



SAVED TO SERVE

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Charles Finney, Second Great Awakening & Sunday Law, Repeating in US Prison Reform Bill. No Fear in Life, Fearless of Death & M.O.B. Confidence in Day of Judgment.

1. Let us read and meditate upon the following scripture and quotation: Hebrews 4:14-16

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}

2. Where must we all appear and stand? 2 Corinthians 5:10; Ecclesiastes 12:11,14; Romans 14:10,12 _____

3. In what condition must we be found in order to pass the investigative judgment? Revelation 22:11,12,14 _____

4. What does the Lord instructs us to do? Matthew 5:48 _____

5. Note: It is God that must declare us perfect; we should not claim to be perfect. Read the following to confirm Job 1:1; Job 9:20

But we shall not boast of our holiness. As we have clearer views of Christ's spotlessness and infinite purity, we shall feel as did Daniel, when he beheld the glory of the Lord, and said, "My comeliness was turned in me into corruption." {3SM 355.3}

We cannot say, "I am sinless," till this vile body is changed and fashioned like unto His glorious body. But if we constantly seek to follow Jesus, the blessed hope is ours of standing before the throne of God without spot or wrinkle, or any such thing; complete in Christ, robed in His righteousness and perfection.--Signs of the Times, March 23, 1888. {3SM 355.4}

6. Note: How could these two realities be correct? Let us study the word of God.

7. During the Day of Atonement, which is the Day of Investigative Judgment, what was the priest's work? Leviticus 16:29,30 _____

8. During the Day of Atonement, which is the Day of Investigative Judgment, what was the duty of the individual? Leviticus 16:29,30 _____

9. What must we comprehend in order to have sorrow for sin and to afflict our souls? Zechariah 12:10 _____

10. Note: Sin is a like a poisonous drug. Sin will never hurt us enough to make us stop sinning. So what does Jesus say? John 12:32 _____

11. What does it mean to afflict ourselves? Ezra 8:21 and James 4:7-11 _____

12. How will Jesus declare us after we confess and surrender our sins? Leviticus 16:29,30; 1 John 1:9 _____

13. What experience and feelings can we have in these last days of the antitypical Day of Investigative Judgment? 1 John 4:17,18 _____

14. What will eventually overtake the person who sins willfully? Hebrews 10:26,27 _____

15. Once we confess our sins and surrender, what must we do? How should we feel? 1 John 2:28,29 _____

16. Note: Based on the previous point, read 1 John 3:20,21 and write down your thoughts _____

17. Note: We can have the fear of dying eradicated, once we confess our sins and abide in Jesus. Meditate upon Hebrews 2:14,15.

18. Let us consider the accounts of the paralytic. Read Matthew 9:1,2 and the following quotation.

The palsied man had sunk into despair. Then he heard of the works of Jesus. Others, as sinful and helpless as he, had been healed, and he was encouraged to believe that he, too, might be cured if he could be carried to the Saviour. But hope fell as he remembered the cause of his malady, yet he could not cast away the possibility of healing. {MH 73.3}

His great desire was relief from the burden of sin. He longed to see Jesus and receive the assurance of forgiveness and peace with heaven. Then he would be content to live or to die, according to God's will. {MH 74.1}

19. Note: We should come to the point that we will not fear the crisis of the Sunday Law. Study the experience of Jacob. Read Genesis 32:11,22-30.

The error that had led to Jacob's sin in obtaining the birthright by fraud was now clearly set before him. He had not trusted God's promises, but had sought by his own efforts to bring about that which God would have accomplished in His own time and way. As an evidence that he had been forgiven, his name was changed from one that was a reminder of his sin, to one that commemorated his victory. "Thy name," said the Angel, "shall be called no more Jacob [the supplanter], but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed." {PP 197.2}

Jacob had received the blessing for which his soul had longed. His sin as a supplanter and deceiver had been pardoned. The crisis in his life was past. Doubt, perplexity, and remorse had embittered his existence, but now all was changed; and sweet was the peace of reconciliation with God.... {PP 198.1} He had fastened his trembling grasp upon the promises of God, and the heart of Infinite Love could not turn away the sinner's plea... **And the fact that Jacob had prevailed with God was an assurance that he would prevail with men. He no longer feared to encounter his brother's anger, for the Lord was his defense.** {GC 617.1}

Current Events

Read Revelation 13:13-15 regarding the image of the beast.

When the leading churches of the United States, uniting upon such points of doctrine as are held by them in common, shall influence the state to enforce their decrees and to sustain their institutions, then Protestant America will have formed an image of the Roman hierarchy, and the infliction of civil penalties upon dissenters will inevitably result. {GC 445.1}

<https://www.christianpost.com/politics/trump-announces-support-for-prison-reform-bill-after-major-evangelical-backing.html>.

President Donald Trump officially announced his support for a prison reform bill called the FIRST STEP Act, and hailed pastors such as Paula White for fighting for it... In his speech on Wednesday, Trump made special mention of his spiritual adviser, **Paula White-Cain, who leads New Destiny Christian Center in Florida. White revealed on Twitter that more than 2,000 evangelical pastors signed a letter in support of the FIRST STEP Act, calling it "the most significant effort at criminal justice reform to be passed in a generation."** "Today's announcement shows that true bipartisanship is possible." Heather Rice-Minus, vice president of government affairs for Prison Fellowship, previously told The Christian Post **that Trump's relationship with the faith community and his meetings with pastors on the issue have played a big part in securing his support for the initiative.**

"Religious leaders — who have the weight of President Donald Trump behind them — are preparing to pressure McConnell and other senators, such as Cruz and David Perdue (R-Ga.), to change their minds. Starting next week, the Faith and Freedom Coalition will ask its 2 million members to flood Congress with letters and phone calls, said coalition Chairman Ralph Reed. Religious groups hope they can put enough pressure on Republicans with large evangelical constituencies to get a rare piece of major bipartisan legislation passed in a bitterly divided Congress." Reforming prisons and sentencing rules have generally taken a back seat to hot-button issues such as abortion for evangelicals.

<https://www.politico.com/story/2018/11/22/religious-right-criminal-justice-reform-1009543>

<https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/op-eds/prison-reform-bill-represents-whats-beautiful-about-america>

But as of November 2018, each and every member of Congress has a new reason to throw their support behind **the FIRST STEP Act.** Justice reform isn't just smart policy anymore; as of this month, it's smart politics. **The importance of Florida in national elections barely needs reiterating. No candidate has won the presidency without winning Florida since 1960 when Kennedy beat Nixon; Bill Clinton in 1992 is the only exception. And experts have long speculated that Al Gore and Hillary Clinton each would have won that essential state – and the presidency - if people with criminal records were allowed to vote. These voters may be the deciding voice in calling for our next president.** <https://www.newsweek.com/why-prison-reform-could-hold-key-2020-1220816>.

<https://www.ncronline.org/news/justice/restorative-justice-seen-critical-piece-criminal-justice-reform> Restorative justice seen as a critical piece of criminal justice reform...Restorative justice should be advocated as a key element in criminal justice reform, according to participants at an April 25 conference in Washington sponsored by the Catholic Mobilizing Network, which champions restorative justice as well as an end to the death penalty.

<http://www.ncregister.com/daily-news/us-house-takes-a-first-step-toward-prison-reform> US House Takes First Step Toward Prison Reform...A rare bipartisan consensus in the House of Representatives shows movement toward the Catholic Church's position that restorative justice is a better model for prison and society.

When appearing as members of their order, they wore a garb of sanctity, visiting prisons and hospitals, ministering to the sick and the poor, professing to have renounced the world, and bearing the sacred name of Jesus, who went about doing good. But under this blameless exterior the most criminal and deadly purposes were often concealed. It was a fundamental principle of the order that the end justifies the means. By this code, lying, theft, perjury, assassination, were not only pardonable but commendable, when they served the interests of the church. Under various disguises the Jesuits worked their way into offices of state, climbing up to be the counselors of kings, and shaping the policy of nations... **The Jesuits rapidly spread themselves over Europe, and wherever they went, there followed a revival of popery.** {GC 235.1}

Reforming prisons and sentencing rules have generally taken a back seat to hot-button issues such as abortion for evangelicals. **But religious leaders say the subject has been important to them since the 1970s, when Charles Colson, a former special counsel to President Richard Nixon imprisoned for crimes connected to Watergate, launched the Prison Fellowship after finding faith behind bars.**

<https://www.politico.com/story/2018/11/22/religious-right-criminal-justice-reform-1009543>

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This wave of revivalism began with the Second Great Awakening or Great Revival and increased in intensity after 1826 when Charles G. Finney had started his preaching and great revivals swept through the country. **In 1830 he moved away from an exclusive stress on personal conversion, and developed a close relationship between revivalism and benevolent action, an approach which made him more acceptable in the eastern part of the country. The remaking of society in the light of the establishment of the kingdom of God was considered as important as converting people and building churches. This union of revivalism and reform contributed greatly to the growth of the benevolence movement. As the century progressed, the interest of Protestantism in temperance, peace, prison reform, poor relief, proper Sunday observance, education, abolition of slavery, and many other moral and social problems grew steadily until social reform became the absorbing passion of many Christians who embraced revivalism.** 2 {1977 Pieter Gerard Damsteegt, FSDA 10.1}

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/history/issues/issue-23/charles-grandison-finney-second-phase-of-second-great.html>. Charles Grandison Finney & the Second Phase of the Second Great Awakening...But it would be Finney who propelled the awakening onto center-stage in America, and gave it another fifteen years of life. **The side-effects became more widespread than ever before: out of it came power for the antislavery crusade, women's rights, prison reform, temperance, and much more.**

Yet this very class put forth the claim that the fast-spreading corruption is largely attributable to the desecration of the so-called "Christian sabbath," and that the enforcement of Sunday observance would greatly improve the morals of society. This claim is especially urged in America, where the doctrine of the true Sabbath has been most widely preached. **Here the temperance work, one of the most prominent and important of moral reforms, is often combined with the Sunday movement, and the advocates of the latter represent themselves as laboring to promote the highest interest of society; and those who refuse to unite with them are denounced as the enemies of temperance and reform.** But the fact that a movement to establish error is connected with a work which is in itself good, is not an argument in favor of the error. We may disguise poison by mingling it with wholesome food, but we do not change its nature. On the contrary, it is rendered more dangerous, as it is more likely to be taken unawares. It is one of Satan's devices to combine with falsehood just enough truth to give it plausibility. **The leaders of the Sunday movement may advocate reforms which the people need, principles which are in harmony with the Bible; yet while there is with these a requirement which is contrary to God's law, His servants cannot unite with them. Nothing can justify them in setting aside the commandments of God for the precepts of men.** {GC 587.1}

https://www.huffingtonpost.com/robert-j-morgan/sixth-great-awakening-americas-only-hope_b_3391348.html. **The Sixth Great Awakening: America's Only Hope...The Great Awakening, the Second Great Awakening, the Third Great Awakening, the Welsh Revival and the Jesus Movement shaped our nation more than most historians admit. They've deepened the soul of America, laid moral foundation for happiness and inflamed successive generations of young people into lifelong ministries. Now it's time now for another revival. America can't be saved by politics, and the answer isn't in being a Republican, Democrat or Independent. Our economists and educators can't save us. Our entertainers offer diversions without meaning and our technology gives us progress without morality. We've seldom been in greater need for inner revitalization, and conditions are urgent. Join me in making Psalm 85:6 a daily prayer for our nation and world: "Will you not revive us again that your people may rejoice in you?" This is the only hope for our nation and the greatest need of our world. The Sixth Great Awakening is overdue.**

<http://americanhistory.oxfordre.com/view/10.1093/acrefore/9780199329175.001.0001/acrefore-9780199329175-e-29> Church-State Separation in the Nineteenth Century...Whether the prevailing regime is best represented by the Jeffersonian impulse of a "high wall of separation" or by a more accommodationist impulse that acknowledges the role of religion in public life through actions such as presidential proclamations of days of prayer and thanksgiving, **there is little question that the separationist narrative runs into difficulties once one considers the nineteenth century.** Several factors contributed to this transformation in attitudes. First was the American reaction to the French Revolution and the subsequent decline in deistic thought in the United States. That reaction coincided with the **[THERE WAS] wide-scale outbreak of evangelical revivals after 1800, commonly called the Second Great Awakening. Society was, in a sense, perfectible, and America would be at the vanguard of bringing about Christ's Kingdom. To facilitate the Second Coming, evangelical leaders created voluntary organizations designed to reform society by addressing issues such as intemperance, biblical illiteracy, and Sabbath observance.** "In a free government, moral suasion and coercion must be united." **These efforts brought reunited civil and religious functions in America....As part of this transformation, evangelicals redefined popular and legal understandings of disestablishment.**

A final factor that contributed to the attitudinal shift involved the legal community. Many judges of the antebellum [pre-Civil War] period shared the emerging evangelical perspective. These judges enforced laws prohibiting blasphemy and Sunday activities based on religious grounds while declaring that "Christianity formed part of the common law." This belief in the Christian nature of America affected interpretations of constitutional provisions as well. In 1824, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court rejected a claim that blasphemy laws violated the religious liberty provisions of the state constitution. While declaring that "complete liberty of conscience" existed in the state, the court also explained that "no free government now exists in the world, unless where Christianity is acknowledged, and is the religion of the country." 29

It was apostasy that led the early church to seek the aid of the civil government, and this prepared the way for the development of the papacy--the beast. Said Paul: "There" shall "come a falling away, . . . and that man of sin be revealed." 2 Thessalonians 2:3. So apostasy in the church will prepare the way for the image to the beast. {GC 443.4} The "image to the beast" represents that form of apostate Protestantism which will be developed when the Protestant churches shall seek the aid of the civil power for the enforcement of their dogmas. The "mark of the beast" still remains to be defined. {GC 445.2}