

## Apples



A few years ago a group of salesmen went to a regional sales convention in Chicago.

They had assured their wives that they would be home in plenty of time for Friday night's dinner. In their rush, with tickets and briefcases, one of these salesmen inadvertently kicked over a table which held a display of apples. Apples flew everywhere. Without stopping or looking back, they all managed to reach the plane in time for their nearly-missed boarding. ALL BUT ONE!!! He paused, took a deep breath, got in touch with his feelings, and experienced a twinge of compassion for the girl whose apple stand had been overturned. He told his buddies to go on without him, waved good-bye, told one of them to call his wife when they arrived at their home destination and explain his taking a later flight. Then he returned to the terminal where the apples were all over the terminal floor.

He was glad he did. The 16-year-old girl was totally blind! She was softly crying, tears running down her cheeks in frustration, and at the same time helplessly groping for her spilled produce as the crowd swirled about her; no one stopping and no one to care for her plight. The salesman knelt on the floor with her, gathered up the apples, put them back on the table and helped organize her display. As he did this, he noticed that many of them had become battered and bruised; these he set aside in another basket. When he had finished, he pulled out his wallet and said to the girl, "Here, please take this \$40 for the damage we did. Are you okay?" She nodded through her tears. He continued on with, "I hope we didn't spoil your day too badly."

As the salesman started to walk away, the bewildered blind girl called out to him, "Mister" He paused and turned to look back into those blind eyes. She continued, "Are you Jesus?"

He stopped in mid-stride ... and he wondered. He gently went back and said, "No, I am nothing like Jesus - He is good, kind, caring, loving, and would never have bumped into your display in the first place."

"The girl gently nodded: "I only asked, because I prayed for Jesus to help me gather the apples. He sent you to help me, so you are like Him - only He knows who will do His will. Thank you for hearing His call, Mister."

Then slowly he made his way to catch the later flight with that question burning and bouncing about in his soul: **"Are you Jesus?"** Do people mistake you for Jesus?

That's our destiny, is it not? To be so much like Jesus that people cannot tell the difference as we live and interact with a world that is blind to His love, life and grace.

If we claim to know Him, we should live, walk and act like He would. Knowing Him is more than simply quoting scripture and going to church. It's actually living the Word as life unfolds day to day. You are the apple of His eye even though you, too, have been bruised by a fall. He stopped what He was doing and picked up you and me on a hill called Calvary and paid in full for our damaged fruit.

Sometimes we just take things for granted, when we really need to be sharing what we know .... Thanks.

***"Being happy doesn't mean everything is perfect.***

***It means you've decided to see beyond the imperfections."***

### **Simple Faith** (by: Rosemary McKenzie)

From: *Women in the Word* (Presented by: Kay Cheser, Women Ministry Leader)

*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.” – Proverbs 3: 5, 6, “I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye.” Psalm 32: 8*

Disastrous trouble resulted for Rebekah’s family when she took things into her own hands and tried – by deception- to manipulate the situation to suit God’s purposes instead of trusting Him and allowing Him to fulfill His promises in His way. Can I trust God when circumstances seem uncertain and even contradictory? As she heard the story of his prayer and the part she acted in answering it, she was convinced that God was inviting her to take a journey of faith. She was presented with the amazing opportunity to be a part of the lineage of the promised Savior of the world. Rebekah had grown up in a home that cherished a knowledge of the true God. When she was abruptly faced with the life-changing proposal of marriage, she chose to trust in the providences of God. Her simple statement of faith was, “I will go.” (Genesis 24: 58). Twenty years later, in answer to her and Isaac’s fervent prayers, Rebekah became pregnant with twins. The pregnancy was difficult and she sought the Lord in her time of distress. *“The Lord said to her: “Two nations are in your womb, two peoples shall be separated from your body; one people shall be stronger than the other, and the older shall serve the younger.”* (Genesis 25:23).



As her children grew, Rebekah studied their characteristics. She felt sure that the special blessings of the birthright rightly belonged to her younger son, Jacob. She remembered clearly the Word of the Lord to her before their birth. However, her husband Isaac did not share her conviction. He was attracted to the bold Esau and determined to give him the birthright blessing traditionally given to the oldest son. Rebekah overheard Isaac’s plans to secretly give the blessings of the birthright and spiritual heritage to Esau, in spite of God’s promise to Jacob. She felt that the circumstances required her intervention-even though her strategy was in direct opposition to the principles of God’s Law. “God had declared that Jacob should receive the birthright, and His word would have been fulfilled in His own time had they waited in faith for Him to work for them. But like many who now profess to be children of God, they were unwilling to leave the matter in His hands.” (*Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 180*). The aftermath of this episode resulted in Jacob fleeing from his home as a fugitive and traveling to his uncle’s home, where he was defrauded and treated with constant suspicion. The consequences to Rebekah included years of bitter repentance and separation from her beloved son. Rebekah did not live to see the fulfillment of God’s promises in her son’s life. Even though the outcome of her choice resulted in tragedy, loss, and disappointment, God was not deterred from His purposes. Amid the pain and sorrow, God was still working out His gracious providences and bringing about His plan of salvation-in His own time.

Like many other women of faith-including Sarah, Rachel, and Esther- Rebekah failed at a critical moment to trust that God would take the responsibility to fulfill the promises in His Word in His own way. And yet, despite Rebekah’s failure, God still worked-taking the mess that resulted to bring about His purposes. Romans 8:28 says, *“We know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.”* Often, we think that “all things” are the good things, or the right choices that we make, but the text clearly says that God is able to make “all things”-including our mistakes our failures, and the missteps of others-to work together for the ultimate good. That is the miracle of His grace. Jesus identifies His church as a pure woman (Revelation 12:1) that He is preparing as His bride. He is constantly working *“that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.”* (Ephesians 5: 26, 27). Christ is in the business of taking our messy lives and turning them into beautiful examples of the miracle of His love.

In these last days of earth’s history, God is calling His people to live lives of integrity with complete faith in Him and His Word. Revelation declares, *“Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.”* (Revelation 14:12). The patience or endurance of the saints is manifest by their faithful lives of integrity, their keeping of God’s commandments through the grace of Christ, and their complete trust in Him to accomplish their salvation through the power of His Word. Today, when we are faced with the temptation to manipulate circumstances to meet our own purposes, or even God’s purposes, we can remember the lessons from the life of Rebekah. We can make a different choice-to trust God’s timing rather than our own.

Christ’s invitation to you today is to *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not to your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your path. Do not own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and depart from evil. It will be health to your flesh, and strength to your bones.”* (Proverbs 3: 5-8)

*“As for God, His way is perfect; the Word of the Lord is proven; He is a shield to all who trust in Him.”* (2 Samuel 22: 31). *“Trust in the Lord, and do good; dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness. Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass.”* (Psalm 37: 1-5)

# PASTOR'S CORNER

He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" *Revelation 21:5*

Katie was given a school assignment to write an essay entitled "My Perfect World." She wrote: "In my perfect world . . . ice cream is free, lollipops are everywhere, and the sky is blue all the time, with only a few clouds that have interesting shapes." Then her essay took a more serious turn. In that world, she continued, "No one will come home to bad news. And no one will have to be the one to deliver it."



No one will come home to bad news. Isn't that wonderful? Those words point powerfully to the confident hope we have in Jesus. He is "making everything new"—healing and transforming our world (Revelation 21:5). Paradise is the place of "no more"—no more evil, no more death, no more mourning, no more pain, no more tears (v. 4)! It is a place of perfect communion with God, who by His love has redeemed and claimed believers as His own (v. 3). What marvelous joy awaits us!

We can enjoy a foretaste of this perfect reality here and now. As we seek to fellowship with God daily, we experience the joy of His presence (Colossians 1:12–13). And even as we struggle against sin, we experience, in part, the victory that is ours in Christ (2:13–15), the One who fully conquered sin and death.

*Lord, thank You that You are making all things new. Help us to live in the hope of the day we will live with You, pure and blameless, on a new earth in Your presence forever and ever.*

**God's perfect world is for all who believe in Jesus.**

## *INSIGHT*

What can we learn about the perfect world to come—the new heaven, the new earth, and the new Jerusalem? In Isaiah 65 we read (as in Revelation 21:4) about the absence of pain and sorrow: "The sound of weeping and of crying will be heard in it no more. Never again will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days." In this place we will "not labor in vain, nor . . . bear children doomed to misfortune . . . . The wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox, and dust will be the serpent's food. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain" (vv. 19-25). Isaiah 66:22–23 declares that in the new heaven and the new earth all the redeemed "will come and bow down before [the Lord]." Righteousness will dwell in this new heaven and new earth (2 Peter 3:13). In this delightfully perfect place, we will worship our holy God who dwells with us.

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# Youth Sabbath

Sabbath, June 30, the young people had the Church service at the Clanton SDA Church. Jasmine & Kay Houston had the opening prayer.; For opening song we sang "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus". It was very interesting when it came time for Daniel Chrishon age 5 to have the children's story, there was only one child in the auditorium to have the story for. So we informed the "young people" on the pulpit being adults that they needed to come down so Daniel could tell them his story about Daniel and the Lion's den. Then when the story finished, they went back up to have the Special Music "Watchmen, on the Walls of Zion". Ashley had the scripture, 1 Peter 3:10. Followed by sermonettes on "Stand With The Strong" by Samuel, Jimmy, Madison, Sara & Kelaiah. Gracie Plier was the song leader and also sang a beautiful rendition of "Once to Every Man and Nation" as special music. For closing song we all sang "Onward Christian Soldiers" together. Jimmy Powers had the Benediction.



Sara and Kelaiah spoke about the Ark of Safety and Signs of the end.

Hi everyone! This is Madison Chrishon, and I'd like to tell you about an event that happened not too long ago at our church called "Youth Sabbath".

On June 30th, the children of our church ran the whole worship service from special music to tithes and offering, and I was blessed to give a part of the sermon. Our Sabbath School class worked together to create the sermon from lessons that were presented in our past Sabbath School quarterlies. When we were choosing the topics for the sermon, I felt impressed to do a study on the state of the dead. One of my classmates was also stirred by the same study in the quarterly, and I knew God was leading us.

My quarterly brought out some interesting points starting with how in the beginning, Satan lied to Eve saying, "Ye shall not surely die" (Genesis 3:4). However, many people still continue to believe this lie by believing that the soul never dies. Whether it be in a plant, animal, heaven, or even hell many people think that when they die the soul just keeps living. Nevertheless, the Bible makes it plain in Genesis 2:7 that we *do* really die by telling us that we *are* souls rather than we *have* souls. Therefore when we die, our souls die (see Psalm 104:29, Ecclesiastes 12:7). It further clarifies the lifelessness of the dead by telling us their lack of emotions, thought, and memory in Ecclesiastes 9:5-6,10:

"For the living know that they will die; But the dead know nothing, And they have no more reward, For the memory of them is forgotten. Also their love, their hatred, and their envy have now perished; Nevermore will they have a share In anything done under the sun."

"Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going."

I found numerous scriptures that make it plain that the dead stay in their graves until the second coming of Jesus (see Psalm 6:5, Psalm 146:3-4, Psalm 115:17, Job 14:10-12, 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18). Perhaps the one that intrigued me the most was in Acts 2:29 and 34, where Peter himself declares that David didn't go to heaven, but is dead and in his grave.

Throughout this study, I found that the Biblical state of the dead points us to the second coming of Jesus. Because we know that the dead are waiting in their graves for the second coming of Jesus, it causes us to look forward to that day and want to get prepared. There is a special need for the people of the last days to be preparing themselves for the soon coming of our Lord, so I was really happy to have the privilege to present such a message at the age of fifteen. God truly answered our prayers and granted all my classmates a measure of His Spirit to work together on this sermon. I'm so thankful for the way Youth Sabbath turned out!



**August Birthdays**

- 1 - Daniel Chrishon (2012)
- 2 - Orin Martin (Mims)
- 17 - Felicia Higgins
- 30 - Bob Ernest, Peter Johnson & Steven Radford
- 31 - Myrtis Kohler

**Anniversaries**

19th Michel  
& Elizabeth Rodriguez  
We wish you the best on your  
Anniversary. Miss ya'll so much!!

Happy, Happy Birthday to every-  
one this month. If I don't have  
your special day, let me know.  
Brenda

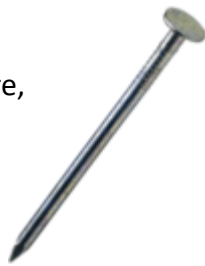
Last months reminiscing: I know a couple people guessed Joyce Campbell. Both of these individuals are/were related to Joyce Campbell. Yes, it was a few years ago. Don't forget you can share your memories also. Until next month, Brenda

**Speakers:** Aug: 4 - Shane Hochstetler, 11- Pastor Thompson, 18 - Ted Winslow, 25- Pastor Thompson

- Clanton SDA Kindergarten pre-registration is July 27, Classes start August 13
- The Church board has voted to have a church business meeting, Sunday, September 30 at 8:30 am for breakfast, 9:30 am to start the meeting. If there is anything that you as a church member need to present at this meeting, get with the Pastor, Head Elder or Church Clerk since there will be an agenda to follow for this meeting.
- The next Food bank here at the church will be October 22, 2018 - Mark your calendar for that Monday, we need all the help we can get, I don't remember us ever having too much help.

**God's Nail**

Lord, make me a nail upon the wall,  
Fastened securely in its place.  
Then from this thing so common and so small  
Hang a bright picture of Thy face  
That travelers may pause to look  
Upon the loveliness depicted there,  
And passing on their weary ways,  
Each radiant face may bear....  
Stamped so that nothing can efface  
The image of Thy glory and Thy grace.  
Lord, let not one soul think of me.  
Only let me be a nail upon the wall,  
Holding Thy picture in its place. Amen



by Mildred Hill

**Poem for the day**

**The Search**

I went out in search of God one day,  
Desperately I sought Him along the way.  
Deep within a flower's face,  
I saw the beauty of His grace.  
On a garden path that wound,  
Traces of His steps I found.  
In a tree's tall, leafy laces,  
I caught a glimpse of His finger's trace.  
Beside a quietly running brook,  
I thought I caught His tender look.  
I gazed across a windswept hill,  
And felt the power of His will.  
In a flying bird, skyward bound,  
His song I heard without a sound.  
I found His love in the morning sun,  
And felt Him near when the day was done.  
All I beheld wore the Master's trace,  
But in my heart I found Him face to Face.

Elizabeth White Barker.

This is especially for the young people, but we can all believe we are young if we want to.

### ICE Game

1. The world would be better off without this \_\_\_\_\_
2. The tag is fixed by the merchant \_\_\_\_\_
3. Improves the flavor of some foods \_\_\_\_\_
4. A food staple \_\_\_\_\_
5. Easier to give than to take \_\_\_\_\_
6. Small cubes used in games \_\_\_\_\_
7. They control and protect the public \_\_\_\_\_
8. A room where desk work is done \_\_\_\_\_
9. A black or red flavored candy \_\_\_\_\_
10. A large crack or split \_\_\_\_\_
11. Frozen \_\_\_\_\_
12. Small Rodents \_\_\_\_\_
13. It occurs 3 times \_\_\_\_\_
14. Cut this one \_\_\_\_\_
15. It is pleasant \_\_\_\_\_
16. Repeat this one \_\_\_\_\_

17. A religious ceremony \_\_\_\_\_
18. Tiny unwanted insects \_\_\_\_\_
19. A mechanical Contrivance \_\_\_\_\_
20. An offering \_\_\_\_\_

Test your Bible Knowledge!

- 1) Which book has "To everything there is a season"?
- 2) Which book has "Wine is a mocker and strong drink is raging"?
- 3) Which book has "Remember now thy creator in the days of thy youth"?
- 4) What is the shortest book in the Bible?
- 5) Who wrote the book of Acts?
- 6) Which book has "A soft answer turneth away wrath"?
- 7) Which book has "Behold how good it is for brethren to dwell together in unity"?
- 8) Which book has "As he thinketh in his heart, so is he"?
- 9) Which book has "My beloved is mine and I am his"?
- 10) Which book has "Let the day perish wherein I was born"?

**Answers will be in Next's months edition.**

- ◆ Websites Bill Weise has set up & would like special prayer about the responses from these sites.  
[www.stepsupward.org](http://www.stepsupward.org) [www.egwhiteclassicquotes.org](http://www.egwhiteclassicquotes.org) <http://www.grandmastidbits.org>
- ◆ We have a website!! **UPDATED - Church Website:** <https://www.clantonsda.com/> Tony Plier has posted sermons, music & a lot of info, look under Newsletters to find this publication on line each month. Tony has made it so the previous couple years are there also. Remember if you don't want to get the Newsletter, Let me know. Thanks, Brenda

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**To:** «AddressBlock»