



Partnership with God!

Whenever I travel, part of my sightseeing is to visit different churches. I always admired the architecture and the different styles from different eras in Europe. Especially the catholic churches are very rich in architecture style and decorations.

As we were traveling this fall, once again we visited a few churches. We were in an Orthodox church in Athens and as I was admiring the interior of the church one lady caught my attention. She had a rosary in her hand, and she was murmuring something. There were pictures of “saints” placed all around the room. This Lady was going from picture to picture and she was kissing them.

Then we were watching this young couple. They came in and purchased a candle. There was a place where they could light it, than they placed it among a lot of other candles lit by other people. After that they also kissed the pictures, did the sign of the cross and left the church, most likely thinking that they have worshiped God and that they are set for another week or two -- maybe more.

As I was watching these people, I felt pity for them, but also warmth and gratitude filled my heart. I felt so fortunate to have and to know a living personal God. A God Who does not reside in a church only, and Who is not interested in formalities, but rather in a close personal relationship.

There is a popular song, it's text has always bothered me. The phrase “God is watching from a distance” is repeated over and over again. I am so grateful that we have a personal God. A God Who wants to be part of our lives down to the smallest detail. He does not just sits on His throne in Heaven and watches to see whether we are good, or bad and waits for us to fail so He can pounce on us. He is not sitting and waiting in the church for us to drop in and do a few formalities -- a few acts of worship. He wants to have a close relationship with us, and He wants us to include Him in all aspects of our lives.

The experts say that a good relationship has to be give and take. Our relationship with God needs to be give and take also! Not because God wants **us** to give Him something, but it is for our own benefit, that we may receive a blessing. Everything we have comes from God, the only two things we can give Him is our worship (our relationship with Him), and our labor that we do in His service.

It always amazes me that in spite of the fact that human beings have always been boldly rebellious, incredibly disrespectful towards God, He did not wipe us off from the face of the earth. In fact God does not only forgives those who repent, but instead offers them a low position of sub-ordinates, He offers them to be His children. We will not understand the magnitude of this offer until we see His glory from face to face. Also He could do the work of saving souls Himself, or He could designate the work to angels, or He could make us His slaves and force us to labor, but in stead He offers partnership to us in laboring for lost souls. Again

we will not understand the full magnitude of His offer until we will study the plan of salvation throughout eternity. Part of the problem why we don't understand is also due to the fact that our value system is corrupted.

Every time as I am setting up our table at the Farmers Market to hand out books, it amuses me to watch people. Our stand is close to one of the gates. The gates are open early to let the vendors in and then they close them and they do not let the public in until 8:15 am. By that time a nice little crowd gathers and they are anxiously waiting for the opening. When the gate finally opens the people rush in like there is some kind of treasure to be found and they all want to be the first to get to it.

They reach our table and as they see the big attractive signs of "Free Books and Bible Studies" they.... rush by with their heads turned to the other direction, or they are looking down to the ground. They want to get to the "real" treasure of fruits and vegetables, and used -- excuse me -- pre-owned stuff.

This last Thursday morning I was witnessing the same scene and it made me think of the fact, that we human beings do the same thing every single day of our lives. We trade true treasure for perishable things and pre-owned stuff. We let Satan deceive us and convince us that all these things are more valuable than what God is offering us, and we make the trade more often than not. We make the trade because we do not have a clear concept of the value of heavenly things. We are all too familiar with the earthly values, but we do not study enough to realize the value of Heavenly things.

God is standing by with His very attractive free offer -- an unbelievable value, and we rush by Him to get to the perishable, pre-owned items. And we don't realize what a terrible deal we just made, because we do not study and pray enough to be familiar with God's incredible offer.

God is offering membership in His royal family. He is also offering the most incredible job opportunity. He is offering partnership. He wants us to be co-laborers with Him. The best job opportunity we can dream up and hope for! It is not a bothersome obligation, but rather the greatest privilege offered to any human being -- to be co-laborers **WITH** God!

Let us all pray and plead with the Lord and ask Him to straighten out our value system. Let us ask Him to help us make sensible choices and not trade eternal for perishing pre-owned stuff.

Please read the enclosed quotes entitled "Exalted Privilege", and please share these appeal letters with all your family and Christian friends!

Let us accept Gods offer for co-partnership! Let us use every opportunity to hasten His return!

The Lord wants that everyone should be saved.

"For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come to the knowledge of the truth."

I Timothy 2:3-4



Exalted Privilege

“Let man now cease to trust in man. While they should respect God's plan for unity of action, let all remember that the Holy Spirit is molding and fashioning the human agent in the divine similitude. The life that is hid with Christ in God is revealed through men. We are now living in the closing scenes of this world's history. **Let men tremble with the sense of the responsibility of knowing the truth.** The ends of the world are come. **Proper consideration of these things will lead all to make an entire consecration of all that they have and are to their God.** There should be no boasting, no seeking for the highest places; but **all should be ambitious to do with fidelity, with an eye single to the glory of God, the sacred work which it is our exalted privilege to engage in.** The eye

should not be so constantly looking to man, studying the plans which men devise; but rather seeking for a knowledge of the plans which are determined by the Source of all wisdom. Then there will be no danger of having plans for work contaminated by flowing through impure human channels. **Look to God; pray to God; wait and watch and pray to God; work for God. The weighty obligation of warning a world of its coming doom is upon us. From every direction, far and near, calls are coming to us for help.** The church, devotedly consecrated to the work, is to carry the message to the world: Come to the gospel feast; the supper is prepared, come. The weak must not now trust in finite men if they would be as David, and David as the angel of the Lord. **If we have ever importuned God, wrestling for His blessing as did Jacob, let it be now.** God calls to the church to arise and clothe herself with the garments of Christ's righteousness. Crowns, immortal crowns, are to be won. The kingdom of heaven is to be gained. A world, perishing in sin, is to be enlightened. The lost pearl is to be found. The lost sheep is to be brought back in safety to the fold. Who will join in the search? Who will bear the light to those who are wandering in the darkness of error!”

Advent Review and Sabbath Herald -DT- 07-23-1895

“All heaven is interested in the work going on in this world, which is to prepare men and women for the future, immortal life. **It is God's plan the human agencies shall have the high honor of acting as co-workers with Jesus Christ in the salvation of souls.** The word of God plainly reveals that it is the privilege of the instrument in this great work to realize that there is One at his right hand ready to aid him in every sincere endeavor to reach the highest moral and spiritual excellence in the Master's work. This will be the case with all who feel their need of help. They should look upon the work of God as sacred and holy, and should bring to Him, every day, offerings of joy and gratitude, in return for the power of His grace, by which they are enabled to make advancement in the divine life. The worker should ever take humble views of himself, considering his many lost opportunities for want of diligence and appreciation of the work. He should not become discouraged, but should continually renew his efforts to redeem the time.” Testimonies for the Church Volume Five -PG- 573-574

“Today as then angels are waiting to lead men to their fellow men. An angel showed Philip where to find the Ethiopian, who was so ready to receive the truth, and today angels will guide and direct the footsteps of those workers who will allow the Holy Spirit to sanctify their tongues, and refine and ennoble their hearts. **The angel sent to Philip could himself have done the work for the Ethiopian, but this is not God's way of working. It is His plan that men are to work for their fellow men.**” Advent Review and Sabbath Herald -DT- 03-02-1911

“The Lord has given His church a special work of personal service to do. **God could have sent angels to work for the reformation of man, but He did not do this. Humanity must touch humanity.** The church is the Lord's instrumentality. He works through those who are willing to be worked. If the church had cherished a sense of her accountability, fervent, earnest messengers would have carried the truth to countries far and near. God's living word would have been preached in every corner of the earth.”

Advent Review and Sabbath Herald -DT- 04-26-1898

“Your work, my brother, does not show that you have realized that your obligations are sacred and weighty. I have been shown that you are capable of doing much better work than you have done, and that God requires more and better work at your hands. He requires integrity and faithfulness. **The work of saving souls is the highest and noblest ever entrusted to mortal man; and you should allow nothing to come in between you and this sacred work to absorb your mind and confuse your judgment.** One standing in the responsible position that you occupy should make eternal interests first, and temporal matters of secondary importance. You are an ambassador for Christ; and you should encourage those under your charge to seek for higher spiritual attainments, to live holier and purer lives. In your efforts to save souls from perdition and to build up the church in truth and righteousness, you should use tact, wisdom, and the power that it is your privilege to have through constant communion with God. God requires this of you and of every other minister engaged in His work. You should show your loyalty to your crucified Redeemer by acting as though you realized that you have a solemn charge to present every man perfect in Christ Jesus, wanting in nothing.”

Testimonies for the Church Volume Five -PG- 371-372

“Someone must fulfill the commission of Christ; someone must carry on the work which He began to do on earth; and the church has been given this privilege. For this purpose it has been organized. Why, then, have not church members accepted the responsibility? There are those who have seen this great neglect; they have seen the needs of many who are in suffering and want; they have recognized in these poor souls those for whom Christ gave His life, and their hearts have been stirred with pity, every energy has been roused to action. They have entered upon a work of organizing those who will co-operate with them in bringing the truth of the gospel before many who are now in vice and iniquity, that they may be redeemed from a life of dissipation and sin. Those who have been engaged in this Christian help work have been doing what the Lord desires to have done, and He has accepted their labors. **That which has been done in this line is a work which every Seventh-day Adventist should heartily sympathize with and indorse, and take hold of earnestly. In neglecting this work which is within their own borders, in refusing to bear these burdens, the church is meeting with great loss.** Had the church taken up this work as they should have done, they would have been the means of saving many souls.”

Testimonies for the Church Volume Six -PG- 295

“Daniel honored God in the courts of Babylon. He was surrounded by temptations to indulge appetite. Luxury was on every side, but he would not suffer himself to be enticed to selfish gratification. Those who were accounted honorable in the kingdom were self-indulgent. They gratified appetite and passion, and king commanded that Daniel should follow their example; but the servant of God purposed in his heart that he would be true and loyal to his Master. Says the Scripture, *‘Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king’s meat, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.’* He would not yield the principles of his religion, and God gave him knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom. The youth of today, if they will stand fast and unwavering to the truth, will receive heavenly wisdom, and God will pour upon them His richest blessing. We desire to see our people growing in grace, and in the knowledge of our Savior Jesus Christ. He loves you, and longs to bless you, and to increase your faith and your knowledge of Himself. But in order that He may do this for you, you must live for God. There are many who are becoming anxious to understand the claims of God’s law, and you must do your best to be a light and an example to them. Do not depend on the ministers to do all the work in your church and neighborhood. **The pastors must seek the lost sheep, and you must help them; and while the ministers are called to labor in other parts of the vineyard, the people of God must have light in themselves, speaking to each other in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in our hearts and making melody unto the Lord. While you should respect the ministers highly for their work’s sake, you must not trust them as your saviors, but build yourselves up in the most holy faith. When you assemble in the house of God, tell your experiences, and you will grow stronger. While you speak in meeting, you are gaining an education that will enable you to labor for others. **What a precious privilege it is to bring souls to Christ. It is the greatest work that mortals can do, for in so doing they are co-laborers with God. But of ourselves we can do nothing. If we try to work in our own strength, we shall fail completely. Jesus came to our world to bring divine power to combine with human effort. When God unites His power with man’s effort, the work is brought to perfection.** God wants to do great things for His people; and if we only have faith in Him, He will work for us mightily.”**

Advent Review and Sabbath Herald -DT- 05-07-1889

“The Jews had built up walls of separation between themselves and other nations, and the brethren of Christ were angry because He did not heed the prescribed boundaries, but mingled with all classes of people. Through childhood, youth, and manhood Christ walked alone. In His purity, in His faithfulness, He trod the winepress alone; and of the people there was none with Him. **But now it is our privilege to act a part in the work and mission of Christ.** We may wear the yoke with Him, and be laborers together with God. **To whatever work we are called, Christ will work with us and in our behalf. He is doing all that is possible to set us free, and to make our cramped and narrow lives broad and efficient. He would have us recognize our responsibility, and realize that in shunning our work we are incurring great loss.** In His day He saw many that were falling far below their **privilege of usefulness.** To the indolent He said, ‘*Why stand ye here all the day idle?*’”

The Signs of the Times -DT- 08-06-1896

“How many feel as did the servant with the one talent, that the Lord is an austere man, reaping where He has not sown, and gathering where He has not strewn. This view of the matter is a delusion of the wicked one; for what have we that we did not receive? ‘*All things come of Thee, and of Thine own have we given Thee.*’ should be the language of our grateful hearts. Those who are engrossed in the service of self and the world, feel a spirit of grudging when they are urged to devote their service to the God of love. They give to the world their best thought, their tact, their talents, their means, their influence. When self is served, they do not withhold anything, but give their lives for the passing pleasures of earth. **But when it comes to the service of God, do men manifest the same zeal for His work as they formerly manifested in the service of the world? Do they put the tact and talent and aptness into the work of saving souls, that they displayed in the selfish work of the past, and yet does not reason tell us that the work for God is as far above the service of the world, as the heaven is higher than the earth? God would have every one of us feel that now is the time of golden opportunity and privilege.** Heaven’s blessings are showered upon us. The precious hours of probation are still prolonged. The Lord has waited long for us to prepare for the eternal world. We must seek the Spirit of Christ, Who gave Himself for us. We must go out and seek to win others, as He has won us. **Every word you speak, every action you perform, has an influence for good or evil upon those who associate with you; and, oh! how necessary it is that you have Christ dwelling in your heart by faith, that your words may be words of life, and your works, the works of love. The words and deeds of the Christian are ordained to form a part of the great plan that God has devised for the salvation of lost man.** The Lord has directed the world to His professed followers, and He has declared, ‘*By their fruits ye shall know them.*’ If we would work from the high standpoint of pleasing our Heavenly Father, we would be in harmony with the spirit of heaven; we would express to the world the love of Jesus in our lives and characters.”

Advent Review and Sabbath Herald -DT- 06-12-1888

“Our Lord has gone away to receive His kingdom, but He will prepare mansions for us, and then He will come and take us to Himself. **In His absence He has given us the privilege of being co-laborers in the work of rescuing souls to enter those mansions of light and glory.** We are either building upon the foundation, wood, hay, and stubble, to be consumed in the last great conflagration, and our life-work be lost; or we are building upon the true foundation, gold, silver, and precious stones, which will never perish, but shine the brighter amid the devouring elements that will try every man’s work. **Any unfaithfulness in spiritual and eternal things will result in loss throughout endless ages.** I present these thoughts to the laymen of the church, that they may awaken to a sense of their responsibility. **Work for Jesus. Put your entire interest into God’s cause.** Self-deception may make you feel that you are doing about right; but how does your life compare with the life of Jesus? Christ has done everything for you; He withheld not even Himself. Now show zeal and earnestness in putting all your powers to work for Him, and you will receive eternal life as your reward.”

The Signs of the Times -DT- 06-03-1889

“In preparation for the coming of our Lord, we are to do a large work in the great cities. We have a solemn testimony to bear in these great centers. But in our planning for the extension of the work, far more than the cities alone, must be comprehended. In out-of-the-way places are many, many families that need to be looked after in order to learn whether they understand the work that Jesus is doing for His people. Those in the highways are not to be neglected, neither are those in the hedges; and as we journey about from place to place,

and pass by house after house, we should often inquire, 'Have the people who are living in these places, heard the message? Has the truth of God's Word been brought to their ears? Do they understand that the end of all things is at hand, and that the judgments of God are impending? Do they realize that every soul has been bought with an infinite price?' As I meditate upon these things my heart goes out in deep longing to see the truth carried in its simplicity to the homes of these people along the highways and places far removed from the crowded centers of population. **We are not to wait for workers of the very highest talent to prepare the way and to show us how to labor; but, whether old or young, we have the privilege of understanding the truth as it is in Jesus, and as we see persons who are not in the possession of the comfort of God's grace, it is our privilege to visit them, and acquaint them with God's love for them and with His wonderful provision for the salvation of their souls.**"

Words of Encouragement to Self-supporting Workers -PG- 5

"They will enter into the joy of the Lord as they see in His kingdom those who have been redeemed through their instrumentality. **And they are privileged to participate in His work there, because they have gained a fitness for it by participation in His work here.** What we shall be in heaven is the reflection of what we are now in character and holy service. Christ said of Himself, '*The Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister.*' Matt. 20:28. This, His work on earth, is His work in heaven. **And our reward for working with Christ in this world is the greater power and wider privilege of working with Him in the world to come.**"

Christ's Object Lessons Talents -PG- 361

"Brother Y, God has been very merciful to you and Brother X. Life, that has been so precarious with you both, He has graciously spared. Days, months, and years have been granted, bringing you opportunities to develop character. God has placed you in connection with His work, that you might become imbued with the spirit of Christ. **Every day, every hour, comes to you as a blood-bought privilege, that you may not only work out your own salvation, but may be an agent in bringing souls to Christ, building up His kingdom, and making manifest the glory of God.** God calls for heart and devotion to the work. Those who are indeed laborers together with God, will carry the burden of the work, and like the minister whom He shall send, they will feel, 'Woe is me if I fail to stand faithful and true to my position of trust.'" Selected Messages Book 2 -PG- 214

"Brethren, let all see that you are living out the lessons of Christ. If any one of the workers thinks that his way is perfect, and that the brethren do not appreciate his wisdom and experience, it is a positive evidence that he is not learning meekness and lowliness of heart in the school of Christ. The transforming grace of Christ always leads to meekness and humility. **The Lord is not dependent upon us to do His work; He has given us the great privilege of co-operating with Him.** You may have diverse temperaments, and yet be laborers together with God, all working in harmony, and **when all your ability is put into the work, you will accomplish the best results.** In doing the Lord's work we cannot follow our own judgment and peculiar notions. **We must work with an eye single to the glory of Christ.** Do not talk about that which cannot be done, but of that which can be done through the strength given you of God. '*The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the Lord of hosts,*' and '*the eattle upon a thousand hills.*'"

Testimonies to Southern Africa -PG- 23

"Men have fallen low, they are sunk in depths of sinful degradation, and it is because of a lack of knowledge, of the want of connection with vitalizing truth, and because they are contaminated by the corrupting influence of error. In the work of saving men, men and angels are to work in harmony, teaching the truth of God to those who are unlearned therein, in order that they may be set free from the bonds of sin. Truth alone can make men free. The liberty that comes through a knowledge of truth is to be proclaimed to every creature. Our Heavenly Father, Jesus Christ, and the angels of heaven are all interested in this grand and holy work. **To man has been given the exalted privilege of revealing the divine character by unselfishly seeking to rescue man from the pit of ruin into which he has been plunged. Every human being who will submit to be enlightened by the Holy Spirit, is to be used for the accomplishment of this divinely conceived purpose. Christ is the head of His church, and it will glorify Him the more to have every portion of that church engaged in the work for the salvation of souls.**"

Advent Review and Sabbath Herald -DT- 07-16-1895



**Exalted
Privilege**



**Exalted
Privilege**

Directions:

- ❖ Print pages 1 & 2 on light purple paper.
- ❖ Print pages 3 - 6 (collection of quotes) back to back on white paper
- ❖ Print page 7 or 8 on a 4.25" x 9.5" envelope (depending on the type of printer you have, page 7 if envelope loads on the right side of the printer, or page 8 if printer loads envelope in the center)
- ❖ Fold appeal in 3 even sections (Z-fold -- artwork out -- on top section)
- ❖ Fold set of quotes in 3 even sections (Z-fold -- artwork out -- on top section)
- ❖ Place 1 appeal, and set of quotes in each envelope.