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## October 2013 News Letter

Dear Family and Friends,

Have you ever noticed how Halloween is being pushed on you long before October 31? In early September the stores were already displaying their wares of candy, red devil costumes, etc. Soon you will see homes decorated with ghosts, spider webs, bats, witches and brooms, pumpkin faces and black cats. The merchant's most profitable time is Halloween and Christmas.

Is it ok for Christians to observe Halloween? Do you know the origin and meaning of this largely celebrated occasion? Is it just a harmless October festival? This subject we will be sharing with you this month and you just might see some things that may change the way you think about it!

Our message for this month is: **CONQUERING SELF**

### DO UNTO OTHERS AS.....

One stormy night many years ago, an elderly man and his wife entered the lobby of a small Hotel in Philadelphia. Trying to get out of the rain, the couple approached the front desk hoping to get some shelter for the night. "Could you possibly give us a room here?" the husband asked.

The clerk, a friendly man with a winning smile, looked at the couple and explained that there were three conventions in town. "All of our rooms are taken," the clerk said. "But I can't send a nice couple like you out into the rain at one o'clock in the morning. Would you perhaps be willing to sleep in my room? It's not exactly a suite, but it will be good enough to make you folks comfortable for the night."

When the couple declined, the young man pressed on. "Don't worry about me. I'll make out

just fine," the clerk told them. So the couple agreed.

As he paid his bill the next morning, the elderly man said to the clerk, "You are the kind of manager who should be the boss of the best hotel in the United States. Maybe someday I'll build one for you."

The clerk looked at them and smiled. The three of them had a good laugh. As they drove away, the elderly couple agreed that the helpful clerk was indeed exceptional, as finding people who are both friendly and helpful isn't easy.

Two years passed. The clerk had almost forgotten the incident when he received a letter from the old man. It recalled that stormy night and enclosed a round-trip ticket to New York, asking the young man to pay them a visit. The old man met him in New York and led him to the corner of Fifth Avenue and 34<sup>th</sup> Street. He then pointed to a great new building there, a palace of reddish stone, with turrets and watchtowers thrusting up to the sky.

"That," said the man, "is the hotel I have just built for you to manage."

"You must be joking," the young man said.

"I can assure you I am not," said the older man, a sly smile playing around his mouth.

The older man's name was William Waldorf Astor, and the magnificent structure was the original Waldorf-Astoria Hotel.

The young clerk who became its first manager was George C. Boldt. This young clerk never foresaw the turn of events that would lead him to become the manager of one of the world's most glamorous hotels.

And the lesson is.....treat everyone with love, grace and respect, and you cannot fail!!!

"Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets." Matthew 7:12

(Note: This story was in one of the newsletters by a little Christian lady named Lottie Bowen. We never knew each other and she has been deceased for several years, but she was the inspiration for me to start this newsletter! I'm looking forward to seeing her in person one day.)

## HEALTH NUGGET

Because of the proliferation of health problems, people are constantly looking for ways to strengthen their immune system. While most resort to finding supplements and other health products, you can actually raise your immunity by simply eating your vegetables. Following is a list of vegetables you should eat for an improved immune system.

### VEGETABLES THAT SERVE AS IMMUNE SYSTEM BOOSTERS:

- 1. Garlic** - contains allicin, a compound known for protecting cells against various compounds. It is also a powerful antiseptic, preventing diseases ranging from colds to cancers. Last but not least, it's directly linked to the prevention of age-related disease.
- 2. Cruciferous vegetables** - These mostly leafy vegetables have sulfur-containing compounds that are converted into isothiocyanates (ITCs). These ITCs improve immune response and are also linked to cancer prevention. Examples of cruciferous vegetables include **cabbage, broccoli, and radish**.
- 3. Onions** - This popular vegetable is rich with quercetin, a powerful antioxidant. It also contains anthocyanins, another powerful antioxidant. Onions are also known to reduce hypertension and are an adequate treatment for allergies.
- 4. Tomatoes** - This popular fruit is nature's best source of lycopene. One of the most powerful antioxidants in nature, it is exceptionally effective in preventing cancers, particularly of the prostate. It is also rich in both beta carotene and dietary fiber.
- 5. Mushrooms** - Several of these fungi are directly linked to reducing the risk of cancers, particularly breast cancer. It is able to do so, because it enhances the function of T cells, a part of the [immune system](#) that attacks infections or tumor cells. While there are lots of delicious species, there are also plenty of poisonous ones; you have to make sure if the mushroom you're looking at is edible or not. Some healthy choices: morel mushrooms, black chanterelle mushrooms, cauliflower mushrooms, reishi mushrooms and maitake mushrooms.
- 6. Beets** - These are exceptionally good for purifying the blood. They are rich in iron, which boosts the functionality of oxygen-carrying red blood cells. Beets also enhance the function of immunity-focused white blood cells. Last but not least, they facilitate detoxification.
- 7. Spinach** - Spinach improves immune function in two different ways. It is rich in beta carotene, a precursor of vitamin A, which increases the power of the immune system. It also contains zinc, a vital mineral that improves immunity.
- 8. Artichokes** - This vegetable contains cynarin, a powerful detoxifier. Not only does it help with liver cleansing, but it also boosts overall body response with its high B vitamin content.
- 9. Asparagus** - This vegetable has exceptional diuretic properties, which encourages the flushing out of toxins. Not only does it cleanse our body's insides, but it is also effective in countering inflammatory responses.
- 10. Bell peppers** - These vegetables, especially the red ones, are full of vitamin C. Not only do they contain a high amount

of vitamin C, but they also contain beta carotene that improves immune system function.

Some people say that the key to having a strong and sturdy body is to eat vegetables. By eating these immunity-boosting foods, your body will become sturdy indeed. (Natural News)

FROM KATIE'S COOK BOOKS

### BURRITO PIE

- 4-6 whole wheat tortillas
- 1 lb pinto or red beans
- 1 16 oz. can tomato sauce

Saute:

- 1 ½ cup chopped onions
- 1 to 2 cloves garlic chopped or ¼ tsp garlic powder
- 1 chopped bell pepper
- 1 cup celery chopped
- Pimento cashew cheese (recipe given below)

Cook beans until nearly done. Mix sautéed vegetables and tomato sauce in with cooked beans and simmer until tender and thickened. Season with sage, cumin, nutritional yeast flakes and salt to taste. Lightly oil oblong baking dish and layer with tortillas, chili bean mixture, pimento cashew cheese, chopped green onions, chopped black olives, crushed whole grain corn chips. Bake 350° until bubbly.

### Pimento Cashew Cheese

(This is the same cheese recipe that was used last month with the Macaroni & Cheese Casserole – It can be used in many casserole dishes etc.)

Blend until smooth:

- 1 cup water
- 2 Tbsp sesame seeds
- 1 ½ tsp onion powder
- 4 oz. jar pimentos, chopped
- ¼ cup oil (optional)
- 1 cup raw cashews (rinsed) or 1 cup sunflower seeds
- 3 Tbsp nutritional yeast flakes
- ¼ tsp garlic powder
- ¼ cup lemon juice or 2 fresh medium lemons juiced

God bless you and we'll see you again next month.

Remember God loves you and so do we!

Katie and Rodney Armstrong

## HALLOWEEN: ITS ORGINS AND CUSTOMS

History traces Halloween back to the ancient religion of the Celts. The Celtic people were very conscious of the spiritual world and had their own ideas of how they could gain access to it - such as by helping their over 300 gods to defeat their enemies in battle, or by imitating the gods in showing cleverness and cunning.

Their two main feasts were Beltane at the beginning of summer (May 1), and Samhain at the end of summer (Nov. 1). They believed Samhain was a time when the division between the two worlds became very thin, when hostile supernatural forces were active and ghosts and spirits were free to wander as they wished.

The Celtic priests who carried out the rituals in the open air were called Druids, members of pagan orders in Britain, Ireland and Gaul, who generally performed their rituals by offering sacrifices, usually of animals, but sometimes of humans, in order to placate the gods; ensuring that the sun would return after the winter; and frightening away evil spirits. To the Celts, the bonfire represented the sun and was used to aid the Druid in his fight with dark powers.

The term **bonfire** comes from the words "bone fire," literally meaning the bones of sacrificed animals, sometimes human, were piled in a field with timber and set ablaze. All fires except those of the Druids were extinguished on Samhain and householders were levied a fee to relight their holy fire which burned at their altars. During the Festival of Samhain, fires would be lit which would burn all through the winter and sacrifices would be offered to the gods on the fires. This practice of burning humans was stopped around 1600, and an effigy was sometimes burned instead.

Samhain was the supreme night of demonic jubilation. Spirits of the dead would rise out of their graves and wander the countryside, trying to return to the homes where they formerly lived. Frightened villagers tried to appease these wandering spirits by offering them gifts of fruit and nuts. This is the origin of our present day **"trick-or-treat."** They began the tradition of placing plates of the finest food and bits of treats that the household had to offer, on their doorsteps, as gifts, to appease the hunger of the ghostly wanderers. If not placated, villagers feared that the spirits would kill their flocks or destroy their property.

The problem was... if the souls of dead loved ones could return that night, so could anything else, human or not, nice or not-so-nice. The only thing the superstitious people knew to do to protect themselves on such an occasion was to masquerade as one of the demonic hoard, and hopefully blend in unnoticed among them.

Wearing masks and other disguises and blackening the face with soot were originally ways of hiding oneself from the spirits of the dead who might be roaming around. This is the origin of **Halloween masquerading** as devils, imps, ogres, and other demonic creatures.

**Trick or Treat** has been thought to have come from a European custom called "souling". Beggars would go from village to village begging for "soul cakes" made out of square pieces of bread with currants. The more soul cakes the beggars would receive, the more prayers they would promise to say on behalf of the dead relatives of the donors. At the time, it was believed that the dead remained in limbo for a time after death, and that prayer, even by strangers could guarantee a soul's passage to heaven.

In many parts of Britain and Ireland this night used to be known as 'Mischief Night', which meant that people were free to go around the village playing pranks and getting in to any kind of mischief without fear of being punished. Many of the different customs were taken to the United States by Irish and Scottish immigrants in the nineteenth century, and they developed into **'trick or treat'**.

When Christianity spread to parts of Europe, instead of trying to abolish these pagan customs, people tried to introduce ideas which reflected a more Christian world-view. Halloween has since become a confusing mixture of traditions and practices from pagan cultures and Christian tradition. The Romans observed the holiday of Feralia, intended to give rest and peace to the departed. Participants made sacrifices in honor of the dead, offered up prayers for them, and made oblations to them. The festival was celebrated on February 21, the end of the Roman year. In the 7th century, Pope Boniface IV introduced All Saints' Day to replace the pagan festival of the dead. It was observed on May 13.

In 834, Gregory III moved All Saint's Day from May 13 to Nov. 1 and for Christians, this became an opportunity for remembering before God all the saints who had died and all the dead in the Christian community. Oct. 31 thus became All Hallows' Eve ('hallow' means 'saint'). Sadly, though, many of the customs survived and were blended in with Christianity. Numerous folk customs connected with the pagan observances for the dead have survived to the present.

The various activities traditional to Halloween are mostly associated with the idea of obtaining good fortune and foretelling the future. The idea behind ducking, dooking or **bobbing for apples** seems to have been that snatching a bite from the apple enables the person to grasp good fortune.

The **Jack-o-lantern** is the festival light for Halloween and is the ancient symbol of a damned soul. Originally the Irish would carve out turnips or beets as lanterns as representations of the souls of the dead or goblins freed from the dead. When the Irish emigrated to America they could not find many turnips to carve into Jack O'Lanterns but they did find an abundance of pumpkins. Pumpkins seemed to be a suitable substitute for the turnips and pumpkins have been an essential part of Halloween celebrations ever since. Pumpkins were cut with faces representing demons and was originally intended to frighten away evil spirits. It was said that if a demon or such were to encounter something as fiendish looking as themselves that they'd run away in terror, thus sparing the houses dwellers from the ravages of dark entities. They would have been carried around the village boundaries or left outside the home to burn through the night.

**Bats, owls** and other nocturnal animals, also popular symbols of Halloween, were originally feared because people believed that these creatures could communicate with the spirits of the dead. **Black cats** has religious origins as well. During the Middle Ages it was believed that witches could turn themselves into black cats. Thus when such a cat was seen, it was considered to be a witch in disguise.

Witches and witchcraft are dominant themes of the holiday. Witches generally believe themselves to be followers of an ancient religion, which goes back far beyond Christianity, and which is properly called 'wicca'. Witches are really just one side of a modern revival of paganism - the following of pre-Christian nature religions, the attempt to return to worshipping ancient Norse, Greek or Celtic gods and goddesses.

The apostle Paul said Witchcraft is one of the acts of the sinful nature and those who practice it will not inherit the kingdom of God (Galatians 5:16-21; see also Revelation 22:15).

"Let no one be found among you who sacrifices his son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. Anyone who does these things is detestable to the LORD, and because of these detestable practices the LORD your God will drive out those nations before you. You must be blameless before the LORD your God. The nations you will dispossess listen to those who practice sorcery or divination. But as for you, the LORD your God has not permitted you to do so." [Deut. 18:10-14]

## SHOULD CHRISTIANS ADOPT SUCH PRACTICES?

"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." [Romans 12:2]

Can we borrow the pagan customs and superstitions of ancient peoples and "Christianize" them?

"Test everything. Hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil." [1 Thessalonians 5:21-22]

Who can deny that virtually all of the symbols of Halloween are evil? Witches, monsters, ogres, vampires, ghosts, ghouls, goblins, devils and demons all portray evil.

"And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them." [Ephesians 5:11]

The sort of practices celebrated on Halloween are what defiled the ancient nations [see Leviticus 18:24-30]. The Israelites were warned against such practices when they entered the Promised Land,

"When thou art come into the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations." [Deut. 18:9]

Is Halloween just another innocent holiday that doesn't harm anyone? Is it really just childish fun? Should the church be compromised by accommodating itself to the culture? Vandalism and wanton disregard for the property of others is common on Halloween night. Even normally well-behaved children are driven by unseen forces to destructive behavior. Police officials everywhere report a great increase in such activities on Halloween.

Worse yet are the horrifying accounts of poisoned candy and fruits booby-trapped with razor blades and needles. Such threats are so real that many hospitals offer free X-rays of Halloween treats in order to prevent children from being harmed. Who but Satan could inspire such monstrous actions?

As an alternative to the celebration of evil and death, Christians should rather do what Christians are supposed to do every day and that is shine the light of Jesus Christ.

When America and the world celebrates the Festival of Samhain and the powers of darkness by masquerading as evil creatures or decorating our homes, schools, businesses and churches with occult symbols, **Satanic power is glorified.**

While you may have participated "all in fun," be assured, **Halloween is serious business for Satanists and witches.** Those who oppose Christ are known to organize on Halloween to observe satanic rituals, to cast spells, to oppose churches and families, to perform sacrilegious acts, and to even offer blood sacrifices to Satan. As evil prevails, Americans have embraced an evil day of Satan, with the pranks of 'would be' hoodlums,

combined with 'demon faces' on pumpkins, clothing of 'death' being worn, and calling it fun. **When Christians participate in Halloween, it sends a message to children that witchcraft, demonism, Satanism, and the occult are something fun, entertaining and harmless.**

Many years ago, C.S. Lewis wrote that one of Satan's most deceptive tactics is to convince people that he doesn't exist. Apparently he has done a good job in his deception. Sadly, many people think of the devil as no more than a symbol of evil: like Santa Claus, he is just a fictional symbol. Many people today also do not think of witches as real people who practice magic, but simply as imaginary figures who represent the supernatural world and everything that is 'spooky.' Recognizing this pagan holiday gives the false impression that what is actually lethal is innocuous. Some children develop a fascination with the supernatural which leads them later into more sinister occult practices. It's the spiritual equivalent of painting a loaded gun to look like a toy and giving it to child to play with.

It is the kind of celebration that encourages kids like the 16-year-old in Pearl, Mississippi who stabbed his mother to death in her sleep and then opened fire at his high school, killing two students and wounding seven. Authorities found this student along with at least six others involved in a small, avowedly satanic clique that calls itself "Kroth."

How can some people defend this kind of activity as just another innocent holiday that doesn't harm anyone?

**"Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed."** [John 3:19-20]

**Central to Satan's goals is the widespread acceptance of the supernatural, including the occult, on the part of North Americans, accompanied by a great revival of spiritism all over the world.**

Over the last 30 years, the occult has moved into the mainstream of America - in television, movies, magazines, business, and various aspects of daily life. Movies, books, magazines and encyclopedias of the supernatural have abounded. Turn on your TV and hear from the ever-present "Psychic Friends" hotline, or see lead characters in TV shows meet their "spirit guide." Entire bookstores devoted to the occult have become common. Universities regularly offer courses on witchcraft and magic - usually the so-called "white" variety. Myriads of mystical Eastern religions, bizarre and often demonic, have invaded North America and found in most cases an amazing responsiveness.

Increasingly the curriculum in many public schools is becoming a primer in occultism. Impressions, a curriculum used in many school districts instructs teachers and students in how to cast spells. One teacher's manual reads, "Tell the children that a magician has cast a spell on some children. Have them work in pairs to write the magic spell the magician used. Have each pair write another spell to reverse the first spell. Have them chant their spells." About 16,000 school districts use the Pumsey the Dragon curriculum, by Jill Anderson. Many of the relaxation techniques used are identical to those used in hypnosis. Another curriculum called Duso the Dolphin employs relaxation techniques and sends hypnotized youngsters off on guided fantasies to a place called Aquatron.

Recently, a California skateboard manufacturer used a package enclosure similar in appearance to a gospel tract to encourage purchasers to sell their souls to the devil. The brochure titled, "Let's Make a Deal" has a smiley-faced devil who explains to "Flame Boy" what happened in heaven after he was banished: "First off, they set up a bunch of dumb rules, and then they imposed a really strict dress code. I'll wager that people must be quite bored up there, but hey, that's what they get for being good." He contrasts this with, "Flame Boy, even a dimwit like you can see that hell is by far the best place to retire. Just look at all the fun to be had."

Children are asked to sign and return a contract, by which they give possession of their souls to the devil for eternity.

Satanism has become a phenomena that crosses the city limit into the rural areas of our nation. It is reported there are some 6000 witches, and approximately 10 million people are involved in the occult. However, it is very difficult to establish how many actually participate. These individuals are involved in a wide variety of activities from simply casting spells to human sacrifice.

The news wires carry story after story about young children being kidnapped, only to be found later as victims of some bizarre ritualistic crime.

As satanic involvement among our youth increases, we begin to see the primary goal of such activity.

According to Scripture (2 Cor. 4:4; Rev. 12:9), **Satan's goal is to deceive man by blinding him to the truth of the gospel and to receive worship for himself.**

(Matt. 4:9; Isa. 14:12-14). It has become clear that the primary goal is to alter an individual's values and turn him against himself, his beliefs, family, God and society.

**"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."** [1 Peter 5:8]

Young satanists believe the strong will rule with Satan. Once an individual becomes involved, they often make

a pact with Satan. They commit themselves to a future date when they will take their own lives by suicide. They believe if they submit themselves to Satan in death, they will come back in another life as a stronger being and rule with him forever. According to recent statistics, fourteen young people a day take their own lives.

What's wrong with Halloween? It does **not have even one single redeeming virtue**. It is custom born out of pagan superstition. It is a demon-inspired, devil-glorifying, occult festival. It is an evening holy unto evil, death, and divination. The Scriptures tells us to "**Abstain from all appearance of evil.**" [1Thess. 5:22]

Wake up Christian! This is the night of evil and **those who love the Lord Jesus Christ should have nothing to do with it! \*\*\***

### NOTABLE NEWS UNCHARITABLE CHARITIES

An investigation by CNN, the Tampa Bay Times and the Center for Investigative Reporting recently exposed what the three label "America's Worst Charities." What these charities have in common, according to CNN, is that all "devote less than 4 percent of donations raised to direct cash aid." They also pay outside solicitors large amounts to raise donations.

For example, KIDS WISH NETWORK, which raises millions each year ostensibly to help dying children, earned the dubious distinction of worst of the worst. "In the past decade alone, KIDS WISH has channeled nearly 110 million donated for sick children to **its corporate solicitors**. An additional \$4.8 million has gone to pay **the charity's founder and his own consulting firms**. No charity in the nation has siphoned more money away from the needy over a longer period of time."

**#1 Kids Wish Network** raised \$127.8 million, paid to solicitors \$109.8 million with 2.5% for direct aid.

**#2 Cancer Fund of America** raised \$98 million, paid to solicitors \$80.4 million with 0.9% for direct aid.

**#3 Children's Wish Foundation** raised \$96.8 million paid to solicitors \$63.6 with 10.8% for direct aid.

**#4 American Breast Cancer Foundation** raised 80.8 million paid to solicitors 59.8 million with 5.3% for direct aid

**#5 Firefighters Charitable Foundation** raised 63.8 million paid to solicitors 54.7 million with 8.4 % for direct aid (Thanks to Pat Cain for this article)

This is just a list of 5 notable charitable institutions. My thought is how many others are doing the same thing? (Years ago my mother donated to United Fund until she learned that only 10% of the money collected actually went to the intended use. I have also heard in the past that the Boy and Girl Scouts only get about 10% of the money collected from their cookie sales for their own use. I never really knew if this information was accurate or not, but now I believe it to be accurate if it is anything like these 5 charities! We wonder... why is there so much fraud and deceit in this world? However, most of us know it is because of sin in the form of selfishness and greed.

### GOD BLESS THEM ALL

God bless the homeless who live on the street  
Without a warm bed or shoes on their feet.  
They have no shelter from rain, cold or night,  
And no one will offer comfort or light.

God bless the hungry with too little pay  
To feed all their children day after day.  
They get no respect; their dreams don't come true,  
For they do the work that others won't do.

God bless the aged, the sick and the lame,  
Who silently suffer with no claim to fame.  
Unwanted, forgotten, abused and alone....  
There's no way to measure the pain they have known.

God bless the lonely, the friendless and poor,  
The deformed and ugly who try to endure.  
God bless the widowed, the orphans who cry  
And don't understand the who, when or why.

They've known every sorrow that falls upon earth  
While seeking to find a purpose and worth.  
God bless them all, wherever they roam,  
And give them peace till He calls them home.

Clay Harrison



## Conquering Self

Have you heard it said that “self” is your own worst enemy? Or the battle with “self” is the hardest battle we will ever fight?

We sometimes blame the devil for many of our problems when they are caused by **our** dumb selfish decisions!

If “self” is to be conquered we need a power outside of ourselves because “self” will not on its own cast out “self”. Satan cannot cast out Satan and “self” will not and cannot cast out “self.”

If we are going to make it to God’s eternal kingdom, “self” must die. It is imperative for us to become selfless as Jesus was selfless.

Selfishness is a character trait we were all born with. It was inherited from our fallen first parents who received it from Lucifer when they sinned.

Baptism is symbolic of the death and burial of the Old Man of self and the coming up out of the water is symbolic of the resurrection of a new person in Christ.

When we give our hearts to Jesus self is supposed to die. Why then are Christians still selfish? Could it be that we are only **half**-converted?

The devil cannot force anyone to do anything, he can suggest, he can tempt but **he cannot** make us do anything wrong.

“Submit yourselves therefore to God. **Resist the devil**, and he will flee from you.” James 4:7

God has given to each of us a mind and the power of choice. We can and must choose to let the only one that is capable of conquering self have the reins of our hearts and that is Jesus.

Jesus said, “If ye love me, keep my commandments.” John 14:15

A person with self on the throne of his or heart cannot and will not be able to keep God’s commandments

because keeping the commandments is all about being selfless and loving Jesus.

Go to the 20<sup>th</sup> chapter of Exodus and read the commandments and you will find this statement to be true.

I will submit to you the fact that if you will be able to keep the fourth commandment (the Sabbath commandment) the other nine will be no problem to keep because we love Jesus more than self.

The Sabbath commandment denotes a love relationship with Jesus; It is a courtship, We have a date with Jesus each Sabbath that lasts 24 hours.

God placed the “Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil” in the Garden of Eden to be a test to Adam and Eve to see if they would be faithful to Him.

The Sabbath is a test for us, the last day people, to see if we will be faithful to Him.

We will not be able to do this if we love self more than Jesus.

The 58<sup>th</sup> chapter of Isaiah is about selflessness and Sabbath keeping.

“Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke? Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?” Isaiah 58:6,7

**There is a tremendous blessing in being selfless.**

“Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine **health** shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the LORD shall be thy reward.

Then shalt thou call, and the LORD shall answer; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here am I. If thou take away from the midst of thee the yoke, the putting forth of the finger, and speaking vanity;” Isaiah 58:8, 9

“And if thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; **then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noon day:”** Isaiah 58:10

And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: **and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.”** Isaiah 58:11

“And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in.

**“If thou turn away thy foot from the Sabbath from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words:**

**Then shalt thou delight thyself in the LORD; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.” Isaiah 58: 13, 14**

**In Verse 13 we find we are to honor Him by not doing our own ways or finding our own pleasure or speaking our own words on His Sabbath.**

**They say confession is good for the soul. I have been a member of at least 13 churches through the years and I can witness that the majority of people I knew were involved in conversations that were not suited for the Sabbath and I myself am guilty.**

**We go to church and see people that we only see on the Sabbath and we have a tendency to keep them up to date on what we are doing and it often infringes on our being faithful to our God.**

**The Sabbath is a day when our undivided attention should be in delighting ourselves in the Lord and keeping our minds focused on spiritual things.**

**Would you like to live in a community or world where everyone looks out for the interests of everyone else?**

**We would not need to have locks on our doors. There would be no need for policemen, or lawyers or judges. The only law we would need would be the law of God.**

**We would love God and Jesus supreme and there would be no idols. There would be no other gods before us. There would be no taking of his name in vain.**

**Everyone would delight in being with Jesus on His Sabbaths and always our conversations would be pure.**

**We would honor our parents and not put them to shame by our disobedience.**

**There would be no killing, no stealing, no adultery or fornication, no lying or false witnessing and no covetousness.....What a wonderful community or world that would be! No one would take advantage of anyone. It sounds too good to be true but there is a place just as I described and I want to invite each of you to**

**let Jesus make you selfless so we all can be there together.**

**Will you choose to let God take self from your heart and replace it with the love of Jesus?**

**When this happens to a person they always start looking for ways to bless and help others.**

**May God bless and help each of you in your battle with self.**

## **Selfishness**

Search history, my boy, and see  
What petty selfishness has done. Find if you can one  
victory

That little minds have ever won.  
There is no record there to read  
Of men who fought for self alone,  
No instance of a single deed  
Splendor they may proudly own.

Through all life's story you will find  
The miser—with his hoarded gold—  
A hermit, dreary and unkind,  
An outcast from the human fold.  
Men hold him up to view with scorn,  
A creature by his wealth enslaved,  
A spirit craven and forlorn,  
Doomed by the money he has saved.

No man was ever truly great Who sought to serve himself alone,

Who put himself above the state,  
Above the friends about him thrown.  
No man was ever truly glad  
Who risked his joy on hoarded pelf,  
And gave of nothing that he had  
Through fear of needing it himself.

For selfishness is wintry cold,  
And bitter are its joys at last,  
The very charms it tries to hold,  
With woes are quickly overcast.  
And only he shall gladly live,  
And bravely die when God shall call,  
Who gathers but that he may give,  
And with his fellows shares his all.

Edgar Albert Guest





