



SAVED TO SERVE

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Protestant Finland: RCC is Mother Church & We Need Sunday Rest. Evangelicals' Secret Meeting with Trump Administration Unlawful. No Chip, No Job. Venezuela's Fatherland Card Coming To America. Doubts Assailed Christ. Need Acceptance & Assurance before Death & Sunday Law.

1a. Let us read and meditate upon the following scripture and statement: Hebrews 6:19,20.

Those who would share the benefits of the Saviour's mediation should permit nothing to interfere with their duty to perfect holiness in the fear of God. The precious hours, instead of being given to pleasure, to display, or to gain seeking, should be devoted to an earnest, prayerful study of the word of truth. **The subject of the sanctuary and the investigative judgment should be clearly understood by the people of God.** All need a knowledge for themselves of the position and work of their great High Priest. **Otherwise it will be impossible for them to exercise the faith which is essential at this time or to occupy the position which God designs them to fill.** Every individual has a soul to save or to lose. Each has a case pending at the bar of God. Each must meet the great Judge face to face. {GC 488.2}

1b. Let us read and meditate upon the following statement.

It would be well for us to spend a thoughtful hour each day in contemplation of the life of Christ. We should take it point by point, and let the imagination grasp each scene, especially the closing ones. As we thus dwell upon His great sacrifice for us, **our confidence in Him will be more constant, our love will be quickened, and we shall be more deeply imbued with His spirit.** If we would be saved at last, we must learn the lesson of penitence and humiliation at the foot of the cross. {DA 83.4}

2. What did Jesus experience at the closing scene of His earthly ministry? _____

Even doubts assailed the dying Son of God. {2T 209.3}

3. What does assail mean? Answer: make a concerted or violent attack on; **attack, assault, pounce on, set upon/about, fall on, charge, rush, storm; to torment and plague someone.**

4. Why did doubts assail Jesus at the cross? _____

He could not see through the portals of the tomb. Bright hope did not present to Him **His coming forth from the tomb a conqueror and His Father's acceptance of His sacrifice...** He was tempted to fear that **sin was so offensive** in the sight of His Father that He **[Father] could not be reconciled to His Son.** {2T 209.3}

5. How would you apply the above statement to yourself? _____

6. What will the commandment-keeping people of God encounter? _____

Let us gather up these precious jewels of promise, and when **Satan accuses us of our great sinfulness, and tempts us to doubt the power of God to save,** let us repeat the words of Christ, "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out." {HP 264.4}

Even Christians of long experience are often assaulted with the most terrible doubts and waverings. . . . You must not consider that for these temptations your case is hopeless. . . . Hope in God, trust in Him, and rest in His promises.-- When the devil comes with his doubts and unbeliefs, shut the door of your heart. Shut your eyes so that you will not dwell upon his hellish shadow. Lift them up where they can behold the things which are eternal, and you will have strength every hour. The trial of your faith is much more precious than gold. . . . It makes you valiant to fight the battle of the Lord. . . . {2MCP 794.5}

You cannot afford to let any doubts come into your mind. Do not please the devil enough to tell about the terrible burdens you are carrying. Every time you do it, Satan laughs that his soul can control you and that you have lost sight of Jesus Christ your Redeemer.-- {2MCP 794.6}

7. What did Jesus experience at the closing scene of His earthly ministry? _____

Faith and hope trembled in the expiring agonies of Christ... All is enshrouded in oppressive gloom. Amid the awful darkness which is felt by sympathizing nature, the Redeemer drains the mysterious cup even to its dregs. {2T 210.2}

8. What is faith? Hebrews 11:1 _____

9. What does tremble mean? _____

10. Why did Christ's faith and hope tremble? In other words, Jesus was tempted to lose faith and hope. _____

Faith and hope trembled in the expiring agonies of Christ because God had removed the assurance He had heretofore given His beloved Son of His approbation and acceptance. {2T 210.2}

11. What will the commandment-keeping people of God encounter? _____

12. What did Jesus do in that moment of crisis? _____

The Redeemer of the world then relied upon the evidences which had hitherto strengthened Him, that His Father accepted His labors and was pleased with His work. {2T 210.2}

13. At which particular moments did the Father give Jesus evidences that He was accepted and that His life was pleasing?

Matthew 3:16,17; Matthew 17:1-5 (Luke 9:28-35); John 12:23-30. _____

Read 1 Samuel 7:12 and write your thoughts _____

14a. How would you apply the above points to yourself? _____

You have confessed your sins, and in heart put them away. You have resolved to give yourself to God. Now go to Him, and ask that He will wash away your sins and give you a new heart. Then believe that He does this because He has promised. {SC 49.3}

Through the imputed righteousness of Christ, the sinner may feel that he is pardoned, and may know that the law no more condemns him, because he is in harmony with all its precepts. It is his privilege to count himself innocent when he reads and thinks of the retribution that will fall upon the unbelieving and sinful. By faith he lays hold of the righteousness of Christ. . . . Knowing himself to be a sinner, a transgressor of the holy law of God, he looks to the perfect obedience of Christ, to His death upon Calvary for the sins of the world; and he has the assurance that he is justified by faith in the merit and sacrifice of Christ. He realizes that the law was obeyed in his behalf by the Son of God, and that the penalty of transgression cannot fall upon the believing sinner. The active obedience of Christ clothes the believing sinner with the righteousness that meets the demands of the law. {SD 240.4}

14b. Meditate upon the following scriptures: What did the thief on the cross receive before he died? What did Enoch receive before his translation to heaven? Luke 23:42-44; Hebrews 11:5 _____

15a. In like manner you are a sinner. **You cannot atone for your past sins; you cannot change your heart and make yourself holy.** But God promises to do all this for you through Christ. You **believe** that promise. **You confess your sins and give yourself to God.** You **will** to serve Him. Just as surely as you do this, God will fulfill His word to you. **If you believe the promise,--believe that you are forgiven and cleansed,--God supplies the fact;** you are made whole, just as Christ gave the paralytic power to walk when the man believed that he was healed. **It is so if you believe it. Do not wait to feel that you are made whole, but say, "I believe it; it is so, not because I feel it, but because God has promised."** {SC 51.2}

15b. Meditate upon the following scriptures: Romans 7:23-25 and Romans 8:1.

16a. **Now that you have given yourself to Jesus, do not draw back, do not take yourself away from Him, but day by day say, "I am Christ's; I have given myself to Him;"** and ask Him to give you His Spirit and keep you by His grace. **As it is by giving yourself to God, and believing Him, that you become His child, so you are to live in Him.** The apostle says, "As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in Him." Colossians 2:6. {SC 52.1}

No repentance is genuine that does not work reformation. The righteousness of Christ is not a cloak to cover unconfessed and unforsaken sin; it is a principle of life that transforms the character and controls the conduct. Holiness is wholeness for God; it is the entire surrender of heart and life to the indwelling of the principles of heaven. {DA 555.6}

16b. Meditate upon the following scripture: Hebrews 10:22, 35.

17. **Here is where thousands fail; they do not believe that Jesus pardons them personally, individually. They do not take God at His word.** It is the privilege of all who comply with the conditions to know for themselves that pardon is freely extended for every sin. **Put away the suspicion that God's promises are not meant for you.** They are for every repentant transgressor. Strength and grace have been provided through Christ to be brought by ministering angels to every believing soul. **None are so sinful that they cannot find strength, purity, and righteousness in Jesus, who died for them. He is waiting to strip them of their garments stained and polluted with sin, and to put upon them the white robes of righteousness; He bids them live and not die.** {SC 52.3}

If we will but keep our eyes fixed on the Saviour, and trust in His power, we shall be filled with a sense of security; for the righteousness of Christ will become our righteousness. . . . {MYP 107.1}

18a. **With the rich promises of the Bible before you, can you give place to doubt? Can you believe that when the poor sinner longs to return, longs to forsake his sins, the Lord sternly withholds him from coming to His feet in repentance? Away with such thoughts! Nothing can hurt your own soul more than to entertain such a conception of our heavenly Father.** {SC 54.2}

18b. Meditate upon the following scripture: Philippians 1:6.

19. What did Jesus say although darkness surrounded Him on the cross? Luke 23:44-46 _____

In His dying agony, as He yields up His precious life, He has by faith alone to trust in Him whom it has ever been His joy to obey. He is not cheered with clear, bright rays of hope on the right hand nor on the left....Denied even bright hope and confidence in the triumph which will be His in the future, He cries with a loud voice: **"Father, into Thy hands I commend My spirit."** He is acquainted with the character of His Father, with His justice, His mercy, and His great love, and in submission He drops into His hands. Amid the convulsions of nature are heard by the amazed spectators the dying words of the Man of Calvary. {2T 210.2}

20. What else did Jesus feel on the cross? Matthew 27:45,46

Christ felt much as sinners will feel when the vials of God's wrath shall be poured out upon them. Black despair, like the pall of death, will gather about their guilty souls, and then they will realize to the fullest extent the sinfulness of sin. Salvation has been purchased for them by the suffering and death of the Son of God. It might be theirs, if they would accept of it willingly, gladly; but none are compelled to yield obedience to the law of God. If they refuse the heavenly benefit and choose the pleasures and deceitfulness of sin, they have their choice, and at the end receive their wages, which is the wrath of God and eternal death. They will be forever separated from the presence of Jesus, whose sacrifice they had despised. They will have lost a life of happiness and sacrificed eternal glory for the pleasures of sin for a season. {2T 210.1}

21. What event immediately precedes the pouring out of the vials of God's wrath upon unrepentant sinners? Revelation 16:1,2

This is a warning to those who claim to be Christians. Those who have had light upon the important, testing truths for this time, and yet are not making ready for the coming of the Son of man, are not taking heed. "Take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares." There is no period of time when spiritual slothfulness is excusable. {CW 24.1}

Only by being clothed with the robe of Christ's righteousness can we escape the judgments that are coming upon the earth. Let all remember that these words were among the last that Christ gave His disciples. {CW 24.2}

22. <https://catholicherald.co.uk/commentandblogs/2018/11/13/despite-being-overwhelmingly-lutheran-finland-has-opened-its-heart-to-catholicism/> Despite being overwhelmingly Lutheran, Finland has opened its heart to Catholicism...**At the same time, anti-Catholic sentiments were commonly expressed in Lutheran hymns and literature. The pope was seen as the Antichrist, and Jesuits were viewed with great suspicion owing to their role in the Catholic Reformation. Today, Finnish Lutheran pastors routinely refer to the Catholic Church as "Mother Church", and the recent Finnish Catholic-Lutheran dialogue report, Communion in Growth, records an astonishing degree of agreement on traditionally divisive doctrinal issues.** Although Finns have sometimes called their country "the most Lutheran in the world", they also rightly regard it as a model of ecumenism.

23. https://yle.fi/uutiset/osasto/news/finnish_officers_unions_want_more_time_off_to_ease_soldiers_family_life/10506248 Finnish officers' unions want more time off to ease soldiers' family life... "We're not after monetary compensation," says Ericsson. "We want personnel to have sufficient time for rest and recuperation."

24. Watch the video sermon for the current events regarding frequent prayer service at the White House. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f8QhA8t3Fcs>

25. <https://www.faithwire.com/2018/11/14/god-is-surely-moving-in-this-nation-christian-musicians-worship-jesus-at-the-white-house/> 'God Is Surely Moving in This Nation': Christian Musicians Worship Jesus at the White House... Several worship leaders and Christian artists have posted footage of a spontaneous praise session that took place in the White House yesterday. The "Faith Briefing" meeting was designed to give an update on all the faith-based initiatives that have been introduced by the Trump administration. "Let's be a people that are not letting a day go by without praying for our President and this incredible administration. Thank you @paulamichellewhite for all you do and for helping making this happen. It's truly powerful to watch and I'm moved beyond words."

26. <https://religionnews.com/2018/08/31/evangelicals-white-house-meetings-illegal-church-state-watchdog-says/> Evangelicals' White House meetings illegal, church-state watchdog says... Americans United for Separation of Church and State said the group is violating the Federal Advisory Committee Act, a 1972 law that provides transparency and procedural standards for committees created to meet with the executive branch. The watchdog called for a stop to the group's meetings and advising "unless and until" it complies with the law. Melissa Rogers, the former director of President Obama's White House Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships, has told RNS the Obama administration's faith-based councils produced public reports, held public meetings and were subject to the 1972 law. She tweeted on Tuesday after reports of this week's dinner: "Once again, the Trump WH appears to favor evangelicals (more specifically, a partic kind of evangelical) over others, while claiming to promote religious freedom."

27. Watch the video sermon for the current events regarding UK & US Firms Ready to Microchip Employees: Forced Surrender of Privacy for Security? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f8QhA8t3Fcs>

28. **Venezuela is rolling out a new, smart-card ID known as the "carnet de la patria," or "fatherland card," manufactured by Chinese telecom giant ZTE Corp. The ID transmits data about cardholders to government computer servers, and is increasingly linked to subsidized food, health, and other social programs most Venezuelans rely on to survive.. The database, according to employees of the card system and screenshots of user data reviewed by Reuters, stores such details as birthdays, family information, employment and income, property owned, medical history, state benefits received, presence on social media, membership of a political party, and whether a person voted.** <https://www.businessinsider.com/venezuela-id-card-tracks-citizens-like-china-2018-11>