



PREPARING TO STAND

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“In this age, just prior to the second coming of Christ in the clouds of heaven, God calls for men who will prepare a people to stand in the great day of the Lord.” SW 3-21-1905

THE INVITATION

by Ellen White

(from *The Desire of Ages*, pages 328-332)

"Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest."

These words of comfort were spoken to the multitude that followed Jesus. The Saviour had said that only through Himself could men receive a knowledge of God. He had spoken of His disciples as the ones to whom a knowledge of heavenly things had been given. But He left none to feel themselves shut out from His care and love. All who labor and are heavy-laden may come unto Him.

Scribes and rabbis, with their punctilious attention to religious forms, had a sense of want that rites of penance could never satisfy. Publicans and sinners might pretend to be content with the sensual and earthly, but in their hearts were distrust and fear. Jesus looked upon the distressed and heart burdened, those whose hopes were blighted, and who with earthly joys were seeking to quiet the longing of the soul, and He invited all to find rest in Him.

Tenderly He bade the toiling people, "Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls."

In these words Christ is speaking to every human being. Whether they know it or not, all are weary and heavy-laden. All are weighed down with burdens that only Christ can remove. The heaviest burden that we bear is the burden of sin. If we were left to bear this burden, it would crush us. But the Sinless One has taken our place. "The Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all." Isa. 53:6. He has borne the burden of our guilt. He will take the load from our weary shoulders. He will give us rest. The burden of care and sorrow also He will bear. He invites us to cast all our care upon Him; for He carries us upon His heart.

The Elder Brother of our race is by the eternal throne. He looks upon every soul who is turning his face toward Him as the Saviour. He knows by experience what are the weaknesses of humanity, what are our wants, and where lies the strength of our temptations; for He was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. He is watching over you, trembling child of God. Are you tempted? He will deliver. Are you weak? He will strengthen. Are you ignorant? He will enlighten. Are you wounded? He will heal. The Lord "telleteth the number of the stars;" and yet "He healeth the broken in

heart, and bindeth up their wounds." Ps. 147:4, 3. "Come unto Me," is His invitation. Whatever your anxieties and trials, spread out your case before the Lord. Your spirit will be braced for endurance. The way will be opened for you to disentangle yourself from embarrassment and difficulty. The weaker and more helpless you know yourself to be, the stronger will you become in His strength. The heavier your burdens, the more blessed the rest in casting them upon the Burden Bearer. The rest that Christ offers depends upon conditions, but these conditions are plainly specified. They are those with which all can comply. He tells us just how His rest is to be found.

"Take My yoke upon you," Jesus says. The yoke is an instrument of service. Cattle are yoked for labor, and the yoke is essential that they may labor effectually. By this illustration Christ teaches us that we are called to service as long as life shall last. We are to take upon us His yoke, that we may be co-workers with Him.

The yoke that binds to service is the law of God. The great law of love revealed in Eden, proclaimed upon Sinai, and in the new covenant written in the heart, is that which binds the human worker to the will of God. If we were left to follow our own inclinations, to go just where our will would lead us, we should fall into Satan's ranks and become possessors of his attributes. Therefore God confines us to His will, which is high, and noble, and elevating. He desires that we shall patiently and wisely take up the duties of service. The yoke of service Christ Himself has borne in humanity. He said, "I delight to do Thy will, O My God: yea, Thy law is within My heart." Ps. 40:8. "I came down from heaven, not to do Mine own will, but the will of Him that sent Me." John 6:38. Love for God, zeal for His glory, and love for fallen humanity, brought Jesus to earth to suffer and to die. This was the controlling power of His life. This principle He bids us adopt.

There are many whose hearts are aching under a load of care because they seek to reach the world's standard. They have chosen its service, accepted its perplexities, adopted its customs. Thus their character is marred, and their life made a weariness. In order to gratify ambition and worldly desires, they wound the conscience, and bring upon themselves an additional burden of remorse. The continual worry is wearing out the life forces. Our Lord desires them to lay aside this yoke of bondage. He invites them to accept His yoke; He says, "My yoke is easy, and My burden is light." He bids them seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and His promise is that all things needful to them for this life shall be added. Worry is blind, and cannot discern the future; but Jesus sees the end from the beginning. In every difficulty He has His way prepared to bring relief. Our heavenly Father has a thousand ways to provide for us, of which we know nothing. Those who accept the one principle of making the service and honor of God supreme will find perplexities vanish, and a plain path before their feet.

"Learn of Me," says Jesus; "for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest." We are to enter the school of Christ, to learn from Him meekness and lowliness. Redemption is that process by which the soul is trained for heaven. This training means a knowledge of Christ. It means emancipation from ideas, habits, and practices that have been gained in the school of the prince of darkness. The soul must be delivered from all that is opposed to loyalty to God.

In the heart of Christ, where reigned perfect harmony with God, there was perfect peace. He was never elated by applause, nor dejected by censure or disappointment.

Amid the greatest opposition and the most cruel treatment, He was still of good courage. But many who profess to be His followers have an anxious, troubled heart, because they are afraid to trust themselves with God. They do not make a complete surrender to Him; for they shrink from the consequences that such a surrender may involve. Unless they do make this surrender, they cannot find peace.

It is the love of self that brings unrest. When we are born from above, the same mind will be in us that was in Jesus, the mind that led Him to humble Himself that we might be saved. Then we shall not be seeking the highest place. We shall desire to sit at the feet of Jesus, and learn of Him. We shall understand that the value of our work does not consist in making a show and noise in the world, and in being active and zealous in our own strength. The value of our work is in proportion to the impartation of the Holy Spirit. Trust in God brings holier qualities of mind, so that in patience we may possess our souls.

The yoke is placed upon the oxen to aid them in drawing the load, to lighten the burden. So with the yoke of Christ. When our will is swallowed up in the will of God, and we use His gifts to bless others, we shall find life's burden light. He who walks in the way of God's commandments is walking in company with Christ, and in His love the heart is at rest. When Moses prayed, "Show me now Thy way, that I may know Thee," the Lord answered him, "My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest." And through the prophets the message was given, "Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls." Ex. 33:13, 14; Jer. 6:16. And He says, "O that thou hadst hearkened to My commandments! then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea." Isa. 48:18.

Those who take Christ at His word, and surrender their souls to His keeping, their lives to His ordering, will find peace and quietude. Nothing of the world can make them sad when Jesus makes them glad by His presence. In perfect acquiescence there is perfect rest. The Lord says, "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee: because he trusteth in Thee." Isa. 26:3. Our lives may seem a tangle; but as we commit ourselves to the wise Master Worker, He will bring out the pattern of life and character that will be to His own glory. And that character which expresses the glory—character—of Christ will be received into the Paradise of God. A renovated race shall walk with Him in white, for they are worthy.

As through Jesus we enter into rest, heaven begins here. We respond to His invitation, Come, learn of Me, and in thus coming we begin the life eternal. Heaven is a ceaseless approaching to God through Christ. The longer we are in the heaven of bliss, the more and still more of glory will be opened to us; and the more we know of God, the more intense will be our happiness. As we walk with Jesus in this life, we may be filled with His love, satisfied with His presence. All that human nature can bear, we may receive here. But what is this compared with the hereafter? There "are they before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple: and He that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes." Rev. 7:15-17.

BURN AND SCRAP BOWL MAKING

This technique is a good illustration of the use of fire as a tool. With it, useful objects can be made from spoons to dug-out canoes. Its value in a survival situation comes from its simplicity and the ability to produce a container that can hold water.

Burn off a section of log. Use the driest wood possible as wet or green wood, or burning it out too fast, may cause cracks. Using a couple sticks as tongs, place a "handful" of coals on one side of the log and let them burn into it. The coals can burn while you do other things, or blow on them to speed things up. After they have burned about a ¼ in. / .5 cm. into the log, dump out the coals and scrape out the burnt area. Then add fresh coals. Continue to alternately burn and scrape until you have the shape you want.



It is also possible to boil liquids in a wooden bowl like this by using 1½-2 in. / 3-4 cm. diameter rocks. Heat the rocks in the fire, then place a couple of them in the liquid. Stir continually so they don't burn the bowl. As the heat is transferred to the liquid and rocks cool, put them back in the fire, replacing them with freshly heated rocks. Continue with this process until the water boils or the food is cooked.

WHAT TO DO WHEN ESCAPING

(compiled from several sources*)

1. Always be watching and listening. Be sure you notice things, *before* you are noticed.
2. Become familiar with the sights, sounds, smells and behaviors of the plants, animals, birds, and insects in the natural world around you. This will help you to notice things that are "out of place." It will also help you to fit in with nature, and keep *you* to from being noticed as "out of place."
3. If you notice any suspicious sights, sounds or smells, do like the wild animal do, and remain perfectly still until you are *sure* it is OK to move.
4. Avoid movements, outlines, colors, shininess, patterns, and textures that attract visual attention.
5. Camouflage yourself and your equipment as necessary, taking extra measures to avoid being detected. Don't give others any idea you're even there.
6. Avoid rhythmic chopping and pounding sounds. Remember that any sound will travel outwards in all directions.
7. Have a set of sign language and unobtrusive sound signals for your group, so if necessary, you can communicate without talking.
8. When you do talk, speak softly and in low tones, so your voice will blend in with the natural sounds and not attract attention.
9. Pack your equipment so it is in a tight, smooth package that doesn't rattle —nothing sticking out, or dangling where it can bang on rocks or catch on brush.
10. Don't forget anything.
11. Don't carry unnecessary equipment —but be sure you have the things you *do* need.

12. Keep your knife sharp, your water bottle full, your food bag stocked—all of your equipment together, neatly organized, and ready to go.
13. Don't leave your equipment behind if you have to escape suddenly. Only have the equipment you are using out of your pack. Keep all unused gear packed and ready to go. Have your pack either on, or no farther than an arms length away at all times—so you can just reach over and grab it as you take off.
14. Don't look at the ground when moving forward. Always be scanning the area in front of and around you, taking quick glances at your pathway as necessary.
15. Always move with stealth. Smooth flowing movements attract less attention than quick, sudden, or jerky motions.
16. Always look ahead, planning your route, and looking for your next place to hide.
17. Walk in such a way that you will be hard to track. Minimize your disturbances, don't leave markings behind you. As necessary, camouflage the tracks and camps you leave behind.
18. Don't follow established roads, trails or river crossing.
19. Never go so fast that nature communicates your presence farther ahead of you than what you can see.
20. Go around thick undergrowth if possible. If not, slowly weave yourself through it, being careful not to cause sounds, or movement in the tops of the brush.
21. For the most part, travel single file, with a few yards in between each person.
22. Depending on your group size, keep a scout about twenty yards ahead of the main group, and another scout about twenty yards behind, and possibly scouts to each side—so that the main group is not surprised.
23. Never push yourself until you become so tired that you find your concentration and alertness slipping.
24. Keep watch even when you sit down to rest, eat, and make camp. Take turns sleeping, with someone always keeping watch.
25. When being followed, keep moving until dark, and be packed and ready to move on before first light.
26. Camp in unexpected places that have natural camouflage, escape routes, and where it would be impossible to surprise you.
27. Upon arriving at a campsite, decide on a rendezvous point where the group can get back together in case it is necessary to suddenly escape while camped there.
28. Make fires in such a way that they will not betray your presence.
29. Use different routes and travel patterns when coming to, and going from an established camp.
30. Don't ever take a chance you don't have to.

* Major Sources: Rogers, Rangers "Standing Orders;" *The SAS Guide to Tracking*, by Bob Carss, Roy Thomasson and John "Lofty" Wiseman; personal conversations with students of Tom Brown Jr.; *In the Days of Victorio*, by Eve Ball; as well as several other minor sources.