



## SAVED TO SERVE

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THE GREAT CONTROVERSY, CHAPTER 14—LATER ENGLISH REFORMERS

1. What is the title of chapter 14 of *The Great Controversy*? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Note: The region of focus in this chapter of *The Great Controversy* is the United Kingdom. It is not accidental that historians, Catholics, and Protestants are making a connection between Brexit and the recent presidential election in France, with the events of the Protestant Reformation of the sixteenth century and the seventeenth century.

**The Reformation should have been a warning to Remainers...If David Cameron had understood the causes and progress of the English Reformation he would have realised the appeal of 'very well then, alone.' They took it for granted that votes would be cast according to a calculation of whether membership of the European Union or withdrawal offered England the most prosperous future. But inhabitants of this fortress built by nature do not live by GDP alone. Many of them have an ingrained belief in national sovereignty. England is at its best, the argument runs, when it is neither governed nor influenced by decisions taken in what Shakespeare called "less happier lands"...Whatever the reason, Elizabeth determined, when possible, to eliminate Catholicism from her realm and, where elimination was not possible, to suppress it...The spirit of the age was articulated in the works of Shakespeare, which in turn influenced the English vision of England for the next 500 years. "Nought shall make us rue, if England to itself do rest but true." It might have been the battle cry of the Brexiters. The idea it embodied certainly helped them to win the referendum campaign. <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2017/mar/03/point-of-view-brexit-roy-hattersley-reformation>**

3. Note: For clarification, based on the Bible and history, the Protestant Reformation was not rooted in nationalism; it was grounded on individual liberty of conscience. The leaders of this world, the powers of darkness, by design, only offer the world two choices, namely, globalism or nationalism. Both will be used to crush out liberty of conscience in the context of the great controversy between Christ and Satan.

**"Obama-Endorsed Emmanuel Macron Wins French Presidency"** <http://sacramento.cbslocal.com/2017/05/07/obama-endorsed-mmanuel-macron-wins-french-presidency-le-pen-to-change-party-name-eyeing-parliament/>

Why Obama just endorsed Emmanuel Macron for president of France... **The endorsement is highly, highly unusual — I can't think of a time when a former US president explicitly endorsed a candidate in a foreign election. But it makes a lot of sense.** This kind of intervention by a US president in a foreign election would be almost inconceivable if it weren't for Le Pen, **who is explicitly opposed to everything that Western leaders like Obama traditionally claim to stand for — integration, tolerance, and international law. She wants to pull out of the EU, close French borders to refugees, and believes that Vladimir Putin's annexation of Crimea is entirely legal.** The point, then, is that European elections are increasingly no longer about principally European concerns like the size of welfare states. **They are about issues that affect the broader stability of Europe and the global order** — which America has a huge stake in. As a result, center-left politicians like Obama feel entitled, maybe even obligated, to involve themselves. <https://www.vox.com/world/2017/5/4/15542346/obama-emmanuel-macron-endorsement>

Ex-Obama adviser: Macron win 'blow' to far-right nationalism... **A former deputy national security adviser to President Obama said he thinks the defeat of French presidential candidate Marine Le Pen signals a "blow" to far-right nationalism.** "Macron's win is a blow to far-right nationalism and a sign (after Austrian, Dutch elections) **that the Brexit-Trump wave has broken in West,**" Ben Rhodes tweeted Sunday about winning candidate Emmanuel Macron. <http://thehill.com/homenews/campaign/332306-ex-obama-adviser-macron-win-marks-blow-to-far-right-nationalism>

Macron, Trump and the Middle East... **In that sense, Macron's ascendance to power was meant to be the French rebuttal to the wave of populism and anti-globalisation in London and Washington.** <https://mg.co.za/article/2017-05-09-macron-trump-and-the-middle-east>

4a. What work of John Wycliffe was to be completed by Tyndale? \_\_\_\_\_

4b. While Luther was opening a close Bible to the people of Germany, what did the Lord inspire Tyndale to do in England?

While Luther was opening a closed Bible to the people of Germany, Tyndale was impelled by the Spirit of God to do the same for England...In 1516, a year before the appearance of Luther's theses, Erasmus had published his Greek and Latin version of the New Testament. Now for the first time the word of God was printed in the original tongue. In this work many errors of former versions were corrected, and the sense was more clearly rendered. It led many among the educated classes to a better knowledge of the truth, and gave a new impetus to the work of reform. But the common people were still, to a great extent, debarred from God's word. Tyndale was to complete the work of Wycliffe in giving the Bible to his countrymen. {GC 245.1}

4c. Note: The end-time messengers must be found opening the little book of Daniel 12:4 and Revelation 10:1-11 to the world, in order to prepare a people for the close of probation and the second coming of Jesus Christ.

5a. What was Tyndale's response to the papist's claim that the church had given the Bible and the church alone could explain it?

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To the papist claim that the church had given the Bible, and the church alone could explain it, Tyndale responded: "Do you know who taught the eagles to find their prey? Well, that same God teaches His hungry children to find their Father in His word. **Far from having given us the Scriptures, it is you who have hidden them from us; it is you who burn those who teach them, and if you could, you would burn the Scriptures themselves.**"--D'Aubigne, History of the Reformation of the Sixteenth Century, b. 18, ch. 4. {GC 245.2}

5b. What did Jesus say of the scribes, during His earthly ministry? Matthew 15:9; Matthew 21:15; Matthew 23:13,15,34

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It is not enough to have good intentions; it is not enough to do what a man thinks is right or what the minister tells him is right. His soul's salvation is at stake, and he should search the Scriptures for himself. However strong may be his convictions, however confident he may be that the minister knows what is truth, this is not his foundation. He has a chart pointing out every waymark on the heavenward journey, and he ought not to guess at anything. {GC 598.1}

6. What led to Tyndale's speech: "Oh! if Christians possessed the Holy Scriptures in their own tongue, they could of themselves withstand these sophists?"

**Tyndale's preaching excited great interest; many accepted the truth. But the priests were on the alert, and no sooner had he left the field than they by their threats and misrepresentations endeavored to destroy his work. Too often they succeeded.** "What is to be done?" he exclaimed. **"While I am sowing in one place, the enemy ravages the field I have just left. I cannot be everywhere.** Oh! if Christians possessed the Holy Scriptures in their own tongue, they could of themselves withstand these sophists. Without the Bible it is impossible to establish the laity in the truth."-- {GC 246.1}

7. What did the bishop of Durham do to forward the work of God, even though he was trying to stop it?

The papists attempted to suppress the truth, but in vain. The bishop of Durham at one time bought of a bookseller who was a friend of Tyndale his whole stock of Bibles, for the purpose of destroying them, supposing that this would greatly hinder the work. But, on the contrary, the money thus furnished, purchased material for a new and better edition, which, but for this, could not have been published. When Tyndale was afterward made a prisoner, his liberty was offered him on condition that he would reveal the names of those who had helped him meet the expense of printing his Bibles. He replied that the bishop of Durham had done more than any other person; for by paying a large price for the books left on hand, he had enabled him to go on with good courage. {GC 247.1}

8. What was said of Tyndale after he died as a martyr?

Tyndale was betrayed into the hands of his enemies, and at one time suffered imprisonment for many months. He finally witnessed for his faith by a martyr's death; **but the weapons which he prepared have enabled other soldiers to do battle through all the centuries even to our time.** {GC 247.2}

9. Note: Read the following and consider why we are not Catholics. Consider that the weapon that Tyndale left us was the forerunner to the King James Version of the Bible.

Why aren't we all Catholics? Obviously, the Christian world was ready and waiting for this change. One man could not overthrow a dynasty like the Catholic church in a vacuum. Martin Luther could not create a whole new Christian church after 1,500 years of being the only church in town, unless Christians were ready for it. Protest was in the air. Men like Erasmus and Melancthon and Zwingli and Calvin found Catholics eager to listen to new ideas; new ways to follow Christ and not the pope. **A talented linguist named William Tyndale translated the Bible from Hebrew and Greek into readable English and it became the ancestor of the King James version.** The protest worked and Protestantism thrived. <http://www.macon.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/article129244794.html>

10. What led to the opposition against the Papacy by Barnes, Frith, Ridley, and Cranmer?

**Barnes and Frith, the faithful friends of Tyndale, arose to defend the truth. The Ridley and Cranmer followed.** These leaders in the English Reformation were men of learning, and most of them had been highly esteemed for zeal or piety in the Romish communion. **Their opposition to the papacy was the result of their knowledge of the errors of the "holy see." Their acquaintance with the mysteries of Babylon gave greater power to their testimonies against her.** {GC 248.2}

11. Who did Hugh Latimer call the devil and why?

"Now I would ask a strange question," said Latimer. "Who is the most diligent bishop and prelate in all England? . . . I see you listening and hearkening that I should name him. . . . **I will tell you: it is the devil. . . . He is never out of his diocese;** call for him when you will, he is ever at home; . . . he is ever at his plow. . . . Ye shall never find him idle, I warrant you. . . . **Where the devil is resident, . . . there away with books, and up with candles; away with Bibles, and up with beads; away with the light of the gospel, and up with the light of candles, yea, at noondays;** . . . down with Christ's cross, up with purgatory pickpurse; . . . away with clothing the naked, the poor, and impotent, up with decking of images and gay garnishing of stocks and stones; **up with man's traditions and his laws, down with God's traditions and His most holy word. . . . O that our prelates would be as diligent to sow the corn of good doctrine, as Satan is to sow cockle and darnel!**"--Ibid., "Sermon of the Plough." {GC 248.3}

"Fatima brought to Scotland's schools... **Thirty-five thousand Rosary beads** are being sent to Catholic schoolchildren across Scotland to mark the centenary of the apparitions at Fatima." A special statue of **Our Lady of Fatima** will also tour **Scotland to help Catholics take advantage of the plenary indulgence the Pope has offered for the centenary. Pope Francis will visit Fatima on May 12 and 13** and there will be extensive celebrations throughout Scotland with Mass at St Andrew's Cathedral... **Those seeking an indulgence must pray an Our Father, recite the Creed and invoke Our Lady of Fatima... These individuals can pray in front of a statue of Our Lady of Fatima and must spiritually unite themselves to the jubilee celebrations on the days of the apparitions, the 13th of each month, between May and October 2017. They also must 'offer to merciful God with confidence, through Mary, their prayers and sufferings or the sacrifices they make in their own lives.'** <http://www.sconews.co.uk/youth/53040/fatima-brought-to-scotlands-schools/>

11b. Note: It is not just coincidence that President Obama is echoing the words and the agenda of Pope Francis (Revelation 13:11-15). In a recent video, Pope Francis called for the union of all religions. The video showed revered symbols of some of the religions. President Obama, only a few days afterwards, showed similar revered symbols in an interview and spoke highly of Pope Francis. The similar symbols were from the religions of Catholicism, Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, and Hinduism. Obama said: "This is Rosary Beads that Pope Francis gave me, it means a lot to me, because I so admire him and it makes me think about peace..." <http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/in-first-video-message-pope-francis-stresses-unity-we-are-all-children-of-god-39381/>  
<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-35327054>

11c. "The Rosary: The Peace Plan From Heaven" Catholics are renewing Mary's Rosary devotion as the Church commemorates the 100th anniversary of the Fatima apparitions. "Say the Rosary every day to bring peace to the world and the end of the war." The great guns of World War I have fallen silent, but these words of Our Lady of the Rosary have endured. In this centenary year of Our Lady's apparitions at Fatima, as nations continue to teeter toward war and strife, Catholics have been making a stronger effort to spread the devotion of the Rosary as a powerful way for men and women to draw close to Jesus Christ and convert the world. "The message of Fatima is more relevant today than in 1917..." While the world no longer faces the prospect of Soviet communism, Carollo said many nations throughout the world are succumbing to spiritual annihilation through atheistic secularism... The Blue Army has many different activities worldwide in 2017 to spread the Rosary devotion and awareness of Our Lady's message at Fatima — which began on May 13, 1917 — that people turn away from their sins, do penance and draw close to Jesus. The Blue Army also has a campaign to bring the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima statue to 100 dioceses in the U.S. to commemorate the 100 years of Our Lady's apparition. It intends to extend the campaign into 2018, so all 195 U.S. dioceses and eparchies can participate. "We want Our Lady to regain her dominion over this country and turn things around," he said.

"That's really what it is all about." <http://www.ncregister.com/daily-news/the-rosary-the-peace-plan-from-heaven>

11d. "As she [Our Lady] came to the world through her apparitions to the shepherd children, the 100th anniversary of which will be celebrated the following day, she 'comes again' to remind the people of the world that the message is the same – that peace and hope and solidarity are possible through Heaven's plan," Benkovic told CNA. As a presenter, Benkovic noted the cultural and unitive significance of Our Lady of Fatima, particularly among three major religions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, saying that Our Lady of Fatima "is a Jewish woman, acclaimed and revered by Christians, and acknowledged and respected by Muslims." <http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/our-lady-of-fatima-is-coming-to-the-united-nations-87835/>

12a. What did John Knox turn from to feed on God's word? Whose writings did he study? \_\_\_\_\_

John Knox had turned away from the traditions and mysticisms of the church, to feed upon the truths of God's word; and the teaching of Wishart had confirmed his determination to forsake the communion of Rome and join himself to the persecuted Reformers. {GC 250.2}

12b. Pope Francis expected to make his first visit to Scotland to sign charter against extremism...Leaders from different religions, diplomatic and community leaders will all gather in the Fife town to sign a 10-point declaration calling on all faiths to unite against radicalisation. It already has the support of Nobel Peace Prize winner Desmond Tutu and the Dalai Lama. The Pope has spoken out against the terrorist groups who brainwash vulnerable young people and draw them into extremist networks. <http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/pope-francis-expected-make-first-7327716>

13a. What did John Knox say to the Queen of Scotland, when she asked who should she believe? What was the end-result of John Knox's method of teaching the Bible? \_\_\_\_\_

Said Mary: "Ye interpret the Scriptures in one manner, and they [the Roman Catholic teachers] interpret in another; whom shall I believe, and who shall be judge?" "Ye shall believe God, that plainly speaketh in His word," answered the Reformer; "and farther than the word teaches you, ye neither shall believe the one nor the other. The word of God is plain in itself; and if there appear any obscurity in one place, the Holy Ghost, which is never contrary to Himself, explains the same more clearly in other places, so that there can remain no doubt but unto such as obstinately remain ignorant." Such were the truths that the fearless Reformer, at the peril of his life, spoke in the ear of royalty. With the same undaunted courage he kept to his purpose, praying and fighting the battles of the Lord, until Scotland was free from popery. {GC 251.1}

13b. See 1 Corinthians 2:13; Isaiah 28:9,10; 2 Corinthians 13:1; Deuteronomy 19:15; Matthew 18:16.

13c. Note: Dr. Clinton Baldwin, Elce Thunder, and Kurtley Knight, who were former Seventh-day Adventists, left the faith due to rejecting the prominent principle of Bible interpretation.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=93M9xyeli1Y>

But the more I came to understand Sabbath as a sign of redemption, the more I became convinced that the sign is not necessary once you get to the destination...This will sound strong, but I must say it...and I say it in love: the Adventist perspective of Sabbath is a denial of the gospel...Trust me when I say, I know many SDA pastors who have fundamental theological differences with the Pillars of Adventism (Sabbath, Sanctuary-Investigative Judgment, Spirit of Prophecy, and State of the Dead). My counsel would be for them to value their character above all else. To do so honors God and prioritizes personal integrity over any perceived or real benefit of staying in the system. <https://exsdapastors.wordpress.com/page/2/>

When a person understands how the Adventist doctrine of salvation (particularly the Heavenly Sanctuary/Investigative Judgment) works together with the Sabbath doctrine, it becomes a pivotal moment in his or her spiritual life. There are so many questions that I just don't have time to address here (Sabbath in Genesis, Sabbath as seal of God, the nature of the Law, Jesus as Sabbath rest, the Sabbath in the life of Jesus, The Sabbath and the NT Church, etc.), however, I hope the few nuggets I've shared will serve as a framework for a pastor at the crossroads. I would highly encourage a journeying pastor to make use of former Adventist links on this website. <https://exsdapastors.wordpress.com/page/2/>

14a. What teachings brought darkness before the time of John Wesley?

The spiritual declension which had been manifest in England just before the time of Wesley was in great degree the result of antinomian teaching. **Many affirmed that Christ had abolished the moral law and that Christians are therefore under no obligation to observe it; that a believer is freed from the "bondage of good works."** Others, though admitting the perpetuity of the law, declared that it was unnecessary for ministers to exhort the people to obedience of its precepts, since those whom God had elected to salvation would, "by the irresistible impulse of divine grace, be led to the practice of piety and virtue," while those who were doomed to eternal reprobation "did not have power to obey the divine law." {GC 260.2}

These monstrous doctrines are essentially the same as the later teaching of popular educators and theologians--that there is no unchangeable divine law as the standard of right, **but that the standard of morality is indicated by society itself, and has constantly been subject to change. All these ideas are inspired by the same master spirit--by him who, even among the sinless inhabitants of heaven, began his work of seeking to break down the righteous restraints of the law of God.** {GC 261.2}

14b. Note: Consider the following scriptures: Titus 2:11-15; 1 Timothy 2:3-6; John 1:9.

14c. Note: Wesley preached the harmony between the Law of God and the Gospel. To whom did John Wesley compare the people who claim to love Jesus and to honor Him, yet disregard obedience to the Ten Commandments and teach others so?

"In the highest rank of the enemies of the gospel of Christ," said Wesley, "are they who openly and explicitly 'judge the law' itself, and 'speak evil of the law,' who teach men to break (to dissolve, to loose, to untie the obligation of) not one only, whether of the least or of the greatest, but all the commandments at a stroke. . . . The most surprising of all the circumstances that attend this strong delusion, is that they who are given up to it, really believe that they honor Christ by overthrowing His law, and that they are magnifying His office while they are destroying His doctrine! Yea, they honor Him just as Judas did when he said, 'Hail, Master, and kissed Him.' And He may as justly say to every one of them, 'Betrayest thou the Son of man with a kiss?' It is no other than betraying Him with a kiss, to talk of His blood, and take away His crown; to set light by any part of His law, under pretense of advancing His gospel. Nor indeed can anyone escape this charge, who preaches faith in any such a manner as either directly or indirectly tends to set aside any branch of obedience: who preaches Christ so as to disannul, or weaken in any wise, the least of the commandments of God."--{GC 263.2}

15. What happened in England, even after many of the doctrines of Rome were renounced?

In England the establishment of Protestantism as the national religion diminished, but did not wholly stop, persecution. **While many of the doctrines of Rome had been renounced, not a few of its forms were retained. The supremacy of the pope was rejected, but in his place the monarch was enthroned as the head of the church.** In the service of the church there was still a wide departure from the purity and simplicity of the gospel. **The great principle of religious liberty was not yet understood.** Though the horrible cruelties which Rome employed against heresy were resorted to but rarely by Protestant rulers, yet the right of every man to worship God according to the dictates of his own conscience was not acknowledged. **All were required to accept the doctrines and observe the forms of worship prescribed by the established church. Dissenters suffered persecution, to a greater or less extent, for hundreds of years.** {GC 251.4}

16a. Note: In the United States of America we see that the Churches and Denominations have united to dictate to the civil leaders, even the president to Trump to legislate their decrees and to sustain their institutions. The most recently, is the Religious Freedom Bill signed by president Donald Trump to appease Roman Catholics and Protestants. It is not difficult to see that shortly there will be persecution for people who refuse to go along with this church and state union.

Trump signs executive order to 'vigorously promote religious liberty' <http://www.cnn.com/2017/05/03/politics/trump-religious-liberty-executive-order>

16b. Note: Religious leaders tell the world of one reason why Trump signed that executive order.

Trump: 'We Will Not Allow People of Faith to be Bullied' **There is a war on religious liberty in America**—and this war is targeting people of the Christian faith. **An Army of militant atheists and LGBT activists are hell-bent on eradicating Christianity from the public marketplace and punishing Christians who follow the teachings of Christ.** That's why President Trump signed an executive order on religious liberty today in the Rose Garden—to protect Americans who have been targeted by a politically correct lynch mob. <http://www.charismanews.com/opinion/american-dispatch/64702-trump-we-will-not-allow-people-of-faith-to-be-bullied>

"...this is a new era in which conservative Catholics and evangelical Protestants have joined forces in what they see as a defining struggle against abortion, same-sex marriage and secularism." <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/12/17/us/politics/newt-gingrich-represents-new-political-era-for-catholics.html>

Trump's religious liberty executive order: A whole lot of nothing <https://www.ncronline.org/blogs/distinctly-catholic/trumps-religious-liberty-executive-order-whole-lot-nothing>

Trump's Religious Liberty Order Doesn't Answer Most Evangelicals' Prayers <http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2017/may-web-only/trump-religious-liberty-order-johnson-amendment-ndop-prayer.html>

Critics Say Trump's Religious Freedom Order Doesn't Go Far Enough <http://www.christianheadlines.com/blog/critics-say-trump-s-religious-freedom-order-doesn-t-go-far-enough.html>

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. {GC 587.1}

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}

17a. Where did many of the faithful believers of God flee, in order to find a place of refuge from persecution? \_\_\_\_\_

**In the seventeenth century thousands of pastors were expelled from their positions. The people were forbidden, on pain of heavy fines, imprisonment, and banishment, to attend any religious meetings except such as were sanctioned by the church.** Those faithful souls who could not refrain from gathering to worship God were compelled to meet in dark alleys, in obscure garrets, and at some seasons in the woods at midnight. In the sheltering depths of the forest, a temple of God's own building, those scattered and persecuted children of the Lord assembled to pour out their souls in prayer and praise. But despite all their precautions, many suffered for their faith. **The jails were crowded. Families were broken up. Many were banished to foreign lands.** Yet God was with His people, and persecution could not prevail to silence their testimony. **Many were driven across the ocean to America and here laid the foundations of civil and religious liberty which have been the bulwark and glory of this country.** {GC 252.1}

17b. Note: Meditate upon Revelation 12:14-17; Revelation 13:11-17.

18. Which men were persecuted for the Reformed faith, yet their books were a blessing to others traveling on this pilgrim journey? \_\_\_\_\_

**Again, as in apostolic days, persecution turned out to the furtherance of the gospel. In a loathsome dungeon crowded with profligates and felons, John Bunyan breathed the very atmosphere of heaven; and there he wrote his wonderful allegory of the pilgrim's journey from the land of destruction to the celestial city.** For over two hundred years that voice from Bedford jail has spoken with thrilling power to the hearts of men. Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress and Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners have guided many feet into the path of life. {GC 252.2}

**Baxter, Flavel, Alleine,** and other men of talent, education, and deep Christian experience stood up in valiant defense of the faith which was once delivered to the saints. **The work accomplished by these men, proscribed and outlawed by the rulers of this world, can never perish. Flavel's Fountain of Life and Method of Grace** have taught thousands how to commit the keeping of their souls to Christ. **Baxter's Reformed Pastor** has proved a blessing to many who desire a revival of the work of God, and his Saints' Everlasting Rest has done its work in leading souls to the "rest" that remaineth for the people of God. {GC 252.3}

19a. What doctrine was studied and taught to the people that led to dense darkness, as a result Whitfield and Wesleys were raised up to bring the gospel light? \_\_\_\_\_

**A hundred years later, in a day of great spiritual darkness, Whitefield and the Wesleys appeared as light bearers for God.** Under the rule of the established church the people of England had lapsed into a state of religious declension hardly to be distinguished from heathenism. **Natural religion was the favorite study of the clergy, and included most of their theology.** The higher classes sneered at piety, and prided themselves on being above what they called its fanaticism. The lower classes were grossly ignorant and abandoned to vice, while the church had no courage or faith any longer to support the downfallen cause of truth. {GC 253.1}

19b. Natural religion most frequently means the "religion of nature", in which God, the soul, spirits, and all objects of the supernatural are considered as part of nature and not separate from it. Conversely, it is also used in philosophy, specifically Roman Catholic philosophy, to describe some aspects of religion that are knowable apart from divine revelation. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural\\_religion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_religion)

"Report: Francis' environmental encyclical titled 'Laudato Sii' (Praised Be)...(Praised Be), a line from St. Francis of Assisi's "Canticle of Creatures." "Praised be you, my Lord, with all your creatures, especially Sir Brother Sun, who is the day, and through whom you give us light," one of the first lines says. St. Francis wrote in the third stanza of the prayer...praise to God for "Sister Moon," "Brothers Wind and Air," "Sister Water," "Brother Fire," and "Mother Earth." <https://www.ncronline.org/blogs/ncr-today/report-francis-environmental-encyclical-titled-laudato-sii-praised-be>

**Thousands deify nature while they deny the God of nature.** Though in a different form, idolatry exists in the Christian world today as verily as it existed among ancient Israel in the days of Elijah. **The god of many professedly wise men, of philosophers, poets, politicians, journalists--the god of polished fashionable circles, of many colleges and universities, even of some theological institutions--is little better than Baal, the sun-god of Phoenicia.** {GC 583.1}

20. Describe some of the accounts of persecution that John Wesley encountered, yet the Lord delivered him. See *The Great Controversy*, pages 258 and 259.

21. What did the apostates accuse John Wesley of? \_\_\_\_\_

**"Others allege, 'Their doctrine is too strict; they make the way to heaven too narrow.'** And this is in truth the original objection, (as it was almost the only one for some time,) and is secretly at the bottom of a thousand more, which appear in various forms. But do they make the way to heaven any narrower than our Lord and His apostles made it? Is their doctrine stricter than that of the Bible? Consider only a few plain texts: 'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy mind, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength.' 'For every idle word which men shall speak, they shall give an account in the day of judgment.' **'Whether ye eat, or drink, or whatever ye do, do all to the glory of God.'** No. **He can abate nothing, he can soften nothing; he is constrained to declare to all men, 'I may not bring down the Scripture to your taste. You must come up to it, or perish forever.'** This is the real ground of that other popular cry concerning 'the uncharitableness of these men.' {GC 259.3}

22. What did Wesley say regarding Romans 10:4 \_\_\_\_\_

To those who urged that "the preaching of the gospel answers all the ends of the law," Wesley replied: "This we utterly deny. It does not answer the very first end of the law, namely, the convincing men of sin, the awakening those who are still asleep on the brink of hell." The apostle Paul declares that "by the law is the knowledge of sin;" "and not until man is convicted of sin, will he truly feel his need of the atoning blood of Christ. . . . 'They that be whole,' as our Lord Himself observes, 'need not a physician, but they that are sick.' It is absurd, therefore, to offer a physician to them that are whole, or that at least imagine themselves so to be. You are first to convince them that they are sick; otherwise they will not thank you for your labor. It is equally absurd to offer Christ to them whose heart is whole, having never yet been broken." {GC 264.1}

23. What question had tortured the soul of John Wesley? \_\_\_\_\_

**Wesley and his associates were led to see that true religion is seated in the heart, and that God's law extends to the thoughts as well as to the words and actions.** Convinced of the necessity of holiness of heart, as well as correctness of outward deportment, they set out in earnest upon a new life. By the most diligent and prayerful efforts they endeavored to subdue the evils of the natural heart...**But they did not obtain the object which they sought.** In vain were their endeavors to free themselves from the condemnation of sin or to break its power. **It was the same struggle which Luther had experienced in his cell at Erfurt. It was the same question which had tortured his soul--"How should man be just before God?" Job 9:2.** {GC 254.1}

24. How did John Wesley explain his new found faith and experience? \_\_\_\_\_

**He continued his strict and self-denying life, not now as the ground, but the result of faith; not the root, but the fruit of holiness. The grace of God in Christ is the foundation of the Christian's hope, and that grace will be manifested in obedience.** Wesley's life was devoted to the preaching of the great truths which he had received--**justification through faith in the atoning blood of Christ, and the renewing power of the Holy Spirit upon the heart, bringing forth fruit in a life conformed to the example of Christ.** {GC 256.3}

25. To preserve and protect the newly baptized souls from wolves, what did Wesley establish? \_\_\_\_\_

As members of the Church of England they were strongly attached to her forms of worship, but the Lord had presented before them in His word a higher standard. **The Holy Spirit urged them to preach Christ and Him crucified. The power of the Highest attended their labors. Thousands were convicted and truly converted. It was necessary that these sheep be protected from ravening wolves. Wesley had no thought of forming a new denomination, but he organized them under what was called the Methodist Connection.** {GC 257.1}

26. In conclusion, read the following regarding John Wesley, the late English Reformer:

But the multitude that through his labors had been lifted from the ruin and degradation of sin to a higher and a purer life, and the number who by his teaching had attained to a deeper and richer experience, will never be known till the whole family of the redeemed shall be gathered into the kingdom of God. His life presents a lesson of priceless worth to every Christian. Would that the faith and humility, the untiring zeal, self-sacrifice, and devotion of this servant of Christ might be reflected in the churches of today! {GC 264.2}