## The 3rd Angel's Message - Part 3

<< This is the eighth in a series of studies on the 3 Angels Messages. In this study, we'll learn more about the patient saints that not only keep the commandments of God, but also have the faith of Jesus.

<u>Revelation 14:12</u> Here is the patience of the saints: here *are* they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus. <u>13</u> And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, <u>Blessed are</u> the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may <u>rest from their labours</u>; and their works do follow them.

<u>Daniel 12:2</u> And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame *and* everlasting contempt.

We can understand more about the patient saints of verse 12 from verse 13 and from Daniel 12:2. Here, we see that some will die "henceforth", the context being when the third angel's message began to be proclaimed. When was that? We learned in a previous study that it was in 1844.

From Dan12:2, we see a special resurrection where some will awake to everlasting life, presumably the patient saints of Rev14:12-13 who died "in the Lord", and others to everlasting contempt, presumably "those who pierced Him"(Revelation1:7; John19:36-37; Matthew26:63-64), whom Jesus said would see His second coming. Since both groups are raised together, both will see Christ come again.

So, the people of Revelation 14:12-13 seem to have these characteristics:

- 1. Patient saints
- 2. Keep all the 10 Commandments
- 3. Have "the faith of Jesus"
- 4. Some(the 144,000) will live to see Christ's 2<sup>nd</sup> coming
- 5. Others(see Dan12:2) will be resurrected to see it(with the 144,000).

What about keeping the faith of/in Jesus? This needs to be further defined. So, let's see what else the Bible says:

- 1. **Faith in Jesus can make us whole:** Mark <u>10:52</u> And **Jesus** said unto him, Go thy way; thy **faith** hath made thee whole...
- 2. Paul(vs16) taught faith in Jesus: Acts 20:21 Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 3. The righteousness of God comes to us by the faith of Jesus: Romans 3:22 Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus...
- 4. We are justified by the faith of Jesus Christ: Galatians 2:16 Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ...
- 5. We become children of God, by the faith of Jesus: <u>Galatians 3:22</u> But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by **faith** of **Jesus** Christ might be given to them that believe.... <u>26</u> For ye are all the children of God by **faith** in Christ **Jesus**.
- 6. For those who have faith in Jesus, Paul asked God to give the spirit of wisdom and the knowledge of God: Ephesians 1:15 Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, 16 Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; 17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:

- 7. Paul thanks God for those who have faith in Jesus: <u>Colossians 1: 3</u> We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, <u>4</u> Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love *which ye have* to all the saints,
- 8. Great boldness comes from the faith of Christ: <u>1 Timothy</u> <u>3:13</u> For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the **faith** which is in Christ **Jesus**.
- 9. **Wisdom comes from faith in Christ:** 2 Timothy 3:15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through **faith** which is in Christ **Jesus**.

What can the faith of/in Jesus Christ do for us? => In short, it can make us children of God, Give us Justification, Sanctification(righteousness), Boldness, Wisdom, Knowledge of God(Father), the privilege of seeing Christ's return, and eternal life. Is that enough to make us long for this faith? I think so :-).

How can we have this faith? Let's see what Ellen says... -Sid >>

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. 3SM 172.2

"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. 3SM 172.3

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. 3SM 172.4

That men may be prepared to stand in the Judgment, the message commands them to "fear God, and give glory to him," "and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters." The result of an acceptance of these messages is given in the words, "Here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." In order to be prepared for the Judgment, it is necessary that men should keep the law of God. That law will be the standard of character in the Judgment. The apostle Paul declares, "As many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law; ... in the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ." And he says that "the doers of the law shall be justified." [Romans 2:12-16.] Faith is essential in order to the keeping of the law of God; for "without faith it is impossible to please him." And "whatsoever is not of faith is sin." [Hebrews 11:6; Romans 14:23.] GC88 435.2

Genuine faith in Jesus leads to denial of self; but however high the profession may be, if self is exalted and indulged, the faith of Jesus is not in the heart. The true Christian manifests by a life of daily consecration that he is bought with a price, and is not his own. He realizes that an infinite sacrifice has been made for him, and that his life is of inestimable value, through the merits of Jesus' blood, intercession, and righteousness. But while he comprehends the exalted privileges of the sons of God, his soul is filled with humility. There is no boasting of holiness from the lips of those who walk in the shadow of Calvary's cross. They feel that it was their sin which caused the agony that broke the heart of the Son of God, and their comeliness is turned to corruption. Those who live nearest to Jesus, feel most deeply their own unworthiness, and their only hope is in the merits of a crucified and risen Saviour. Like Moses, they have had a view of the awful majesty of holiness, and they see their own insufficiency in contrast with the purity and exalted loveliness of Jesus. RH March 6, 1888, par. 4

The Lord has a work for every one of His loyal people to do to bring the faith of Jesus into the right place where it belongs—in the third angel's message. The law has its important position but is powerless unless the righteousness of Christ is placed beside the law to give its glory to the whole royal standard of righteousness. "Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good." Romans 7:12. A thorough and complete trust in Jesus will give the right quality to religious experience. Aside from this the experience is nothing. The service is like the offering of Cain—Christless. God is glorified by living faith in a personal, all-sufficient Saviour. Faith views Christ as He is—the sinner's only hope. Faith takes hold of Christ, trusts Him. It says, "He loves me; He died for me. I accept the sacrifice and Christ shall not have died for me in vain." 6LtMs, Ms 30, 1889, par. 69

Every ray of light that Heaven sends is essential for our salvation. We are living in the last days, and the Lord does not mean to leave us in darkness and uncertainty. There are great blessings in store for those who keep the commandments of God, not in name merely, but in sincerity and truth. It has been necessary to exalt the great standard of righteousness, but in doing this, many have neglected to preach the faith of Jesus. If we would have the spirit and power of the third angel's message, we must present the law and the gospel together, for they go hand in hand. As a power from beneath is stirring up the children of disobedience to make void the law of God, and to trample upon the faith of Christ as our righteousness, a power from above is moving upon the hearts of those who are loyal to exalt the law, and to lift up Jesus as a complete Saviour. Unless divine power is brought into the experience of the people of God, false theories and erroneous ideas will take minds captive, Christ and his righteousness will be dropped out of the experience of many, and their faith will be without power or life. Such will not have a daily, living experience of the love of God in the heart, and if they do not zealously repent, they will be among those who are represented by the Laodiceans, who will be spewed out of the mouth of God. RH September 3, 1889, par. 17

Some of our brethren have expressed fears that we shall dwell too much upon the subject of justification by faith, but I hope and pray that none will be needlessly alarmed; for there is no danger in presenting this doctrine as it is set forth in the Scriptures. If there had not been a remissness in the past to properly instruct the people of God, there would not now be a necessity of calling a special attention to it....The exceeding great and precious promises given us in the Holy Scriptures have been lost sight of to a great extent, just as the enemy of all righteousness designed that they should be. He has cast his own dark shadow between us and our God, that we may not see the true character of God. The Lord has proclaimed Himself to be "merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth." <u>1SM 372.1</u>

Several have written to me, inquiring if the message of justification by faith is the third angel's message, and I have answered, "It is the third angel's message, in verity."—<u>The Review and Herald, April 1, 1890. 1SM 372.2</u>

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). 3SM 168.1

<< Waggoner's message tells us about our people of interest. In 1890, he published a small book on this subject: "Christ and His Righteousness". You can <u>download a PDF</u> OR <u>read online</u>. You can also order a paperback or download a kindle version <u>at Amazon</u> or elsewhere. I have found it very helpful. I will close with some quotes from the last chapter of "Christ and His Righteousness" -Sid >>

Now make the application. "The man was lame from his mother's womb," unable to help himself. He would gladly have walked, but he could not. We likewise can all say, with David, "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me." Psalm 51:5. As a consequence, we are by nature so weak that we cannot do the things that we would. As each year of the man's life increased his inability to walk by increasing the weight of his body, while his limbs grew no stronger, so the repeated practice of sin, as we grow older, strengthens its power over us. It was an utter impossibility for that man to walk; yet the name of Christ, through faith in it, gave him perfect soundness and freedom from his infirmity. So we, through the faith which is by Him, may be made whole and enabled to do the thing which hitherto has been impossible. For the things which are impossible with man are possible with God. He is the Creator. "To them that have no might he increaseth strength." One of the wonders of faith, as shown in the cases of the ancient worthies, is that they "out of weakness were made strong." CHR 91.1

By these instances we have seen how **God delivers from bondage those who trust in Him.** Now let us consider the knowledge of how freedom is maintained. CHR 91.2

We have seen that we by nature are all servants of sin and Satan, and that as soon as we submit to Christ, we become loosed from Satan's power. Says Paul, "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey, whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?" Romans 6:16. So then, as soon as we become free from the bondage of sin, we become the servants of Christ. Indeed, the very act of loosing us from the power of sin, in answer to our faith, proves God's acceptance of us as His servants. We become, indeed, the bond-servants of Christ; but he who is the Lord's servant is a free man, for we are called unto liberty (Galatians 5:13), and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty (2 Corinthians 3:17). CHR 91.3

And now comes the conflict again. Satan is not disposed to give up his slave so readily. He comes, armed with the lash of fierce temptation, to drive us again to his service. We know by sad experience that he is more powerful than we are, and that unaided we cannot resist him. But we dread his power and cry for help. Then we call to mind that we are not Satan's servants any longer. We have submitted ourselves to God, and therefore He accepted us as His servants. So we can say with the Psalmist, "O Lord, truly I am Thy servant; I am thy servant, and the son of thine handmaid; thou hast loosed my bonds." Psalm 116:16. But the fact that God has loosed the bonds that Satan had thrown around us—and He has done this if we believe that He has—is evidence that God will protect us, for He cares for His own, and we have the assurance that He that has begun a good work in us "will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ." Philippians 1:6. And in this confidence we are strong to resist. CHR 92.1

The yielding to God must be as complete as it was formerly to Satan, for the apostle says:- CHR 93.2

"I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh; for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness." Romans 6:19. CHR 94.1

The whole secret of overcoming, then, lies in first wholly yielding to God with a sincere desire to do His will; next, in knowing that in our yielding He accepts us as His servants; and then, in retaining that submission to Him and leaving ourselves in His hands. Often victory can be gained only by repeating again and again, "O Lord, truly I am thy servant; I am thy servant, and the son of thine handmaid; thou hast loosed my bonds." This is simply an emphatic way of saying, O Lord, I have yielded myself into Thy hands as an instrument of righteousness; let Thy will be done, and not the dictates of the flesh." But when we can realize the force of that scripture and feel indeed that we are servants of God, immediately will come the thought, "Well, if I am indeed an instrument in the hands of God, He cannot use me to do evil with, nor can he permit me to do evil as long as I remain in His hands. He must keep me if I am kept from evil, because I cannot keep myself. But He wants to keep me from evil, for He has shown His desire, and also His power to fulfill His desire in giving Himself for me. Therefore I shall be kept from this evil." All these thoughts may pass through the mind instantly, and then with them must necessarily come a feeling of gladness that we shall be kept from the dreaded evil. That gladness naturally finds expression in thanksgiving to God, and while we are thanking God the enemy retires with his temptation, and the peace of God fills the heart. Then we find that the joy in believing far outweighs all the joy that comes from indulgence in sin. CHR 94.2

Therefore, when the apostle says that we do not make void the law of God by faith, but that, on the contrary, we establish it, he means that faith does not lead to violation of the law but to obedience. No, we should not say that faith leads to obedience, but that faith itself obeys. Faith establishes the law in the heart. "Faith is the substance of things hoped for." If the thing hoped for be righteousness, faith establishes it... Without faith it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6); with it, all things are possible (Mark 9:23). CHR 95.2

Yes, faith does the impossible, and it is just that which God requires us to do... it is a mistake to say that all God wants is for us to do the best we can. He who does no better than that will not do the works of God. No. He must do better than he can do. He must do that which only the power of God working through him can do. It is impossible for a man to walk on water, yet Peter did it when he exercised faith in Jesus. CHR 96.1

Then "who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?" "Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us." Romans 8:35, 37. "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." CHR 96.3