he is, even though the law of God (the commandments) demands obedience. He continues,

*But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. (Rom 7:23)*

So this natural law of sin is stronger than he is and as long as he is responding to the ten commandments he cannot control his actions. But in chapter eight Paul describes the answer to this problem. Look at what he says in chapter 8:2

*For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. (Rom 8:2)*

What kind of law is this, "law of the spirit," which exists in Christ Jesus? Is it natural law or legal law? It is not based on legal instructions. It is something which exists naturally in the spirit of Christ and so, It is natural law of course! The spirit of life is the very life of God and of Christ and it is their nature to do what is good. The law of

sin in me says, "you cannot do righteousness." The law of the spirit of life in Christ says, "you cannot do sin." It is a higher law. When that law becomes my nature, because Christ's spirit is united with my spirit, it sets me free from the law which controlled me before. So the next verse says,

*For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: (Rom 8:3)*

The law of the ten commandments as it is written consists only of words, but it describes a perfect life and it is perfect in what it requires and describes. But when the law told me, a sinner that I needed to obey it, a perfect law was telling a carnal man that he was to do good. This was alright for the law, but not for helpless me. I was carnal. I didn't need instructions, which is all that

the law can give, what I needed was life. So God sent His son who is perfect righteousness – Who is Himself living righteousness and Christ unites that righteous life with my life, so the life I now live in the flesh is the life of the son of God (Gal. 2:20). Now I live all that the legal law demanded. The commandments can find no fault in me anymore because it is Christ who lives in me, in PERFECT harmony with those commandments.

This is God's way of righteousness.

Now we understand why we must always look **only** to Christ in our search for righteousness, and why any other method is a waste of time. It is only His righteous life which can make us righteous. Only this can enable us to live as God wants us to live, in harmony with the commandments.



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## Tennessee Campmeeting Notice

In September of this year, the Berean Ministries located in Roan Mountain, Tennessee will host a campmeeting. This campmeeting will be held at the Roan Mountain State Park from Tuesday, September 29, through Saturday, October 3, 2009.

The expected speakers are, Ken Corklin, Willis Smith, Reuben Luna-Marte, Lynnford Beachy, Allen Stump, Elaine Nailing, William Van Grit, Ron Arnold, Howard Williams and David Clayton.

This promises to be a good campmeeting located in an area that is, at this time of the year, one of the most scenic parts of the USA. Brother Malcolm McCrillis who is the host of this campmeeting has asked that we book our cabins as early as possible since there is often fairly heavy occupancy of the cab-

ins at this time, as people come from all over to see the colours as the leaves take on their Fall costume.

Most of the cabins can be shared (two couples) and it would be good, to make arrangements with friends so that you can book together. This way you will have the option of choosing who you will be sharing with.

Cabin reservations should be made by calling (1800) 250-8620 or, (423) 772-3030.

**Important update:** It is our understanding that at this time all the cabins have been booked. However there is a possibility that some may become available in the future. However there is ample space for tent camping not far from the meeting hall.

Rooms are available at Americourd

motel (call 423 543 6060) and the Travellers Inn motel (call 423 543 3344). These are nice motels in Elizabethton, Tennessee, but they are 20 miles away from the meeting hall.

For more information you may email Pastor Malcolm McCrillis at **John17three@earthlink.net**, or call him at (423) 772-3161.

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After the Tennessee campmeeting, David Clayton and Howard Williams will be visiting Ohio and Pennsylvania for meetings. For more information you may contact Janet Cox (Ohio) at the following email address:

*tootle42925@peoplepc.com*

Or Ken Corklin (Pennsylvania)

**(814) 490 0765**

# Broccoli

## King of Crucifers

*Lenworth frankson*

Of all the cruciferous contenders, when it comes to basic nutrients, I categorize broccoli as king. Broccoli is a member of the cruciferous family, which includes kale, cabbage, cauliflower and brussel sprouts. It is a dark green vegetable, with small, tight heads (curds) that are mounted on stem-like buds. It is loaded with nutrients and could easily be the number one vegetable for fighting cancer. It has become a popular vegetable all over the world and is used in a variety of dishes, however very few people know that it has significant health benefits, which can prevent the occurrence of many hazardous diseases.

The health benefits of broccoli have been associated with the prevention and restriction of medical conditions such as arthritis, osteoporosis, vitamin deficiencies, diabetes, heart conditions, cancers and even Alzheimer's disease.

Broccoli provides a great assortment of health benefits, as it is full of vitamins, antioxidants, chromium, anti-viral and anti-ulcer components. Broccoli contains a wealth of the vitamins such as A, B6, B12, C, K and E. It's also a good source of calcium, iron, zinc, fiber, folate, protein, potassium, magnesium, Omega 3 fatty acids, water and tryptophan.

The vitamins and amino acids in broccoli make it an effective detoxifier that assists the body in ridding itself of toxins and free radicals—cleansing the blood and helping it eliminate the harms such toxins can cause.

The calcium, folic acid, iron, proteins, anti-oxidants, detoxifiers, phosphorus and other vitamins in broccoli provide ideal nutrition for women who are pregnant, helping them maintain regular tissue growth.

Broccoli is rich in cholesterol-reduc-

ing fiber, chromium and potassium, which can help control blood sugar and blood pressure in addition to decreasing blood cholesterol levels.



A few years ago the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition published a paper listing foods most likely to prevent colon cancer. Broccoli was the number one contender. In the same journal another article stated that Harvard Scientist found out that broccoli along with spinach, helped to minimize the risk of cataracts. In addition to this, another team of scientific researchers looked at how diet might protect against strokes and discovered to their amazement, that broccoli's benefits again stood out the most.

As mentioned earlier, one of the interesting things about this vegetable is its cancer fighting ingredients. Its impressive cancer-fighting power is due to two separate compounds, indole-3-carbinol which we will simply call I3C, and sulforaphane. Both of these compounds get rid of cancer-causing substances. I3C works against cancers caused by hormones and sulforaphane increases the production of enzymes that assist in blocking cancer.

Aside from broccoli, I3C can be found in cabbage and brussel sprouts. I3C lowers the levels of harmful estrogen that promote tumor growth in hormone-sensitive cells, particularly breast cells. Research shows that powerful vegetables like broccoli, brussel sprouts and cabbage fight against colon, breast and prostate gland cancer. I should mention here that to gain the maximum health benefits from these vegetables, they should be eaten raw or lightly steamed.

Being loaded with beta-carotene is another of the many health benefits of broccoli. Beta-carotene converts to Vitamin A once inside the body, becoming an antioxidant. Beta-carotene pre-

vents disease by eliminating cell-damaging oxygen molecules. It also lowers the risk of cataracts, other cancers and heart attacks.

Another nutritious benefit of the cruciferous king is its vitamin C content. Vitamin C boosts the immune system and fights off cancers and heart disease. It is also loaded with calcium which promotes strong bones and prevents osteoporosis. Broccoli contains tons of fiber to help prevent constipation, hemorrhoids, high cholesterol, heart disease, obesity and colon cancer.

Women experience added benefits of broccoli because it is rich in folate. Folate promotes normal tissue growth and protects against birth defects. Women who take birth control pills are usually low in this nutrient and are often recommended to take extra doses of folate before trying to conceive.

The benefits of broccoli are extremely valuable for anyone who eats it. Broccoli can be eaten raw, either by itself or in a salad. It can also be eaten as a side dish with dinner. As mentioned before the best way to eat this vegetable is to have it raw or steamed but never boiled.

It seems to me that there are still many who have not acquired a taste for this remarkable vegetable and it also appears to be true that broccoli is hardly grown, imported or accessible in some well known Caribbean countries. In spite of this, this popular produce in my opinion, has rightfully acquired the title "king of crucifers" not only because of its cancer fighting properties but also because of the many nutrients it has that our bodies need. When we were children our parents would encourage us to eat our vegetables. As the king of crucifers, broccoli has shown us why our parents were right.

The next time you feel like eating a healthy salad, try preparing one with lots of broccoli and tomatoes. You might enjoy it and become a loyal subject of this "king".





# Trinitarianism – Nowhere to Stand

Andov Dejan

The following article consists of a discussion which took place on a popular forum, run by Adventists who claim to be working for the uplifting of Christ in Adventism. The name of the Trinitarian brother involved in the discussion, has been withheld for obvious reasons. Andov Dejan, the other person involved, is a believer in the truth about God.

The conclusion of this discussion is interesting and is typical of how discussions on this particular topic normally end up.

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**Trinitarian:** You made the statement that since the issue in The Living Temple addressed the doctrine of God, we can look for the omega to also address that same issue in some way.

**Andov Dejan:** It is not I who make this claim, but Ellen White. She wrote:

*“Living Temple contains the alpha of these theories. I knew that the omega would follow in a little while; and I trembled for our people. I knew that I must warn our brethren and sisters not to enter into controversy over the presence and personality of God...” (SM bk.1, p. 203)*

She says that Kellogg’s book “Living Temple contains the alpha of these theories”. Which theories? Theories about “the presence and personality of God”. Then after stating that the Omega would follow the Alpha she warns us not to enter into controversy over the presence and personality of God. If the omega has nothing to do with the doctrine of God why did she give this warning?

In the Greek alphabet, Alpha is the first letter and Omega is the last. Clearly, the Alpha, in Ellen White’s use of the word, is the beginning of the false theories about God and omega is the last, most deadly heresy about God.

**Trinitarian:** I just read Fundamental Beliefs #2 and it looked biblical to me.

**Andov Dejan:** Fundamental belief #2 says:

*“There is one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, a unity of three co-eternal Persons.”*

Where in the Bible can we find evidence for this?

**Trinitarian:** When did Jesus become the “Son?” The Bible makes clear that the second person of the Godhead is the Jehovah of the Old Testament. Is there any reference in the Old Testament to Jehovah being the “Son?”

**Andov Dejan:** The Bible clearly says that God SENT His Son into the world (1 John 4:9). This means that He was the Son before He was born in Bethlehem as a man. Ellen White wrote:

*“The dedication of the first-born had its origin in the earliest times. God had promised to give the First-born of heaven to save the sinner.” (DA 51)*

*“What does that say to us? “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” It says to you, I, God, have sent My Son into your world, and through Him is opened all heaven to fallen man.” (1888 Matt. 124)*

*“The Eternal Father, the unchangeable one, gave his only begotten Son, tore from his bosom Him who was made in the express image of his person, and sent him down to earth to reveal how greatly he loved mankind.” “RH July 9, 1895”*

It is true that Jesus is called Jehovah in the Old Testament, but God explains why this is so:

*“Behold, I send an Angel before thee, to keep thee in the way, and to bring thee into the place which I have prepared. Beware of him, and obey his voice, provoke him not; for he will not pardon your transgressions: for my name is in*

*him.” (Ex. 23: 20,21)*

E.J. Waggoner wrote:

*“But the point is that Christ is a begotten Son and not a created subject. He has by inheritance a more excellent name than the angels; He is “a Son over His own house.” Hebrews 1:4; 3:6. And since He is the only begotten son of God, He is of the very substance and nature of God and possesses by birth all the attributes of God, for the Father was pleased that His Son should be the express image of His Person, the brightness of His glory, and filled with all the fullness of the Godhead... Christ “is in the bosom of the Father” being by nature of the very substance of God and having life in Himself. He is properly called Jehovah, the self-existent One...” CHR 13.14*

**Trinitarian:** If God had a literal “Son” when was He born?

**Andov Dejan:**

*“But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.” (Micah 5:2)*

*“The LORD possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old. I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was. When there were no depths, I was brought forth; when there were no fountains abounding with water. Before the mountains were settled, before the hills was I brought forth” (Prov. 8: 22-25)*

Ellen White stated:

*“And although we may try to reason in regard to our Creator, how long He has had existence, where*

evil first entered into our world, and all these things, we may reason about them until we fall down faint and exhausted with the research when there is yet an infinity beyond. We cannot grasp it..." (7BC 919)

Waggoner says the same:

"The Word was "in the beginning." The mind of man cannot grasp the ages that are spanned in this phrase. It is not given to men to know when or how the Son was begotten; but we know that he was the Divine Word, not simply before He came to this earth to die, but even before the world was created..."

We know that Christ "proceeded forth and came from God" (John 8:42), but it was so far back in the ages of eternity as to be far beyond the grasp of the mind of man." (CHR 5)

"The Scriptures declare that Christ is "the only begotten son of God." He is begotten, not created. As to when He was begotten, it is not for us to inquire, nor could our minds grasp it if we were told. The prophet Micah tells us all that we can know about it in these words, "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall He come forth unto Me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from the days of eternity." Micah 5:2, margin. There was a time when Christ proceeded forth and came from God, from the bosom of the Father (John 8:42; 1:18), but that time was so far back in the days of eternity that to finite comprehension it is practically without beginning." (CHR 12)

**Trinitarian:** Who was His mother?

**Andov Dejan:** Waggoner answers:

"It is not given to men to know when or how the Son was begotten" (CHR 5)

**Trinitarian:** Is He subordinate to the Father?

**Andov Dejan:** Ellen White says:

"The Son of God was next in authority to the great Lawgiver." (RH 17 Dec.1872)

"Satan was of the highest order of angels; but Christ was above all. He was the commander of all Heaven. He imparted to the angelic family the high commands of his Father." 3SG 36

If the Father is the first and the Son is the next, then who is the third? If there are three divine Beings then it is logical that the Holy Spirit must be the third authority, but here is what Ellen White said:

"The Lord has shown me that Satan was once an honored angel in heaven, next to Jesus Christ." (1SG 17)

"Lucifer in heaven, before his rebellion, was a high and exalted angel, next in honor to God's dear Son." (SR 14)

Now, Ellen White also says that Christ is equal with the Father, but this is not because He is a member of the three in one God. Here is how she explains it:

"God is the Father of Christ; Christ is the Son of God. To Christ has been given an exalted position. He has been made equal with the Father. All the counsels of God are opened to His Son." (8T 268)

"The great Creator assembled the heavenly host, that He might in the presence of all the angels confer special honor upon His Son. The Son was seated on the throne with the Father, and the heavenly throng of holy angels was gathered around them. The Father then made known that it was ordained by Himself that Christ, His Son, should be equal with Himself; so that wherever was the presence of His Son, it was as His own presence. The word of the Son was to be obeyed as readily as the word of the Fa-

ther. His Son He had invested with authority to command the heavenly host. Especially was His Son to work in union with Himself in the anticipated creation of the earth and every living thing that should exist upon the earth. His Son would carry out His will and His purposes but would do nothing of Himself alone. The Father's will would be fulfilled in Him." (SR 14)

The Father exalted His Son and made Him equal with Himself. In what sense? "Wherever was the presence of His Son, it was as His own presence". "The word of the Son was to be obeyed as readily as the word of the Father" This means that the Father gave authority over all creation to His Son. The Son is the word of God to all creatures.

"He was the Word of God,— God's thought made audible." (DA 20)

But, as the Son, Jesus submitted Himself to the Father. He would "do nothing of Himself alone" but "The Father's will would be fulfilled in Him".

**Trinitarian:** William Johnsson indicates that some of the pioneers held to an erroneous view of Christ, that was changed as the pioneers carefully studied the matter.

**Andov Dejan:**

Not "SOME OF THE PIONEERS" but ALL of them. In a research paper, Russell Holt made this statement concerning early Adventists:

"to a man, they rejected the trinity, yet, with equal unanimity they upheld the divinity of Christ ('The Doctrine of the Trinity in the Seventh-day Adventist Denomination: Its Rejection and Acceptance,' p. 6)."

**Trinitarian:** That was changed as the pioneers carefully studied the matter

**Andov Dejan:**

Can you give some evidences that the pioneers changed their view of Christ and God?

**Trinitarian:** As Seventh-day Adventists we accept the evidence of the three persons of the Godhead, as the “three in one”, and we accept the special function of each of these Persons.

**Andov Dejan:** Fundamental belief #2 says: “There is one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, a unity of three co-eternal Persons.”

According to this belief, the SDA Church does not believe that God is One Being but that He is “a unity of three co-eternal Persons”. Does the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy support this theory?

Ellen White wrote:

*“But God will have a people upon the earth to maintain the Bible, and the Bible only, as the standard of all doctrines and the basis of all reforms... Before accepting ANY doctrine or precept, we should demand a plain “Thus saith the Lord” in its support.” (GC 595)*

Now, let us see what the Bible says concerning who God is. Is He “a unity of three co-eternal Persons”, or is He a single Personal Being?

*“And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.” (John 17:3. )*

Jesus Himself confesses that God is one Being, His Father. Paul agrees with Jesus:

*“But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him” (1 Cor. 8:6)*

*“One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all” (Eph. 4:6 )*

*“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus” (1 Tim. 2: 5)*

SDA Belief says: “There is one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit”.

The apostle Paul says, “*But to us there is but one God, the Father...*”

What about Ellen White? What does she say? Is God “a unity of three,” or is He a single Being?

*“God is a person and Christ is a person.” (1 SAT 343)*

*“There is a personal God, the Father; there is a personal Christ, the Son” (RH Nov. 8, 1898)*

*“God is a being, and man was made in His image” (Ms 117, 1898)*

*“God is a spirit; yet He is a personal being, for man was made in His image. As a personal being, God has revealed Himself in His Son.” (Ed. 131)*

Observe the difference sister White makes between God and Jesus Christ. She does not say that the Father and Jesus are part (together with the Holy Spirit) of one God but she separates them. The Father is God and Jesus is His Son. What are we to believe? The word of God or a man made theory?

**Trinitarian:** On this subject, as EGW says, “silence is golden.”

**Andov Dejan:** Here is a statement from Raoul Dederen from Andrews University which I believe gives a good answer to your words:

*“It cannot be an irrelevant subject. If the doctrine of the Trinity is true, then those who deny it do not worship the God of the Scriptures. If it is false, the Trinitarians, by paying divine honor to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, are equally guilty of idolatry. The doctrine of the Trinity is not merely speculation, but lies at the root of every man’s theology and affects his whole creed and practice.” Reflections on the Doctrine of the Trinity*

Yes, I agree with you that we can’t explain God’s nature but we do not argue about His nature but His identity and there is a big difference.

**Trinitarian:** It may well be that Jesus

is the Son of God. It is one thing that is not clear in the Bible

**Andov Dejan:** The Bible is very clear:

*“Who hath ascended up into heaven, or descended? who hath gathered the wind in his fists? who hath bound the waters in a garment? who hath established all the ends of the earth? what is his name, and what is his SON’S name, if thou canst tell?” Prov. 30: 4*

*“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.” John 3: 16*

Ellen White also wrote on this:

*“The Scriptures clearly indicate the relation between God and Christ, and they bring to view as clearly the personality and individuality of each... God is the Father of Christ; Christ is the Son of God.” (8T 268)*

*“A complete offering has been made; for “God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son,”— not a son by creation, as were the angels, nor a son by adoption, as is the forgiven sinner, but a Son begotten in the express image of the Father’s person, and in all the*

#### SEEKING FELLOWSHIP

Lenworth and Vivia Frankson live in the Cartersville area of Georgia. They are non-Trinitarian Adventist Christians who are enthusiastic about the message of Righteousness in Christ. They desire to meet and fellowship with brethren of like mind.

If you live reasonably close to these brethren and have a similar desire, then you may contact the Franksons by calling either of the following numbers:

(770) 383-3250 (home) or

(770) 361 5573 (mobile)

*brightness of his majesty and glory, one equal with God in authority, dignity, and divine perfection. In him dwelt all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.” (ST, May 30, 1895)*

It is sad that the SDA doctrine of the Trinity denies the Fatherhood of God. According to Ellen White this is spiritualism:

*“Modern spiritualism, resting upon the same foundation, is but a revival in a new form of the witchcraft and demon worship that God condemned and prohibited of old. It is foretold in the Scriptures, which declare that “in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.” 1 Timothy 4:1. Paul, in his second letter to the Thessalonians, points to the spe-*

*cial working of Satan in spiritualism as an event to take place immediately before the second advent of Christ. Speaking of Christ’s second coming, he declares that it is “after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders.” 2 Thessalonians 2:9. And Peter, describing the dangers to which the church was to be exposed in the last days, says that as there were false prophets who led Israel into sin, so there will be false teachers, “who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them. . . . And many shall follow their pernicious ways.” 2 Peter 2:1,2. Here the apostle has pointed out one of the marked characteristics of spiritualist teachers. . . They refuse to acknowledge Christ as the Son of God. Con-*

*cerning such teachers the beloved John declares: “Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son. Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father.” 1 John 2:22,*

Spiritualism, by denying Christ, denies both the Father and the Son, and the Bible pronounces it the manifestation of antichrist.”

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At this point the Trinitarian brother refused to respond anymore and in a little while the people in charge of the forum completely removed the topic.



### **Open Face**

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