

and preaching the Word of God (John 7:15). His learning came from the Holy Spirit (Luke 4:18-19). Christ's disciples were also considered uneducated. Their power to preach and teach the Word came from being with Jesus (Acts 4:13). We are promised both the abiding presence of Jesus and the anointing of the Holy Spirit (John 15:4; 16:13). Understanding the Bible depends on our willingness to take the time to open our hearts to its truths (Matthew 13:14-17).

If you would like to make a start, or even if you have a good grasp of Bible study but would like some review, you are invited to download free the audio seminar on *How to Study the Bible* from our website. You can also download the outlines that will take you step-by-step through some basic Bible study principles and keys. And get in contact with us here at Light Bearers Ministry. We would be happy to help you learn how to study the Bible so that you can build a closer personal relationship with your maker and redeemer Jesus Christ.



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BOOK OF THE BOOKS

3ABN SCHEDULE

MONDAY—10:00 PM (PST)

TUESDAY—12:30 PM (PST)

WEDNESDAY—12:00 AM (PST)

FRIDAY—11:00 AM (PST)

SATURDAY—6:00 PM (PST)

Events Schedule

- **July 8-12**
Light Bearers' Annual Convocation
☎(541)988-3333
- **July 18-19**
Glide SDA Church, OR
James Rafferty—☎(541)496-3956
- **July 19**
Oregon Conference Camp Meeting
Gladstone, OR
Ty Gibson—☎(503)850-3500
- **August 30**
Fall Creek SDA Church, OR
James Rafferty—☎(541)937-2257
- **September 5-7**
Gorge Camp Meeting, Troutlake, WA
James Rafferty—☎(509)493-1463
- **September 8-13**
Papatoetoe SDA Community Church
Auckland, New Zealand • info@papsda.co.nz
Ty Gibson—☎(011 64 9)278-7786
- **September 14-21**
Santa Clara SDA Church, OR
James Rafferty—☎(541)688-5081
- **September 23-28**
Santa Clara SDA Church, OR
Ty Gibson—☎(541)688-5081

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LIGHT BEARERS

37457 Jasper Lowell Rd • Jasper, OR 97438 • USA
Phone: (541)988-3333
Fax: (541)988-3300
E-mail: info@lbm.org
www.lbm.org

*Light Bearers is a non-profit ministry based in beautiful Oregon State.
Our purpose is to help proclaim the gospel
of our Lord Jesus Christ through the spoken and published word.*

MISSION UPDATE

The Newsletter of Light Bearers Ministry



Already and Not Yet

By Ty Gibson

God's victory over Satan and his kingdom of evil is already and not yet won.

The apparent contradiction contained in the above statement poses one of the most perplexing problems of biblical theology. On the one hand, Scripture claims that Christ did, in actuality, defeat Satan by His life, death and resurrection (John 12:31; Hebrews 2:14). On the other hand, Scripture just as clearly indicates that Satan is still very much alive and active (1 Peter 5:8), not to mention the fact that our world is filled with evidences that evil still persists. So if the war is already won, why does it continue?

The answer to this mystery is both simple to explain and profoundly challenging in its practical implications for the church.

The war between good and evil was fully won by Christ in a representative sense preparatory to the church participating in that victory in a corporate sense. He conquered evil in principle (in the local historic event of His life, death and resurrection), and now His conquest is to be shared by His followers in the form of a more

large-scale practice (Hebrews 2:14-15; 10:10-25; Romans 16:20).

Jesus took upon Himself our dismal case, faced the enemy we could not defeat and single-handedly triumphed over him (Colossians 2:15). As an actual member of the human race (as one of us), "in the likeness of sinful flesh," Jesus did, indeed, triumph over "the law of sin and death" (Romans 8:2-3). Within the realm of His personal human experience, the incarnate Christ effectively overcame the kingdom of darkness. But that's not the end of the story. In so doing, His life, death and resurrection now constitute a microcosm of what the gospel envisions for a larger body of believers. Jesus inhabited a single human body in order to form a corporate body (Hebrews 10:5; 1 Corinthians 12:27). His victory over sin and Satan was local to His humanity, but it was also universal in its potential to liberate any and all other human beings who will by faith participate in His achievement. "You, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight—if indeed

you continue in the faith" (Colossians 1:21-22). The human race was positioned in enmity against God as allies of Satan. But Christ, "in the body of His flesh," as a full-fledged member of the human race, stood in a reconciled position toward the Father. As our mediatory bridge, the reconciliation He accomplished in the body of his flesh has the end-goal in view of presenting us to God as participants in His victory.

Therefore the gospel anticipates the formation of an army of faith-filled men and women who will apply the victory of Christ by striking the final and fatal blow to Satan's kingdom: "The God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly" (Romans 16:20). "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they loved not their lives to the death" (Revelation 12:11). "Here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus" (Revelation 14:12). It is clear that the victory Jesus won over the devil was perfect in Himself, but it is also clear that it was prophetic of a people who would eventually emerge in history as the vehicle through which Christ would work out the full ramifications of His victory.

CONSIDER THIS . . .

Thank God for the bright pictures which He has presented to us. Let us group together the blessed assurances of His love, that we may look upon them continually:

1. The Son of God
 - (a) leaving His Father's throne,
 - (b) clothing His divinity with humanity,
 - (c) that He might rescue man from the power of Satan;
2. His triumph in our behalf,
 - (a) opening heaven to men,
 - (b) revealing to human vision the presence chamber where the Deity unveils His glory;
3. the fallen race
 - (a) uplifted from the pit of ruin into which sin had plunged it,
 - (b) and brought again into connection with the infinite God,
 - (c) and having endured the divine test through faith in our Redeemer,
 - (d) clothed in the righteousness of Christ,
 - (e) and exalted to His throne

—these are the pictures which God would have us contemplate.

Ellen White,
Steps to Christ, p. 118
(numerical breakdown supplied)

Before the foundations of the earth were laid, the Father and the Son had united in a covenant to redeem man if he should be overcome by Satan. They had clasped their hands in a solemn pledge that Christ should become the surety for the human race. This pledge Christ has fulfilled. When upon the cross He cried out, "It is finished," He addressed the Father. The compact had been fully carried out. Now He declares: Father, it is finished. I have done Thy will, O My God. I have completed the work of redemption. If Thy justice is satisfied, "I will that they also, whom Thou hast given Me, be with Me where I am." John 19:30; 17:24. The voice of God is heard proclaiming that justice is satisfied. Satan is vanquished. Christ's toiling, struggling ones on earth are "accepted in the Beloved." Ephesians 1:6. Before the heavenly angels and the representatives of unfallen worlds, they are declared justified.

Ellen G. White,
The Desire of Ages, p. 834

OUR HIDING PLACE



By James Rafferty

To "dwell in the secret place of the Most High," to "abide under the shadow of the Almighty"—this is the most satisfying experience available to mankind (Psalm 91:1). There is no Christian practice more needful, yet more commonly ignored than that of abiding in Christ (Luke 10:42; John 15:5). It is a subtle but deadly device of our enemy to crowd Christ out of our day-to-day, week-by-week experience. Even those involved in ministry often neglect the source of their work. Serving God, which is a good thing in itself, is not the same as time with God (Luke 10:40). It is more essential for those who serve Christ to first be served by Christ, for those who feed others to first sup with the Master, partaking of the flesh and blood of the Son of God (Revelation 3:20; John 6:53).

The apostle Paul encourages us: "Study to shew thyself approved unto

There is not a more important time than that in which we are now living for getting serious about Bible study and prayer.

God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15). Personal Bible study and time with Jesus precedes working for Jesus. Spending time with Christ we are taught by Christ. He teaches us how to "accurately" handle (NAS) or "rightly" explain (NRSV) the Word of God. He shows us that there is a right way and a wrong way to handle and explain the Bible. Bible study is not about our wisdom and education, rather it is about developing a child-like faith in God's Word (Matthew 11:25-26).

Bible study is not dependent on our status, education or mental ability—Paul asks, "Where is the wise? ["theologian," Strong's] Where is the scribe ["learned in law," Strong's]? Where is the disputer ["debater," NAS] of this world? Hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?" (1 Corinthians 1:20).

It is both our duty and privilege to "prove all things" by immersing

ourselves in the Word of God so that like the church in Berea it can be said of us: "These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so" (Acts 17:11).

It was with this in mind that I recently conducted a *How to Study the Bible* class in our local Eugene church. Each Wednesday night for five weeks we spent one hour moving through Scripture verses learning principles of Bible study and the use of a concordance.

As the Bible is called the Christian's sword, a weapon for both the proclamation and defense of the gospel of Jesus Christ, this five-week seminar was a sword sharpening time (Ephesians 6:17). Often Christians accept whatever doctrines come their way without having the benefit of proving all things and "holding fast to that

which is good" (1 Thessalonians 5:21). The apostle Paul admonishes us to be teachers of the Word, ready for the meat of truth and not just babes feeding on milk. We gain this experience by exercising ourselves in the Bible (Hebrews 5:12-14). There is not a more important time than that in which we are now living for getting serious about Bible study and prayer. When everything around us is proving unstable and uncertain, the Word of God stands strong as the one immovable hope for all mankind (1 Peter 1:24-25).

If you feel lost when you open your Bible or are unsure where to begin, take heart. If you are sometimes confused by the different opinions about what the Bible says, or if you doubt whether it's even possible for you to understand God's Word, since you're not a pastor, an elder or a degreed theologian, don't give up. Jesus Himself did not depend on formal education for understanding