

## ZOOM MEETING SEPTEMBER 21

### THE TARRYING TIME

“**The disappointed ones saw from the Scriptures that they were in the tarrying time**, and that **they must patiently wait** the fulfillment of the vision. The same evidence which led them to look for their Lord in 1843, led them to expect Him in 1844.” *Early Writings*, 247.

### TESTING

“God **tested and proved** his people by the passing of the time in 1843. The mistake made in reckoning **the prophetic periods** was not at once discovered even by learned men who opposed the views of those who were looking for Christ’s coming. These profound scholars declared that Mr. Miller was right in his calculation of the time, though they disputed him in regard to the event that would crown that period. But they, and the waiting people of God, were in a common error on the question of time.

“We fully believe that God, in his wisdom, designed that his people should meet with a disappointment, which was well calculated to reveal hearts and develop the true characters of those who had professed to look for and rejoice in the coming of the Lord. Those who embraced the first angel’s message through fear of the wrath of God’s judgments, not because they loved the truth and desired an inheritance in the kingdom of heaven, now appeared in their true light. They were among the first to ridicule the disappointed ones who sincerely longed for and loved the appearing of Jesus. This most searching test of God revealed the true characters of those who would shirk responsibility and stigma by denying their faith in the hour of trial.

“Those who had been disappointed were not left in darkness; for **in searching the prophetic periods** with earnest prayers, **the error was discovered**, and **the tracing of the prophetic pencil down through the tarrying time**. In the joyful expectation of the coming of Christ, **the apparent tarrying of the vision had not been taken into account**, and was a sad and unlooked for surprise. Yet this very trial was highly necessary to develop and strengthen the sincere believers in the truth.” *Life Sketches*, 186, 187.

“The parable of the ten virgins of Matthew 25 also **illustrates the experience of the Adventist people**.” *The Great Controversy*, 393.

“I am often referred to the parable of the ten virgins, five of whom were wise, and five foolish. **This parable has been and will be fulfilled to the very letter**, for it has a special application to this time, and, like the third angel’s message, has been fulfilled and will continue to be present truth till the close of time.” *Review and Herald*, August 19, 1890.

“There is a world lying in wickedness, in deception, and delusion, in the very shadow of death,—asleep, asleep. Who are feeling travail of soul to awaken them? What voice can reach them? **My mind is carried to the future when the signal will be given, ‘Behold the Bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet Him.’** But some will have delayed to obtain the oil for replenishing their lamps, and too late they will find that character, which is represented by the oil, is not transferable. That oil is the righteousness of Christ. It represents character, and character is not transferable. No man can secure it for another. Each must obtain for himself a character purified from every stain of sin.” *Bible Echo*, May 4, 1896.

I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am **reproved**. And the Lord answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make *it* plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. For the vision *is* yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry. **Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just** shall live by his faith. Habakkuk 2:1–4.

## REPROVED

“How many times we hear it said of something which is thought to be easily understood, ‘It is so plain that he that runneth may read.’ But the text of Scripture does not read this way. Here it is: ‘Write the vision, and make it plain upon the tables, that he may run that readeth it.’ Habakkuk 2:2. The prophecy is a double one, looking forward to the great advent movement of the last days. The writer of Hebrews quotes verses 3, and 4, and applies them to **the second coming of Christ**. See Hebrews 10:37, 38.

“The prophet declares that he would stand on the watch, and set him on the tower, that he might have the wherewith **to answer when he was ‘reproved’ or ‘argued with’** (margin). The Lord answers: ‘Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it.’

“**The idea is that he who reads God’s message therein set forth may carry the tidings to others.** This very thing is set forth as a characteristic of the last days by Daniel.” E. J. Waggoner, November 7, 1895, *Present Truth*, volume 11, 45.

“Each of the ancient prophets spoke less for their own time than for ours, so that their prophesying is in force for us. ‘Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.’ 1 Corinthians 10:11.” *Selected Messages*, book 3, 339.

For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry. Now **the just shall live by faith**: but if *any man* draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are **not of them who draw back unto perdition**; but **of them** that believe to the saving of the soul. Hebrews 10:37–39.

For I am not ashamed of **the gospel of Christ**: for it is **the power of God** unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For **therein** is the righteousness of God revealed from **faith to faith**: as it is written, The just shall live by faith. Romans 1:16, 17.

## THE LAW AND THE GOSPEL

“In describing the remnant people of God, John says, ‘Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus’ (Revelation 14:12). This is **the law and the gospel**.” *Selected Messages*, book 2, 385.

O **foolish** Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you? This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by **the works of the law, or by the**

**hearing of faith?** Are ye so **foolish?** having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh? Have ye suffered so many things in vain? if *it be* yet in vain. He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, *doeth he it* by the works of the law, or by **the hearing of faith?** Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham. And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen **through faith**, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, *saying*, In thee shall all nations be blessed. So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham. For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, **Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.** But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, *it is* evident: for, **The just shall live by faith.** Galatians 3:1–11.

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? **So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.** But I say, Have they not heard? Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world. But I say, Did not Israel know? First Moses saith, I will provoke you to jealousy by *them that are* no people, *and* by a foolish nation I will anger you. But Esaias is very bold, and saith, I was found of them that sought me not; I was made manifest unto them that asked not after me. But to Israel he saith, **All day long I have stretched forth** my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people. Romans 10:13–21.

I am sought of *them that* asked not *for me*; I am found of *them that* sought me not: I said, **Behold me, behold me**, unto a nation *that* was not called by my name. I have spread out my hands all the day unto a rebellious people, which **walketh in a way that was not good, after their own thoughts; A people that provoketh me to anger continually** to my face; that sacrificeth in gardens, and burneth incense upon altars of brick; Which remain among the graves, and lodge in the monuments, which eat swine's flesh, and broth of abominable *things is in* their vessels; Which say, Stand by thyself, come not near to me; for I am holier than thou. These *are* a smoke in my nose, a fire that burneth all the day. Behold, *it is* written before me: I will not keep silence, but will recompense, even recompense into their bosom, **Your iniquities, and the iniquities of your fathers together**, saith the Lord, which have burned incense upon the mountains, and blasphemed me upon the hills: therefore will **I measure their former work** into their bosom. Thus saith the Lord, As the new wine is found in the cluster, and *one* saith, Destroy it not; for a blessing *is* in it: so will I do for my servants' sakes, that I may not destroy them all. And I will bring forth a seed out of Jacob, and out of Judah an inheritor of my mountains: and mine elect shall inherit it, and my servants shall dwell there. Isaiah 65:1–9.

For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end; While it is said, Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts,

as in **the provocation**. For some, when they had heard, did **provoke**: howbeit not all that came out of Egypt by Moses. But with whom was he grieved forty years? *was it* not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness? And to whom sware he that they should not enter into his rest, but to **them that believed not**? So we see that they could not enter in **because of unbelief**. Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left *us* of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. For unto us was **the gospel** preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, **not being mixed with faith** in them that **heard it**. Hebrews 3:14–4:2.

“The soul-saving message, the third angel’s message, is the message to be given to the world. The commandments of God and the faith of Jesus are both important, immensely important, and must be given with equal force and power. The first part of the message has been dwelt upon mostly, the last part casually. **The faith of Jesus is not comprehended**. We must talk it, we must live it, we must pray it, and educate the people to bring this part of the message into their home life. ‘Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus’ (Philippians 2:5).” *Selected Messages*, book 3, 184.

**“What is justification by faith? It is the work of God in laying the glory of man in the dust, and doing for man that which it is not in his power to do for himself. When men see their own nothingness, they are prepared to be clothed with the righteousness of Christ.**

“Those whom heaven recognizes as holy ones are the last to parade their own goodness. The apostle Peter became a faithful minister of Christ, and he was greatly honored with divine light and power; he had an active part in the upbuilding of Christ’s church; but Peter never forgot the fearful experience of his humiliation; his sin was forgiven; yet well he knew that for the weakness of character which had caused his fall only the grace of Christ could avail. He found in himself nothing in which to glory.

“None of the apostles or prophets ever claimed to be without sin. Men who have lived nearest to God, men who would sacrifice life itself rather than knowingly commit a wrong act, men whom God had honored with divine light and power, have confessed the sinfulness of their own nature. They have put no confidence in the flesh, have claimed no righteousness of their own, but have trusted wholly in the righteousness of Christ. **So will it be with all who behold Christ.**

“The righteousness of Christ, as a pure white pearl, has no defect, no stain, no guilt. This righteousness may be ours. Salvation, with its blood-bought, inestimable treasures, is the pearl of great price.

“The thought that the righteousness of Christ is imputed to us, not because of any merit on our part, but as a free gift from God, is a precious thought. The enemy of God and man is not willing that this truth should be clearly presented; for he knows that if the people receive it fully, his power will be broken.” *The Faith I Live By*, 111.

“‘Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God’ (Matthew 5:8). How would they see God?—in the way that Enoch saw Him. They had the privilege of walking and talking with God. By faith Enoch lived in the presence of God three hundred years. **By faith he saw the faith of Jesus**. He was taken into special favor with Him. The priests and rulers

needed just such an experience as Enoch had. They needed **a continual sense of the presence of God**. O what riches of grace the Lord longed to bestow upon the favored people of God. It is represented in the call to the supper prepared for them, ‘All things are ready: come’ (Matthew 22:4).” *This Day with God*, 275.

“The offering of Cain was an offense to God, because it was a Christless offering. The burden of our message is not only the commandments of God, but the faith of Jesus. **A bright light shines upon our pathway today, and it leads to increased faith in Jesus**. We must receive every ray of light, and walk in it, that it may not be our condemnation in the Judgment. Our duties and obligations become more important as we obtain more distinct views of truth. Light makes manifest and reproves the errors that were concealed in darkness; and **as light comes, the life and character of men must change correspondingly, to be in harmony with it**. Sins that were once sins of ignorance because of the blindness of the mind, can no more be indulged in without incurring guilt. **As increased light is given, men must be reformed, elevated, and refined by it, or they will be more perverse and stubborn than before the light came.**” *Gospel Workers*, 104.

“Those who are justified by faith must have **a heart to keep the way of the Lord**. It is an evidence that a man is not justified by faith when his works do not correspond to his profession. James says, ‘Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was his faith made perfect?’ (James 2:22).

“The faith that does not produce good works does not justify the soul. ‘Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only’ (James 2:24). ‘Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness’ (Romans 4:3).

“**Imputation** of the righteousness of Christ **comes through justifying faith**, and is the justification for which Paul so earnestly contends. He says: ‘Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: for all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God.... Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law” (Romans 3:20–31).

“Grace is unmerited favor, and the believer is justified without any merit of his own, without any claim to offer to God. He is justified through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, who stands in the courts of heaven as the sinner’s substitute and surety. But while he is justified because of the merit of Christ, he is not free to work unrighteousness. **Faith works by love and purifies the soul**. Faith buds and blossoms and bears a harvest of precious fruit. Where faith is, good works appear. The sick are visited, the poor are cared for, the fatherless and the widows are not neglected, the naked are clothed, the destitute are fed. Christ went about doing good, and when men are united with Him, they love the children of God, and meekness and truth guide their footsteps. The expression of the countenance reveals their experience, and men take knowledge of them that they have been with Jesus and learned of Him. Christ and the believer become one, and His beauty of character is

revealed in those who are vitally connected with the Source of power and love. Christ is the great depository of justifying righteousness and sanctifying grace.” *Selected Messages*, 397, 398.

“Elder E. J. Waggoner had the privilege granted him of speaking plainly and presenting his views upon **justification by faith and the righteousness of Christ in relation to the law. This was no new light**, but it was old light placed where it should be **in the third angel’s message**.... What is the burden of that message? John sees a people. He says, “Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus” (Revelation 14:12). This people John beholds just before he sees the Son of man ‘having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle’ (Verse 14).

“**The faith of Jesus has been overlooked and treated in an indifferent, careless manner.** It has not occupied the prominent position in which it was revealed to John. Faith in Christ as the sinner’s only hope has been largely left out, not only of the discourses given but of the religious experience of very many who claim to believe the third angel’s message.

“At this meeting I bore testimony that the most precious light had been shining forth from the Scriptures in the presentation of the great subject of the righteousness of Christ connected with the law, which should be constantly kept before the sinner as his only hope of salvation. **This was not new light to me, for it had come to me from higher authority for the last forty-four years, and I had presented it to our people by pen and voice in the testimonies of his Spirit.** But very few had responded except by assent to the testimonies borne upon this subject. There was altogether too little spoken and written upon this great question. The discourses of some might be correctly represented as like **the offering of Cain—Christless.**

“The standard by which to measure character is the royal law. The law is the sin detector. By the law is the knowledge of sin. But the sinner is constantly being drawn to Jesus by the wonderful manifestation of his love in that he humiliated Himself to die a shameful death upon the cross. What a study is this! Angels have striven, earnestly longed, to look into the wonderful mystery. It is a study that can tax the highest human intelligence, that **man**, fallen, deceived by Satan, taking Satan’s side of the question, **can be conformed to the image of the Son of the infinite God.** That man shall be like Him, that, because of the righteousness of Christ given to man, God will love man—fallen but redeemed—even as he loved his Son. Read it right out of the living oracles.

“This is the mystery of godliness. This picture is of the highest value to be placed in every discourse, to be hung in memory’s hall, to be uttered by human lips, to be traced by human beings who have tasted and known that the Lord is good, to be meditated upon, to be the groundwork of every discourse. There have been dry theories presented and precious souls are starving for the bread of life. This is not the preaching that is required or that the God of heaven will accept, for **it is Christless.** The divine **picture of Christ must be kept before the people.** He is that Angel standing in the sun of heaven. He reflects no shadows. Clothed in the attributes of deity, shrouded in the glories of deity, and in the likeness of the infinite God, he is to be lifted up before men. When this is kept before the people, creature merit sinks into insignificance. The more the eye looks upon Him, the more his life, his lessons, his perfection of character are studied, the more sinful and abhorrent will sin appear.

“**By beholding**, man can but admire and become more attracted to Him, more charmed, and more desirous to be like Jesus until he assimilates **to his image and has the**

**mind of Christ.** Like Enoch he walks with God. His mind is full of thoughts of Jesus. He is his best Friend.” *Selected Messages*, book 3, 169.

“The third angel’s message is the proclamation of the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus Christ. The commandments of God have been proclaimed, but **the faith of Jesus Christ** has not been proclaimed by Seventh-day Adventists as of equal importance, **the law and the gospel** going hand in hand. I cannot find language to express this subject in its fullness.

“‘The faith of Jesus.’ It is talked of, but not understood. What constitutes the faith of Jesus, that belongs to the third angel’s message? Jesus becoming our sin-bearer that he might become our sin-pardoning Saviour. He was treated as we deserve to be treated. He came to our world and took our sins that we might take his righteousness. And **faith in the ability of Christ to save us amply and fully and entirely is the faith of Jesus.**

“The only safety for the Israelites was blood upon the doorposts. God said, ‘When I see the blood, I will pass over you’ (Exodus 12:13). All other devices for safety would be without avail. Nothing but the blood on the doorposts would bar the way that the angel of death should not enter. There is salvation for the sinner in the blood of Jesus Christ alone, which cleanseth us from all sin. The man with a cultivated intellect may have vast stores of knowledge, he may engage in theological speculations, he may be great and honored of men and be considered the repository of knowledge, but unless he has a saving knowledge of Christ crucified for him, and by faith lays hold of the righteousness of Christ, he is lost. Christ ‘was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed’ (Isaiah 53:5). ‘Saved by the blood of Jesus Christ,’ will be our only hope for time and our song throughout eternity.” *Selected Messages* book 3, 172, 173.

“As Jesus was about to leave His disciples, He prayed for them in a most touching, solemn manner that they all might be one ‘as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be one in Us: that the world may believe that Thou hast sent Me. And the glory which Thou gavest Me I have given them; that they may be one, even as We are one: I in them, and Thou in Me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that Thou hast sent Me, and hast loved them, as Thou hast loved Me.’ The apostle Paul in his first epistle to the Corinthians exhorts them to unity: ‘Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.’

“God is leading a people out from the world upon the exalted platform of eternal truth, the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. He will **discipline** and fit up His people. They will not be at variance, one believing one thing, and another having faith and views entirely opposite, each moving independently of the body. Through the diversity of the gifts and governments that He has placed in the church, **they will all come to the unity of the faith.** If one man takes his views of Bible truth without regard to the opinions of his brethren, and justifies his course, alleging that he has a right to his own peculiar views, and then presses them upon others, how can he be fulfilling the prayer of Christ? And if another and still another arises, each asserting his right to believe and talk what he pleases without

reference to the faith of the body, where will be that harmony which existed between Christ and His Father, and which Christ prayed might exist among His brethren?

“God is leading out a people and establishing them upon the one great platform of faith, the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus. He has given His people a straight chain of Bible truth, clear and connected. This truth is of heavenly origin and has been **searched for as for hidden treasure**. It has been dug out through careful searching of the Scriptures and through much prayer.” *Testimonies* volume 3, 446, 447.

“**The life of Christ that gives life to the world is in His word.** It was by **His word** that Jesus healed disease and cast out demons; by **His word** He stilled the sea, and raised the dead; and the people bore witness that **His word** was with power. **He spoke the word of God, as He had spoken through all the prophets and teachers of the Old Testament.** The whole Bible is a **manifestation of Christ**, and the Saviour desired to fix **the faith of His followers on the word**. When His visible presence should be withdrawn, **the word** must be their source of power. Like their Master, they were to live ‘by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.’ Matthew 4:4.

“As our physical life is sustained by food, so our spiritual life is sustained by the word of God. And every soul is to receive life from God’s word for himself. **As we must eat for ourselves** in order to receive nourishment, so we must receive the word for ourselves. We are not to obtain it merely through the medium of another’s mind. We should carefully study the Bible, asking God for the aid of the Holy Spirit, that we may understand His word. We should take one verse, and concentrate the mind on the task of ascertaining the thought which God has put in that verse for us. We should dwell upon the thought until it becomes our own, and we know ‘what saith the Lord.’

“**In His promises and warnings, Jesus means me.** God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son, that I by believing in Him, might not perish, but have everlasting life. **The experiences related in God’s word are to be my experiences.** Prayer and promise, precept and warning, are mine. ‘I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me.’ Galatians 2:20. **As faith thus receives and assimilates the principles of truth, they become a part of the being and the motive power of the life. The word of God, received into the soul, molds the thoughts, and enters into the development of character.**

“**By looking constantly to Jesus with the eye of faith,** we shall be strengthened. God will make the most precious revelations to His **hungering, thirsting people**. They will find that Christ is a personal Saviour. As they feed upon His word, they find that it is spirit and life. The word destroys the natural, earthly nature, and imparts a new life in Christ Jesus. The Holy Spirit comes to the soul as a Comforter. By the transforming agency of His grace, the image of God is reproduced in the disciple; he becomes a new creature. Love takes the place of hatred, and the heart receives the divine similitude. This is what it means to live ‘by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.’ This is eating the Bread that comes down from heaven.” *The Desire of Ages*, 391.