



Elmira
 Seventh-day Adventist Church
 Newsletter
 Special Weekly Edition
 April 12, 2020



PASTOR'S CORNER

‘Lift Him Up!’

Scripture Reading – John 12:27-33

We are in the Judgment Day, so be watchful, be sure to pray. For in the silence of the grave, is no repentance or a praise. Before probation's door slams shut, joy in Jesus, and "Lift Him Up!"

I hear a term out there “Don’t judge me. But the new Coronavirus acts as all three: judge, executioner and the jury. Wake up then, everybody! You could die before I count 1, 2, 3. Jesus said watch, and be ready.

But instead of being ready we seek someone to blame. Now, this contagious virus is not so easy to tame. So take your salvation seriously, as life is not a game.

Awake, O soul, death angel draws near.
 Run to the Ark of refuge the end's getting near
 Look out! Look out! The plague is upon us.
 Fear not weary one, just lift Jesus up.
 Be not like the thoughtless,
 The careless, and the callous
 Who only seek God, to argue, fight, and fuss.

A wicked devil they excuse,
 The loving God they accuse.
 Is it some crazy kind of ruse?
 Life & death are before you,
 Which is the one that will you choose?

My, friends, the hour is late. The time is at hand. The “Time of the End” began way back in 1798. That was the year that the end-time beast of Bible prophecy received the deadly wound. 1798 was the year that the long 1260 years of tyrannical reign by the end time beast came to a significant pause. 1798 was the same

that God’s two witnesses of Revelation 11 were martyred. Since then, we have moved on from the “Time of the End” to the very “End of Time.” Revelation 10:6 says “there should be delay no longer.” NKJV. In the KJV, it simply says, “There should be time no longer.”

If you should prayerfully study Daniel 8:14, you will discover something real special. That symbolic time prophecy of 2300 evenings & mornings ran from the year 457 BC to the year 1844 AD. Since the autumn or fall of 1844, humanity is living on borrowed time. The house of God is constituted of professed believers in God. They are already entered into God’s Investigative Judgement Day. Look with me at I Peter 4:17-18.

“For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God. And if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? Now ‘If the righteous one is scarcely saved, where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?’”

Popular beliefs like Universalism is a sham. It is a deception. Everyone will not be going to heaven. Those who enter God’s heaven are the faithful few. Like those who keep God’s Commandments and the faith of Jesus too.

You can take it from Peter. He was supposedly the first pope. That aside, Peter said “For the time has come for judgment to begin [WHERE] at the house of God. And if it begins with us first, what will be the

end [or the outcome] of those who do not obey the gospel of God?”

They will be lost. Those who do not obey the gospel of God will be lost. Now, what is this gospel of God? This is where we all should get excited. This is where we get to lift up Jesus. Jesus is the Gospel embodied. He is the Epitome of the gospel. The good news about this same Jesus Christ is the gospel proclaimed. Romans 1:16. But what is so important about Jesus? Matthew 1:21. “ And she shall bring forth a Son, and thou shalt call His name Jesus: for He shall save His people from their sins.”

Firstly, the Bible says in Romans 3:23, “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

That disqualifies any ordinary human being from being able to save themselves or to save others in matters of salvation.

Secondly, the Bible says in Romans 6:23a, “For the wages of sin is death.”

Thirdly, the Bible says in Romans 6:23b “But the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Can any human being be saved apart from Jesus Christ, or, regardless of their religion? Acts 4:10-12,

“Let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole.

This is the ‘stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.’

Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

There is no other name like Jesus.

By the way, here are some qualifiers why Jesus is the only Saviour for Christians, Muslims, Jews, and all humanity alike.

1. Jesus Christ is only person to manifest in human

flesh, who never sinned, not even once. Hebrews 4:15 “For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.”

2. Jesus is both divine and human. Jesus was both God and human at one and the same time. Paul calls it the mystery of Godliness.

Paul said in I Timothy 3:14-16

“These things I write to you, though I hope to come to you shortly;

but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit,

Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory.”

There is a powerful feeling of euphoria and warmth whenever we stop long enough to look into this truth. So, let us Lift up Jesus. Let us put all our energy in. Let us place our entire trust in Jesus. Let us bend every nerve heaven-ward and “Lift Him Up!”

Friends, we can count on God. He always does right. Now, what is sad to see is there are still so many people who have never heard the good news. Some are right here in America. Some are right there in your neighborhood. Some are right here in this land. Yet there are statistics that boast of how many Christians there are in this country and around the world. But could it be that much of the Christianity we encounter or experience is bogus?

Could it be that we are largely Christians in name only? Could it be that we are only Christians when crisis comes or tragedies strike? Could your Christianity stand the scrutiny of Christ’s searching eyes? Could your Christianity stand the test of the Bible? Friends, we can play church no longer. We must get serious now. We must be wide awake for Christ, now. I am here today to lift up Jesus. And I am

inviting everyone out there to let us all "Lift Him Up!"

I have made grave mistakes in my short life and sinful choices too. How about you? You know, all it takes is for you to fall asleep on the job. One unguarded moment could set your life back by many years. One unguarded moment could blunt your perception and numb your reason. One unguarded moment could cloud your judgment. One unguarded moment has the potential to significantly damage and hurt your walk with God. Now, Solomon observed, which observation he wrote in Proverbs 24:16,

“For a righteous man may fall seven times and rise again, but the wicked shall fall by calamity.”

So my earnest appeal today is for you to take a fresh look at the Christ of Scriptures.

Over the last few Sabbaths, we were told to "Hold On!" So never give up. We saw how Jesus told raging winds and life-threatening waves to "Shut Up" We know that God has power over the mother of all viruses which is sin. So we can easily deduce that God has power over the COVID-19 too. That too must pass. No virus is here to stay Even sin is quarantined here.

But a great danger lies in fake preachers and false apostles who pretend to control God. God is not at our beck and call. God does not move on our timetable or at our bidding. Some actors in the preaching arena pretend to "Command in the name of Jesus." They are free to do all they want. But I know that God has a choice. He chooses when to act. It is outrageous how some prosperity preachers and others want to command God but the very same ones are not sensible enough to let God command them. They fight against God's Ten Commandments. They tell their congregations that God's Ten Commandments are done away with. But that is a lie from the depths of Satan. It is deception. God's Law of Ten Commandments is as binding now, as it was in the Garden of Eden or when God thundered them from Mt. Sinai. Let us lift up Jesus in His law. "Lift Him Up!"

By the way, if you ever wanted to know the true Sabbath, this "Easter" weekend is the perfect

giveaway! Good Friday and each Friday is Preparation Day. Holy Saturday follows. Every Saturday is God's Holy Sabbath. And on the day after the Sabbath came Resurrection Sunday. The Bible calls it the first day of the week. Just check Luke 23:50 through to Luke 24:1.

Now, will you accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour today? He is the only One who can save you from your sins.

Use this moment today, to totally consecrate yourself to Christ. Lift Him Up in your life. Lift Him Up in everything you do. Lift Him Up in every opportunity you get. Just lift Him up.

Cast all your cares on Jesus today. Jesus cares for you. Tell Christ all about your fears, your worries, and wants. Lavish your thanksgiving and your thank offerings upon Him. Heap your praises upon the Almighty. God cares for you. Give God credit for your successes. Those who walk with God have heavenly peace.

Is it your desire to walk with God today? Do you need further Bible studies? Do you need to get baptized soon and to join God's remnant church? Have you been putting off a full surrender to Jesus Christ? Well, now is the time. Christ will accept you today, even if you only moved because you are fearful of those things coming upon the world. Still, Jesus will take you and save you. God has sent this message for you today.

As we close, I would like to draw your attention to a few passages of scripture.

John 8:12-32

John 3:12-15, & 16

John 12:27-33

For a good dose of fear: watch the news. For a great dose of hope: watch the Lamb. Jesus Christ is the same Saviour yesterday, today and forever. Lift Him Up.

Elder Waren Muir

CHURCH NEWS



CHURCH SERVICES

All services and luncheons at the church are currently suspended until further notice due to the Covid-19 Coronavirus.

Join us on Facebook at 11:30 AM Sabbath mornings for livestreaming of the church service.

<https://www.facebook.com/vhsda>

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

You may donate via www.adventistgiving.org.



APRIL OFFERING SCHEDULE

April 18	Local Church Budget
April 25	New York Excel

Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter is for the Trans-European Division.



SUNSET SCHEDULE

Friday	April 17 – 7:51 PM
Sabbath	April 18 – 7:52 PM

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE



A blood drive is scheduled for Tuesday afternoon, April 14 from 1:30 – 6:30. Blood drives are considered essential services and the blood supply is currently extremely low due to COVID-19. If possible, we will plan to go ahead with this drive. Donation Types: Double Red Cell and Whole Blood.

VISION 2020: EACH ONE REACH ONE FOR CHRIST

Let us, each one, make it our goal to be used of God to lead at least one person to surrender their lives to Jesus Christ in the coming year.



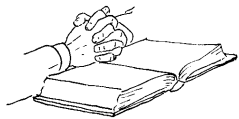
TEN-FIFTEEN

Remember to spend at least ten minutes praying and fifteen minutes studying God's word each day.

*A knowledge of the truth
depends not so much upon strength of intellect as upon pureness of purpose,
the simplicity of an earnest, dependent faith.
To those who in humility of heart seek for divine guidance, angels of God draw near.
The Holy Spirit is given to open to them the rich treasures of the truth.
Christ's Object Lessons, p. 59*

SABBATH SCHOOL

During the second quarter, our Sabbath School lessons are "How to Study Scripture." Be sure to continue your study at home while we are not able to meet together. This week's study (Lesson 3) is entitled "Jesus and the Apostles' View of the Bible."



Texts for this week's study: Matthew 4:1-11; Matthew 22:37-40; Luke 24:13-35, 44, 45; Luke 4:25-27; Acts 4:24-26.

Memory text: *But He answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. Matthew 4:4.*

*Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy,
and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.
Revelation 1:3*

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE – During our time of "sheltering in place" because of the Coronavirus, we will be planning to send out a weekly newsletter, including Elder Muir's sermon notes. Any other news of interest or articles should be submitted by Sunday evening.

CONTACT Sharon and Jim Reynolds at 734-1560 with newsletter information. You may also send your articles to: 813 Maple Avenue, Elmira, NY 14904, or e-mail us at newsletter@elmirasda.com. Please limit your articles to approximately one half to one full page. Please take note of the season, if your article is seasonal. All articles should properly acknowledge the author and include permission to print.



*For I determined
not to know any thing among you,
save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.*

1 Corinthians 2:2

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED