



SAVED TO SERVE

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The Great Controversy, part 4—The Waldenses.

Refuse “Brethren” Who Bring Peace, We’ll Encounter Enemies Who Bring War

1. Let us study the fourth chapter in *The Great Controversy*, entitled “The Waldenses.”

2. What is the first sentence in the first paragraph of this chapter? _____

Amid the gloom that settled upon the earth during the long period of papal supremacy, the light of truth could not be wholly extinguished. In every age there were witnesses for God--men who cherished faith in Christ as the only mediator between God and man, who held the Bible as the only rule of life, and who hallowed the true Sabbath....{GC 61.1}

3. **Note:** The accounts in this chapter occurred during the time period of “The Era Of Spiritual Darkness.”

4. Note: We read in the previous chapter the following: **“But “the noon of the papacy was the midnight of the world.”** {GC 60.2}

5. Note: Events show that we have entered “the noon of the papacy.” Therefore, the experience of the Waldenses must be ours. Their manner of conducting ministry we must imitate to a great extent in these last days.

Pope Francis’ popularity among Americans goes from high to higher” <http://www.satrib.com/home/4843425-155/pope-francis-popularity-among-americans-goes>

“Pope Francis More Popular Than Donald Trump, President Barack Obama In US, Survey Shows” <http://www.ibtimes.com/pope-francis-more-popular-donald-trump-president-barack-obama-us-survey-shows-2478489>

“Pope Francis: Still Popular” “The Pew Research Center has released new data showing that Pope Francis is still very popular among the American people, with 70% viewing him favorably. That matches his previous peak of 70% in February 2015. Francis has been on an upward climb since he began his papacy in March of 2013, when his favorability rating stood at 57%. Francis remains even more popular among U.S. Catholics, with 87 percent viewing him favorably in the most recent survey. <https://www.commonwealmagazine.org/blog/pope-francis-still-popular>

The movement that propelled Donald Trump into the White House is not isolated to the United States. It is a global phenomenon. All over the West, a populist backlash is brewing against the elites of society. And that backlash all too often takes the shape of authoritarianism and ethnonationalism....Which is why we desperately need a world leader who can articulate a vision of what’s true, good, and beautiful, and can serve as an alternative to Trumpism. And there’s a man who’s made for the role: Pope Francis.

6. During the era of spiritual darkness, what three principles did the saints retain? _____

Amid the gloom that settled upon the earth during the long period of papal supremacy, the light of truth could not be wholly extinguished. In every age there were witnesses for God--men who cherished faith in Christ as the only mediator between God and man, who held the Bible as the only rule of life, and who hallowed the true Sabbath. How much the world owes to these men, posterity will never know. They were branded as heretics, their motives impugned, their characters maligned, their writings suppressed, misrepresented, or mutilated. Yet they stood firm, and from age to age maintained their faith in its purity, as a sacred heritage for the generations to come. {GC 61.1}

7. Note: Pope Francis still retains the title “Vicar of Christ,” which means that he claims to man’s intercessor on the earth.

Pope Francis officially de-emphasizes papal titles...**In the first section, the new pope is described simply as “Francis / Bishop of Rome.” In the 2012 edition, Pope Benedict had also been described that way, but had listed under his title as bishop several other titles normally taken by the pope, including: “Vicar of Jesus Christ, Successor of the Prince of the Apostles, Supreme Pontiff of the Universal Church, Primate of Italy, Archbishop and metropolitan of the Roman province, Sovereign of Vatican City-State, Servant of the Servants of God.” In the 2013 edition, Francis is also described by those titles...**
<https://www.ncronline.org/blogs/ncr-today/pope-francis-officially-de-emphasizes-papal-titles>

8. Note: Pope Francis believes that man-made traditions of the Roman Catholic Church is on par with Scripture.

Citing the Vatican II Dogmatic Constitution, Lumen Gentium, he said: “The interpretation of the Holy Scriptures cannot be only an individual scientific effort, but must always confront itself with, be inserted within and authenticated by the living tradition of the Church.... The texts inspired by God were entrusted to the Community of believers...to nourish the faith ...respect for this profound nature of Scripture conditions the very validity and effectiveness of biblical hermeneutics”. http://en.radiovaticana.va/storico/2013/04/12/pope_the_unbreakable_unity_between_scripture_and_tradition/en1-682194

In response to a question about Cardinal Mueller’s statement that “no power in heaven and on earth, neither an angel nor the pope, neither a council nor a law of the bishops has the power to change” the words of Jesus on marriage and divorce, **the newly appointed black pope dryly responded that “no one had a recorder.” Sosa [the Black Pope] says that we must reinterpret his [Jesus’] “words” in context, but the clear implication is that they needn’t mean what the Church has always and everywhere understood their meaning. This reflects a profound skepticism about Holy Scripture, thinly veiled by the stated need to “contextualize” the words of Jesus.** <http://aleteia.org/2017/02/24/suppressing-jesuits-suppressing-jesus-fr-sosas-surprising-words-on-christs-own-words/>

9. Note: Pope Francis today asserts that nations must enforce Sunday as the day of worship to combat calamities and to care for the poor. #237. ["Sunday, like the Jewish Sabbath, is meant to be a day which heals our relationships with God, with ourselves, with others and with the world... Rest opens our eyes to the larger picture and gives us renewed sensitivity to the rights of others. And so the day of rest \[Sunday\], centered on the Eucharist, sheds its light on the whole week, and motivates us to greater concern for nature and the poor."](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html) http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html

10. What was Rome's policy during the era of spiritual darkness? _____

[The history of God's people during the ages of darkness that followed upon Rome's supremacy is written in heaven, but they have little place in human records. Few traces of their existence can be found, except in the accusations of their persecutors. It was the policy of Rome to obliterate every trace of dissent from her doctrines or decrees. Everything heretical, whether persons or writings, she sought to destroy. Expressions of doubt, or questions as to the authority of papal dogmas, were enough to forfeit the life of rich or poor, high or low. Rome endeavored also to destroy every record of her cruelty toward dissenters. Papal councils decreed that books and writings containing such records should be committed to the flames. {GC 61.2}](#)

11. Note: Today we see that it is Pope Francis' objective to control the media in order to silence those who publish truth to expose her errors and apostasies.

"In a message published on the same day that [the Twitter-friendly pontiff met Apple boss Tim Cook](#), [Francis said digital technology and the Internet could help bring people together but also had the potential to create deep wounds](#). Social networks can facilitate relationships and promote the good of society, [but they can also lead to further polarization and division between individuals and groups](#). [The digital world is a public square.](#)" <http://aleteia.org/blogs/deacon-greg-kandra/pope-decries-internet-trolls-with-their-harsh-and-moralistic-words-unfair-attacks/>

A [video report on the meeting by Rome Reports](#), a Catholic outlet, showed Francis and Schmidt, apparently at the end of their meeting, with Schmidt saying to the pontiff, ["I want to work with you to make these points We will make it happen."](#) <https://www.ncronline.org/news/vatican/pope-francis-meets-google-chief-where-doodle>

Pope Francis and Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg had a meeting today" https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/acts-of-faith/wp/2016/08/29/pope-francis-and-facebooks-mark-zuckerberg-had-a-meeting-today/?utm_term=.07c130fe941a

"Today we are close to taking our next step...Our greatest challenges also need global responses — [like ending terrorism, fighting climate change, and preventing pandemics](#). [Progress now requires humanity coming together not just as cities or nations, but also as a global community](#). "This is especially important right now. [Facebook stands for bringing us closer together and building a global community](#)." He wondered: ["How do we help people build an inclusive community that reflects our collective values and common humanity from local to global levels, spanning cultures, nations and regions in a world with few examples of global communities?"](#) ...[We recently started reducing sensationalism in News Feed](#) by taking this into account for pieces of content, and going forward signals like this will identify sensational publishers as well. [There are many steps like this we have taken and will keep taking to reduce sensationalism and help build a more informed community.](#)" <http://www.wnd.com/2017/02/facebooks-zuckerberg-lobbies-for-new-world-order/>

12. Note: It is the objective of the Papacy "also to destroy every record of her cruelty toward dissenters." {GC 61.2}

As we all know and as many of our well established textbooks have argued for decades, [the Inquisition was one of the most frightening and bloody chapters in Western history](#). Pope Pius XII was anti-Semitic and rightfully called "Hitler's Pope," [the Dark Ages were a stunting of the progress of knowledge to be redeemed only by the secular spirit of the Enlightenment, and the religious Crusades](#) were an early example of the rapacious Western thirst for riches and power. [But what if these long held beliefs were all wrong?](#) In this stunning, powerful, and ultimately persuasive book, [Rodney Stark](#), one of the most highly regarded sociologists of religion and bestselling author of *The Rise of Christianity* (HarperSanFrancisco 1997) [argues that some of our most firmly held ideas about history, ideas that paint the Catholic Church in the least positive light are, in fact, fiction](#). Why have we held these wrongheaded ideas so strongly and for so long? And if our beliefs are wrong, what, in fact, is the truth? <https://www.amazon.com/Bearing-False-Witness-Debunking-Anti-Catholic/dp/B01L802EV1>

"For years Pius XII has been smeared. The BBC retraction shows the tide is turning" ["Fake News"](#), about which we hear so much at the moment, is as old as human communication itself. It's fuelled by Original Sin, and its birth and growth is hardly a surprise to the Church. [For if anyone has felt the sting of fake news – with all its menacing consequences – it has been practising Catholics. As Rodney Stark amply documents in his work, Bearing False Witness: Debunking Centuries of Anti-Catholic History, few institutions have been the victim of "fake news" more often than the Roman Catholic Church...](#) But now something remarkable has happened. [After strong protests from concerned Catholics](#), led by Lord Alton and Fr Leo Chamberlain, the BBC's Editorial Complaints Unit (ECU) has found that the report ["did not give due weight to public statements by successive Popes or the efforts made on the instructions of Pius XII to rescue Jews from Nazi persecution, and perpetuated a view which is at odds with the balance of evidence."](#) <http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/commentandblogs/2016/12/14/for-years-pius-xii-has-been-smeared-the-bbc-retraction-shows-the-tide-is-turning/>

13. Note: The records of cruelty performed by the Papacy that were not obliterated, the Papacy is forced to acknowledge. The Papacy has offered apologies.

[Pope John Paul II led church leaders and followers in sweeping confession, seeking repentance for sins that may have been committed over the past 2,000 years in the name of the church...](#) They fell into seven general categories of wrongs which include, without being too specific, everything from [the Crusades to the Inquisition, the forced conversions, to sins against women and anti-Jewish acts](#). [It was a first for the church.](#) <http://transcripts.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/0003/12/sm.06.html>

The Catholic Church in Rwanda apologized on Sunday for the church's role in the 1994 genocide, saying it regretted the actions of those who participated in the massacres. The statement acknowledged that church members planned, aided and executed the genocide, in which over 800,000 ethnic Tutsis and moderate Hutus were killed by Hutu extremists. Many of the victims died at the hands of priests, clergymen and nuns, according to some accounts by survivors, and the Rwandan government says many died in the churches where they had sought refuge." <https://cruxnow.com/global-church/2016/11/20/rwandan-bishops-apologize-churchs-role-genocide/>

"The Biggest Apology for Christian Persecution of Other Christians Ever" ["Pope Francis offered them to both the Waldensians and the Pentecostals for past Catholic persecution of Protestants..."](http://www.christianitytoday.com/gleanings/2015/december/biggest-apology-christian-persecution-global-forum-albania.html)The heads of the delegation of the Catholic Church proposed that any call to stop persecution of Christian should mention first that also Christians in history have persecuted other religions and other churches... **'We are glad that repentance for persecuting each other is part of our message.'** he said. **'We see the importance of healing memories wherever this has happened.'**" <http://www.christianitytoday.com/gleanings/2015/december/biggest-apology-christian-persecution-global-forum-albania.html>

"The Roman Church now presents a fair front to the world, covering with apologies her record of horrible cruelties. She has clothed herself in Christlike garments; **but she is unchanged.** Every principle of the papacy that existed in past ages exists today. The doctrines devised in the darkest ages are still held. **Let none deceive themselves. The papacy that Protestants are now so ready to honor is the same that ruled the world in the days of the Reformation,** when men of God stood up, at the peril of their lives, to expose her iniquity." {GC 571.1}

14. What happened once the Papacy received power? _____

No church within the limits of Romish jurisdiction was long left undisturbed in the enjoyment of freedom of conscience. No sooner had the papacy obtained power than she stretched out her arms to crush all that refused to acknowledge her sway, and one after another the churches submitted to her dominion. {GC 62.1}

Pope Francis: freedom of expression has limits <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/jan/15/pope-francis-limits-to-freedom-of-expression>

"Pope Francis: religion should not be confined to 'personal conscience'" The orderly development of "a civil, pluralistic society requires" **that the "authentic spirit of religion" not be "confined" to "personal conscience"** but that its significant role in the construction of society is recognized," said Pope Francis in his remarks to the Italian president. http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/2015/04/18/pope_religion_should_not_be_confined_to_personal_conscience/1137800

15. Upon which nation did the Papacy set her eyes? Why? Why did the Papacy seek the Protestants to unite with her? What happened to the Protestants who refused to unite with the Papacy? _____

But Rome had fixed her eyes on Britain, and resolved to bring it under her supremacy. In the sixth century her missionaries undertook the conversion of the heathen Saxons. They were received with favor by the proud barbarians, and they induced many thousands to profess the Romish faith. As the work progressed, the papal leaders and their converts encountered the primitive Christians. A striking contrast was presented...**The emissary of Rome demanded that these Christian churches acknowledge the supremacy of the sovereign pontiff.** The Britons meekly replied that they desired to love all men, but that the pope was not entitled to supremacy in the church, and they could render to him only that submission which was due to every follower of Christ...**Now the true spirit of the papacy was revealed. Said the Romish leader: "If you will not receive brethren who bring you peace, you shall receive enemies who will bring you war..."** These were no idle threats. War, intrigue, and deception were employed against these witnesses for a Bible faith, until the churches of Britain were destroyed, or forced to submit to the authority of the pope. {GC 62.4}

16. Note: Fulfillment— Pope Francis After U.S. Trip: Americans Are 'So Lovable' <http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2015/09/28/pope-francis-u-s-trip-americans-lovable/>

World needs the Church's witness of unity, Pope teaches <http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/world-needs-the-churchs-witness-of-unity-pope-teaches/>

At the end of this month, God willing, I will go to Lund, in Sweden, and together with the Lutheran World Federation, we will remember, after five centuries, beginning of Luther's reform and thank the Lord for fifty years of official dialogue between Lutherans and Catholics. **An essential part of this commemoration will turn our gaze towards the future, with a view to a common Christian witness in the world today, which so thirsts for God and His mercy. The witness that the world expects from us is mainly that of making visible the mercy that God has toward us through service to the poor, the sick, those who have left their homeland to seek a better future for themselves and for loved ones.** In being of service to the most needy we experience already that we are united: it is the mercy of God that unites us. http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/2016/10/13/pope_to_lutheran_pilgrims_seek_unity_through_charity/1264815

17. Which group stood out among the rest that resisted the encroachments of the Papacy? _____

But of those who resisted the encroachments of the papal power, the Waldenses stood foremost. In the very land where popery had fixed its seat, there its falsehood and corruption were most steadfastly resisted. For centuries the churches of Piedmont maintained their independence; but the time came at last when Rome insisted upon their submission. After ineffectual struggles against her tyranny, the leaders of these churches reluctantly acknowledged the supremacy of the power to which the whole world seemed to pay homage. There were some, however, who refused to yield to the authority of pope or prelate. They were determined to maintain their allegiance to God and to preserve the purity and simplicity of their faith. A separation took place. Those who adhered to the ancient faith now withdrew; some, forsaking their native Alps, raised the banner of truth in foreign lands; others retreated to the secluded glens and rocky fastnesses of the mountains, and there preserved their freedom to worship God. {GC 64.1}

18. Why were the Waldenses the special objects of hatred and persecution? _____

The Waldenses were among the first of the peoples of Europe to obtain a translation of the Holy Scriptures. Hundreds of years before the Reformation they possessed the Bible in manuscript in their native tongue. They had the truth unadulterated, and this rendered them the special objects of hatred and persecution. They declared the Church of Rome to be the apostate Babylon of the Apocalypse, and at the peril of their lives they stood up to resist her corruptions. While, under the pressure of long-continued persecution, some compromised their faith, little by little yielding its distinctive principles, others held fast the truth. Through ages of darkness and apostasy there were Waldenses who denied the supremacy of Rome, who rejected image worship as idolatry, and who kept the true Sabbath. Under the fiercest tempests of opposition they maintained their faith. Though gashed by the Savoyard spear, and scorched by the Romish fagot, they stood unflinchingly for God's word and His honor. {GC 65.2}

19. What was the grand offense brought against the Waldenses? _____

No charge could be brought against the moral character of this proscribed class. Even their enemies declared them to be a peaceable, quiet, pious people. Their grand offense was that they would not worship God according to the will of the pope. For this crime every humiliation, insult, and torture that men or devils could invent was heaped upon them. {GC 76.4}

20. See Luke 23:1,2; Matthew 26:60,61; Daniel 6:4-12

#237. "Sunday, like the Jewish Sabbath, is meant to be a day which heals our relationships with God, with ourselves, with others and with the world... Rest opens our eyes to the larger picture and gives us renewed sensitivity to the rights of others. And so the day of rest [Sunday], centered on the Eucharist, sheds its light on the whole week, and motivates us to greater concern for nature and the poor." http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html

21. What caused the Papacy to set inquisitors on the tracks of the Waldenses and to kill them? _____

The very existence of this people, holding the faith of the ancient church, was a constant testimony to Rome's apostasy, and therefore excited the most bitter hatred and persecution. Their refusal to surrender the Scriptures was also an offense that Rome could not tolerate. She determined to blot them from the earth. Now began the most terrible crusades against God's people in their mountain homes. Inquisitors were put upon their track, and the scene of innocent Abel falling before the murderous Cain was often repeated. {GC 76.2}

22. What was contained in the Papal Bull against the Waldenses? _____

This bull called upon all members of the church to join the crusade against the heretics. As an incentive to engage in this cruel work, it "absolved from all ecclesiastical pains and penalties, general and particular; it released all who joined the crusade from any oaths they might have taken; it legitimized their title to any property they might have illegally acquired; and promised remission of all their sins to such as should kill any heretic. It annulled all contracts made in favor of Vaudois, ordered their domestics to abandon them, forbade all persons to give them any aid whatever, and empowered all persons to take possession of their property."--Wylie, b. 16, ch. 1. This document clearly reveals the master spirit behind the scenes. It is the roar of the dragon, and not the voice of Christ, that is heard therein. {GC 77.2}

23. Fulfillment: "Pope Francis urges world religions to fight extremism, fundamentalism" Pope Francis on Wednesday called on the world's religions to join forces in the fight against fundamentalism and extremism, arguing instead for a focus on "positive values" such as the promotion of peace, care for the poor, and environmental protection. <https://cruxnow.com/church/2015/10/28/pope-francis-urges-world-religions-to-fight-extremism-fundamentalism/>

"A fundamentalist group, even if it kills no one, even it strikes no one, is violent. The mental structure of fundamentalism is violence in the name of God." <http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/181689>

Religious distortions, yes. For example, all religions have fundamentalist groups. All of them, we do too. And they destroy, starting from their fundamentalism. But these are small religious groups that have distorted and have "sickened" their religion, and as a result they fight, they wage war, or they cause division in communities, which is a form of war. But these are the fundamentalist groups we have in all religions. There is always a small group..." http://www.catholicworldreport.com/Item/4984/francis_and_fundamentalism.aspx

24. What was the experience of the Waldenses that we must imitate to a great degree? _____

Pure, simple, and fervent was the piety of these followers of Christ. The principles of truth they valued above houses and lands, friends, kindred, even life itself. These principles they earnestly sought to impress upon the hearts of the young. From earliest childhood the youth were instructed in the Scriptures and taught to regard sacredly the claims of the law of God. Copies of the Bible were rare; therefore its precious words were committed to memory... {GC 67.1}

Parents, tender and affectionate as they were, loved their children too wisely to accustom them to self-indulgence. Before them was a life of trial and hardship, perhaps a martyr's death. They were educated from childhood to endure hardness, to submit to control, and yet to think and act for themselves. {GC 67.2}

In the schools whither they went, they were not to make confidants of any. Their garments were so prepared as to conceal their greatest treasure--the precious manuscripts of the Scriptures. These, the fruit of months and years of toil, they carried with them, and whenever they could do so without exciting suspicion, they cautiously placed some portion in the way of those whose hearts seemed open to receive the truth. From their mother's knee the Waldensian youth had been trained with this purpose in view; they understood their work and faithfully performed it. Converts to the true faith were won in these institutions of learning, and frequently its principles were found to be permeating the entire school; yet the papal leaders could not, by the closest inquiry, trace the so-called corrupting heresy to its source. {GC 70.1}

25. How were the ministers prepared? Who was their model?

The spirit of Christ is a missionary spirit. The very first impulse of the renewed heart is to bring others also to the Saviour. Such was the spirit of the Vaudois Christians. They felt that God required more of them than merely to preserve the truth in its purity in their own churches; that a solemn responsibility rested upon them to let their light shine forth to those who were in darkness; by the mighty power of God's word they sought to break the bondage which Rome had imposed. The Vaudois ministers were trained as missionaries, everyone who expected to enter the ministry being required first to gain an experience as an evangelist. Each was to serve three years in some mission field before taking charge of a church at home. This service, requiring at the outset self-denial and sacrifice, was a fitting introduction to the pastor's life in those times that tried men's souls. {GC 70.2}

26. What did the Waldenses raise up as they evangelized?

The work of these missionaries began in the plains and valleys at the foot of their own mountains, but it extended far beyond these limits. With naked feet and in garments coarse and travel-stained as were those of their Master, they passed through great cities and penetrated to distant lands. Everywhere they scattered the precious seed. Churches sprang up in their path, and the blood of martyrs witnessed for the truth. The day of God will reveal a rich harvest of souls garnered by the labors of these faithful men. Veiled and silent, the word of God was making its way through Christendom and meeting a glad reception in the homes and hearts of men. {GC 71.2}

27. Why were the Waldenses so aggressive as they performed evangelism?

To the Waldenses the Scriptures were not merely a record of God's dealings with men in the past, and a revelation of the responsibilities and duties of the present, but an unfolding of the perils and glories of the future. They believed that the end of all things was not far distant, and as they studied the Bible with prayer and tears they were the more deeply impressed with its precious utterances and with their duty to make known to others its saving truths. They saw the plan of salvation clearly revealed in the sacred pages, and they found comfort, hope, and peace in believing in Jesus. As the light illuminated their understanding and made glad their hearts, they longed to shed its beams upon those who were in the darkness of papal error. {GC 72.1}

28. Meditate upon the following and write your thoughts

The persecutions visited for many centuries upon this God-fearing people were endured by them with a patience and constancy that honored their Redeemer. Notwithstanding the crusades against them, and the inhuman butchery to which they were subjected, they continued to send out their missionaries to scatter the precious truth. They were hunted to death; yet their blood watered the seed sown, and it failed not of yielding fruit. Thus the Waldenses witnessed for God centuries before the birth of Luther. Scattered over many lands, they planted the seeds of the Reformation that began in the time of Wycliffe, grew broad and deep in the days of Luther, and is to be carried forward to the close of time by those who also are willing to suffer all things for "the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ." Revelation 1:9. {GC 78.1}

29. What did the Waldenses preach and teach in that time of spiritual darkness?

The Waldenses longed to break to these starving souls the bread of life, to open to them the messages of peace in the promises of God, and to point them to Christ as their only hope of salvation. The doctrine that good works can atone for the transgression of God's law they held to be based upon falsehood. Reliance upon human merit intercepts the view of Christ's infinite love. Jesus died as a sacrifice for man because the fallen race can do nothing to recommend themselves to God. The merits of a crucified and risen Saviour are the foundation of the Christian's faith. The dependence of the soul upon Christ is as real, and its connection with Him must be as close, as that of a limb to the body, or of a branch to the vine. {GC 73.1}

30. Meditate upon the following scriptures: Hebrews 12:1—Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith.

(a) Jesus convicts us of sin: John 16:7,8; 1 John 3:4; Zechariah 12:10; 2 Corinthians 7:10,11.

(b) We must surrender: 1 John 1:9

(c) Jesus declares us righteous that very moment and treats us as if we never sinned: 1 John 1:9; Luke 18:11-14.

(d) Jesus tells us to go and sin no more: John 8:10,11; John 5:14,15; Philippians 2:12,13; John 15:5-8; James 4:7,8; Galatians 2:17-20.

(e) "As the sinner looks to the law, his guilt is made plain to him, and pressed home to his conscience, and he is condemned. His only comfort and hope is found in looking to the cross of Calvary. As he ventures upon the promises, taking God at His word, relief and peace come to his soul. He cries, "Lord, Thou hast promised to save all who come unto Thee in the name of Thy Son. I am a lost, helpless, hopeless soul. Lord, save, or I perish." His faith lays hold on Christ, and he is justified before God. {1SM 365.3}

But while God can be just, and yet justify the sinner through the merits of Christ, no man can cover his soul with the garments of Christ's righteousness while practicing known sins, or neglecting known duties. **God requires the entire surrender of the heart, before justification can take place; and in order for man to retain justification, there must be continual obedience, through active, living faith that works by love and purifies the soul.** {1SM 366.1}

James writes of Abraham and says, "Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only" (James 2:21-24). **In order for man to be justified by faith, faith must reach a point where it will control the affections and impulses of the heart; and it is by obedience that faith itself is made perfect.**" {Selected Messages, Book 1, 366.2}