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fully manifested before them as fathomless love and infinite *wisdom*.”-*Great Controversy*, 503:3-504:1.

The future is bright, as long as we cling to Jesus. He has a wonderful eternity awaiting us. He will lead His flock down through countless ages of peace and happiness. Life without end! Oh, my friend, we must be there!

Just now it is our task to learn the ways of heaven. Later, we will live there forever. Loyalty and obedience to our God is what that eternity will all be about. Those who do not want it will not be there. Yet it is the only way to be genuinely happy!

I know you want it! May God help us –each one –to be faithful to the end.

- 2 -

IN CHRIST YOU CAN OVERCOME

1 - The following statements explain how we can resist temptation and overcome sin in the strength of Christ. These statements are self-explanatory and need little introduction. Yes, the requirements are very high, but the enabling is just as high! Sufficient to the day’s needs, will be the amount of grace given. But it is only imparted to those who are pressing close –every moment –to the side of Christ, and looking solely to Him for help, wisdom, and strength. Through the empowering grace of Christ we can obey all that God asks of us in His Inspired Books.

“*By His perfect obedience* He has made it possible for *every human being to obey God’s commandments*. *When we submit ourselves to Christ*, the heart is united with His heart, the will is merged in His will, the mind becomes one with His mind, the thoughts are brought into captivity to Him; *we live His life*. This is what it means to be clothed with the garment of His righteousness.”-*Christ’s Object Lessons*, 312:0.

“And how this is accomplished, Christ has shown us. *By what means did He overcome in ‘the conflict with Satan?’ –By the word of God*. Only by the word could He resist temptation. ‘It is written,’ He said. And *unto us are given ‘exceeding great and precious promises*, that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, *having escaped the corruption* that is in the world through lust.’ (2 Peter 1:4.) *Every promise in God’s word is ours*. ‘By every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God’ as we to live. When assailed by temptation, look not to circumstances or to the weakness of self, but to *the power of the word*. All its strength is yours. ‘Thy word,’ says the psalmist, ‘have I hid in mine heart, *that I might not sin against Thee*. ‘By the words of Thy lips I have kept me from the paths of the destroyer.’”-*The Desire of Ages*, 123:4.

“Christ is our tower of strength, and Satan can have no power over the soul that walks with God in humility of mind. The promise, ‘Let him take hold of My strength, that he may make peace with Me: and he shall make peace with Me.’ *In Christ there is perfect and complete help for every tempted soul*. Dangers beset every path, but the whole universe of heaven is standing on guard, *that none may be tempted above that which he is able to bear*. Some have strong traits of character, that will need to be constantly repressed. If kept under the control of the Spirit of God, these traits will be a blessing: but if not, they will prove a curse. . If we will give ourselves unselfishly to the work, *never swerving in the least from principle*, the Lord will throw about us the everlasting arms, and will prove a mighty helper. *If we will look to Jesus as the One in whom we may trust, He will never fail us in any emergency*.”-*My Life Today*, 316:4

“*It is not necessary that anyone should yield to the temptations of Satan* and thus violate his conscience and grieve the Holy Spirit. *Every provision* has been made in the word of God whereby all may have divine help in their endeavors to overcome. *If they keep Jesus before them they will become changed into His Image*.”-*5 Testimonies*, 574:2.

“*The enemy cannot overcome* the humble learner of Christ, the one who walks prayerfully before the Lord. Christ interposes Himself as a shelter, a retreat, from the assaults of the wicked one.

“Satan was permitted to tempt the too confident Peter, as he had been permitted to tempt Job; *but when that work was done he had to retire*. Had Satan been suffered to have his way, there would have been no hope for Peter. He would have made complete shipwreck of faith. But the enemy dare not go one hairbreadth beyond his appointed sphere. *There is no power in the whole satanic force that can disable the soul that trusts, in simple*

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confidence, in the wisdom that comes from God. “-My Life Today, 316:2-3.

“In our own strength it is Impossible for us to deny the clamors of our fallen nature. Through this channel Satan will bring temptation upon us. Christ knew that the enemy would come to every human being, to take advantage of hereditary weakness, and by his false insinuations to ensnare all whose trust is not in God. And by passing over the ground which man must travel, our Lord has prepared the way for us to overcome. It is not His will that we should be placed at a disadvantage in the conflict with Satan.” -The Desire of Ages, 122:3.

“Let him who is struggling against the power of appetite, look to the Saviour in the wilderness of temptation. See Him in His agony upon the cross, as He exclaimed, ‘I thirst.’ He has endured all that it is possible for us to bear. His victory is ours.

“There was in Him nothing that responded to Satan’s sophistry. He did not consent to sin. Not even by a thought did He yield to temptation. So it may be with us. Christ’s humanity was united with divinity; He was fitted for the conflict by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. And He came to make us partakers of the divine nature. So long as we are united to Him by faith, sin has no more dominion over us. God reaches for the hand of faith in us to direct it to lay fast hold upon the divinity of Christ, that we may attain to perfection of character. “-The Desire of Ages, 122:4-123:3.

“Jesus does not desire those who have been purchased at such a cost to become the sport of the enemy’s temptations. He does not desire us to be overcome and perish. He who curbed the lions in their den, and walked with His faithful witnesses amid the fiery flames, is just as ready to work in our behalf to subdue every evil in our nature. Today He is standing at the altar of mercy, presenting before God the prayers of those who desire His help. He turns no weeping, contrite one away. .

“The souls that turn to Him for refuge, Jesus lifts above the accusing and the strife of tongues. No man or evil angel can impeach these souls. Christ unites them to His own divine human nature.” -The Ministry of Healing, 90:1-2.

“The condition of eternal life is now Just what It always has been, –just what it was in Paradise before the fall of our first parents, –perfect obedience to the law of God, perfect righteousness. If eternal life were granted on any condition short of this, then the happiness of the whole universe would be imperiled.” -Steps to Christ, 62:1.

“Since we are sinful, unholy, we cannot perfectly obey the holy law. . But Christ has made a way of escape for us. He lived on earth amid trials and temptations such as we have to meet. He lived a sinless life. He died for us, and now He offers to take our sins and give us His righteousness. If you give yourself to Him, and accept Him as your Saviour, then, sinful as your life may have been, for His sake you are accounted righteous. Christ’s character stands in place of your character, and you are accepted before God Just as If you had not sinned.

More than this, Christ changes the heart. He abides in your heart by faith. You are to maintain this connection with Christ by faith and the continual surrender of your will to Him; and so long as you do this, He will work in you to will and to do according to His good pleasure. So you may say, ‘The life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God. . . Then with Christ working in you, you will manifest the same spirit and do the same good works—works of righteousness, obedience.

“So we have nothing in ourselves of which to boast. We have no ground for self-exaltation. Our only ground of hope is in the righteousness of Christ imputed to us, and in that wrought by His Spirit working in and through us.” -Steps to Christ, 62:2-63:1.

“Christ prepared the way for the ransom of man by His own life of suffering, self-denial, and self-sacrifice, and by His humiliation and final death. He brought help to man that he might, by following Christ’s example, overcome on his own account, as Christ has overcome for him.”-3 Testimonies, 372:1.

“It Is His purpose to bring them into so close connection with Himself that Satan shall have no opportunity to pervert their judgment or to overpower their conscience. He will reveal to them their defects of character, and bestow upon all who seek His aid, strength to correct their errors. Whatever may be man’s besetting sin, whatever bitter or baleful passions struggle for the mastery, he may conquer, if he will watch and war against them in the name and strength of Israel’s Helper.

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“The children of God should cultivate a keen sensitiveness to sin. Here, as well as elsewhere, we should not despise the day of small things. It is one of Satan’s most successful devices, to lead men to the commission of little sins, to blind the mind to the danger of little Indulgences, little digressions from the plainly stated requirements of God. Many who would shrink with horror from some great transgression, are led to look upon sin in little matters as of trifling consequence. But these little sins eat out the life of godliness in the soul.

“We must learn to distrust self and to rely wholly upon God for guidance and support, for a knowledge of His will, and for strength to perform it.”-2 Bible Commentary, 1017:3-4.

“The child of God must search out the sin which he has petted and indulged himself in, and permit God to cut it out of his heart. He must overcome that one sin; for it is not a trifling matter in the sight of God. .

“The Lord has not given us a list of graded sins, so that we may reckon some as of little consequence, and say that they will do but little harm, while others are of greater magnitude and will do much harm.

“A chain is no stronger than is its weakest link . . . The work of overcoming is to be the study of every soul who enters the kingdom of God.” Messages to Young People, 91:1-3.

“He does not palliate sin, nor lessen the sense of guilt. . . men hate the sinner, while they love the sin. Christ hates the sin, but loves the sinner.”-Desire of Ages, 462:3-4.

“It should be made plain that the government of God knows no compromise with evil. .

“We should beware of treating sin as a light thing.”-Education, 290:4, 291:1.

“Let none now tamper with sin, the source of every misery in our world. No longer remain in lethargy and stupid indifference. Let not the destiny of your soul hang upon an uncertainty. Know that you are fully on the Lord’s side. .

“If you neglect or treat with indifference the warnings that God has given, if you cherish or excuse sin, you are sealing your soul’s destiny. . . While mercy lingers, while the Saviour is making Intercession, let us make thorough work for eternity.”-6 Testimonies, 404:3-405:2.

“Christ has power from His Father to give His divine grace and strength to man, making It possible for him through His name to overcome.

“All are personally exposed to the temptations that Christ overcame, but strength is provided for them in the all-powerful name of the great Conqueror. And all must, for themselves, individually overcome. “-My Life Today, 317:3.

“Those who come up to every point, and stand every test, and overcome, be the price what it may, have heeded the counsel of the True Witness, and they will receive the latter rain, and thus be fitted for translation. “-1 Testimonies, 187:1 [The entire page is worth reading.]

“God’s Ideal for His children is higher than the highest human thought can reach. ‘Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.’ This command is a promise. The plan of redemption contemplates our complete recovery from the power of Satan. Christ always separates the contrite soul from sin. He came to destroy the works of the devil, and He has made provision that the Holy Spirit shall be imparted to every repentant soul, to keep him from sinning.

“The tempter’s agency is not to be accounted an excuse for one wrong act. Satan is jubilant when he hears the professed followers of Christ making excuses for their deformity of character. It is these excuses that lead to sin. There is no excuse for sinning. A holy temper, a Christ-like life, is accessible to every repenting, believing child of God.

“The ideal of Christian character is Christlikeness. As the Son of man was perfect In His life, so His followers are to be perfect in their life. Jesus was in all things made like unto His brethren. He became flesh, even as we are. He was hungry and thirsty and weary. He was sustained by food and refreshed by sleep. He shared the lot of man; yet He was the blameless Son of God, He was God in the flesh. His character is to be ours. The Lord says of those who believe in Him, ‘I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people,’

“Christ reaches us where we are. He took our nature and overcame, that we through taking His nature

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might overcome. . by His divinity He lays hold upon the throne of heaven, while by His humanity He reaches us. He bids us by faith In Him attain to the glory of the character of God. Therefore are we to be perfect, even as our 'Father which is in heaven is perfect.' “*Desire of Ages, 311:2-312:0.*

“*God’s word is the spiritual food by which the Christian must grow strong in spirit and in intellect, that he may do battle for truth and righteousness. The Bible teaches that every besetting sin must be put away, that the warfare against evil must be waged until every wrong is overcome.*

“*The true followers of Christ will serve God not only when it is in accordance with their inclinations, but also when it involves self-denial and cross-bearing. Besetting sins must be battled with and overcome. Objectionable traits of character, whether hereditary or cultivated, must be compared with the great rule of righteousness, and then conquered in the strength of Christ.* “*Counsels to Parents and Teachers, 449:1.*

“*We become overcomers by helping others to overcome, by the blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony. (Letter 236,1908),”-7 Bible Commentary, 974.*

“*Real piety begins when all compromise with sin is at an end. .*

“*Yielding to temptation begins in permitting the mind to waver, to be Inconstant in your trust In God. “-Mount of Blessing, 91:2, 92:1.*

“*How my heart goes out in rejoicing for those who walk in humility of mind, who love and fear God. They possess a power far more valuable than the learning or eloquence. . His love and fear are like a thread of gold uniting the human agent to the divine. Thus all the movements of life are simplified. When the children of God are struggling with temptation, battling against the passions of the natural heart, faith connects the soul with the only One who can give help, and they are overcomers. .*

“*Behold the cross of Calvary. There is Jesus, who gave His life, not that men might continue in sin, not that they may have license to break the law of God, but that through this infinite sacrifice they may be saved from all sin.” Testimonies to Ministers, 161:1-2;162:0.*

“*We must overcome our besetting sins. We should individually seek to obtain new victory every day. We must learn to stand alone and depend wholly upon God. The sooner we learn this the better. Let each one find out where he fails, and then faithfully watch that his sins do not overcome him, but that he gets the victory over them.”-Early Writings, 105:2.*

“*Keep off from Satan’s enchanted ground and not allow your minds to be swayed from allegiance to God. Through Christ you may and should be happy and should acquire habits of self-control. Even your thoughts must be brought into subjection to the will of God and your feelings under the control of reason and religion. Your imagination was not given you to be allowed to run riot and have its own way without any effort at restraint or discipline. If the thoughts are wrong the feelings will be wrong, and the thoughts and feelings combined make up the moral character. When you decide that as Christians you are not required to restrain your thoughts and feelings you are brought under the influence of evil angels and invite their presence and their control.”-5 Testimonies, 310:1.*

“*Christ has made every provision for us to be strong. He has given us His Holy Spirit, whose office is to bring to our remembrance all the promises that Christ has made, that we may have peace and a sweet sense of forgiveness. If we will but keep our eyes fixed on the Saviour, and trust In His power, we shall be filled with a sense of security; for the righteousness of Christ will become our righteousness. OJ-Messages to Young People, 107:1.*

“*We dishonor Him by talking of our inefficiency. Instead of looking at ourselves, let us constantly behold Jesus, daily becoming more and more like Him, more and more able to talk of Him, better prepared to avail ourselves of His kindness and helpfulness, and to receive the blessings offered us. OJ-Messages to Young People, 107:2.*

“*As we thus live in communion with Him, we grow strong In His strength, a help and a blessing to those around us. If we would only do as the Lord desires us to, our hearts would become as sacred harps, every chord of which would sound forth praise and gratitude to the Redeemer sent by God to take away the sin of the world.”-Messages to Young People, 107:3.*

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“When you rise in the morning, do you feel your helplessness and your need of strength from God? And do you humbly, heartily make known your wants to your heavenly Father? If so, *angels mark your prayers*, and when you are in danger of unconsciously doing wrong and exerting an influence which will lead others to do wrong, *your guardian angel will be by your side, prompting you to a better course*, choosing your words for you, and influencing your actions.

“If you feel in no danger, and if you offer no prayer for help and strength to resist temptations, *you will be sure to go astray.*” -3 Testimonies, 364:1.

“The Lord is disappointed when His people place a low estimate upon themselves. He *desires His chosen heritage to value themselves according to the price He has placed upon them.* God wanted them, else He would not have sent His Son on such an expensive errand to redeem them. *He has a use for them, and He is well pleased when they make the very highest demands upon Him, that they may glorify His name.* They may expect large things if they have faith in His promises.

“*But to pray in Christ’s name means much.* It means that we are to accept His character, manifest His spirit, and work His works. The Saviour’s promise is given on condition. ‘If ye love Me,’ He says, ‘keep My commandments.’ *He saves men, not in sin, but from sin;* and those who love Him will show their love by *obedience.*

“*All true obedience comes from the heart.* It was heart-work with Christ. And *if we consent, He will so Identify Himself with our thoughts and alms, so blend our hearts and minds into conformity to His will,* that when obeying Him we shall be but carrying out our own impulses. *The will, refined and sanctified, will find Its highest delight In doing His service.* When we know God, as it is our privilege to know Him, *our life will be a life of continual obedience.* Through an appreciation of the character of Christ, through communion with God, *sin will become hateful to us.*” -Desire of Ages, 668:1-3.

“The example of Christ shows us that *our only hope of victory is in continual resistance of Satan’s attacks.* He who triumphed over the adversary of souls in the conflict of temptations understands Satan’s power over the race, and has conquered him in our behalf. *As an overcomer, He has given us the advantage of His victory,* that in our efforts to resist the temptations of Satan *we may unite our weakness to His strength,* our worthlessness to His merits. And *sustained by His enduring might* under the strength of temptation, *we may resist In His all-powerful name, and overcome as He overcame.*” -Messages to Young People, 50:1.

“*You lose much by not studying with greater earnestness and care the life of Christ.* There you may see the victories which you have to gain that you may win the precious white robe of a spotless character, and stand at last without fault before the throne of God.” -Sons and Daughters of God pg. 371

“What an event was this when Christ placed Himself in the position of Adam, and endured the test where Adam had failed, and by this act placed man on a vantage ground, in favor with God, *where he might overcome on his own account through the merits of Jesus.* In His name, through His grace, *man may be an overcomer,* even as *Christ was an overcomer.* In Christ divinity and humanity were united, and *the only way In which man may be an overcomer* is through becoming a partaker of the divine nature . . . Divinity and humanity are blended in him who has the spirit of Christ.” -Sons and Daughters of God, 24:3.

“*Those who are indeed purifying their souls by obeying the truth* will have a most humble opinion of themselves. The more closely they view the spotless character of Christ, *the stronger will be their desire to be conformed to His Image,* and the less will they see of purity or holiness in themselves.

“*We should never be content with a sinful life.* It is a thought that should arouse Christians to greater zeal and earnestness in overcoming evil, that every defect in character, *every point* in which they fail to meet the divine standard, is an *open door* by which Satan can enter to tempt and destroy them. . *We are to exert every energy of the soul in the work of overcoming,* and to *look to Jesus for strength to do what we cannot do of ourselves.* . *By repentance and faith we are enabled to render obedience to all the commandments of God,* and are found without blame before Him,” -5 Testimonies, 472:1.

“*Do not put off the work of forsaking your sins* and seeking purity of heart through Jesus. Here is where thousands upon thousands have erred to their eternal loss . . . *There Is a terrible danger –a danger not sufficiently understood –in delaying to yield to the pleading voice of God’s Holy Spirit, in choosing to live in sin;* for such this delay really is. Sin, however small it may be esteemed, can be indulged in only at the peril of infinite loss.

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What we do not overcome, will overcome us and work out our destruction. “-Steps to Christ, 32:2-33:0.

“God has made ample provision for His people; and If they rely upon His strength, they will never become the sport of circumstances. The strongest temptation cannot excuse sin. However great the pressure brought to bear upon the soul, transgression Is our own act. It is not in the power of earth or hell to compel anyone to do evil. Satan attacks us at our weak points, but we need not be overcome. However severe or unexpected the assault, God has provided help for us, and in His strength we may conquer.” Messages to Young People, 62:2.

“All who will can be overcomers. Let us strive earnestly to reach the standard set before us. Christ knows our weakness, and to Him we can go daily for help. It is not necessary for us to gain strength a month ahead. We are to conquer from day to day. “-7 Bible Commentary, 974:3.

“Our greatest strength is realized when we feel and acknowledge our weakness.

“Patience, faith, and love for duty are the lessons we must learn. Subduing self and looking to Jesus is an everyday work. The Lord will never forsake the soul that trusts in Him and seeks His aid. The crown of life is placed only upon the brow of the overcomer. There is, for everyone, earnest, solemn work for God while life lasts.

“The word is: Go forward; discharge your individual duty, and leave all consequences in the hands of God. If we move forward where Jesus leads the way we shall see His triumph, we shall share His joy. We must share the conflicts if we wear the crown of victory. Like Jesus, we must be made perfect through suffering. . We can walk safely in the darkest path if we have the Light of the world for our guide. “-5 Testimonies, 70:2-3, 71:0-2.

“All are personally exposed to the temptations that Christ overcame, but strength is provided for them in the all-powerful name of the great Conqueror. And all must, for themselves, individually overcome.” -My Life Today, 317:3.

“The strongest temptation is no excuse for sin. However great the pressure brought to bear upon the soul, transgression is our own act. It is not in the power of earth or hell to compel anyone to sin. The will must consent, the heart must yield, or passion cannot overbear reason, nor iniquity triumph over righteousness.” Maranatha 225:4.

“Everyone who by faith obeys God’s commandments, will reach the condition of sinlessness in which Adam lived before his transgression.”-Maranatha, 224:5.

“Those who would overcome must put to the test every power of their being. They must agonize on their knees before God for divine power. Christ came to be our example, and to make known to us that we may be partakers of the divine nature. . Christ, by His own example, made it evident that man may stand in integrity. Men may have a power to resist evil –a power that neither earth, nor death, nor hell can master; a power that will place them where they may overcome as Christ overcame. Divinity and humanity may be combined in them,”-5 Bible Commentary, 1082:3.

“The strongest temptation is no excuse for sin. “-Adventist Home 331:1.

“He who has not sufficient faith in Christ to believe that He can keep him from sinning, has not the faith that will give him an entrance into the kingdom of God.” -3 Selected Messages, 360:4.

Note: Inspiration is sprinkled with quotations such as these. They are like diamonds in a field. As you study, you will find them all through the inspired writings. Here are a few to get you started: 2 T 453:1-454:0, 1 SM 219:2-280:2, COL 312:0, 1 SM 82:3, OHC 19:6, 4T 568:1, MM 112:1-113:0.

And keep in mind the balancing counsel that to get you started: 2 T 453:1-454:0, 1 SM 279:2 280:2, COL 312:0, 1 SM 82:3, OHC 19:6, 4 T 568:1, MM 112:7-113:0.

And keep in mind the balancing counsel that though we are to seek perfect obedience, yet it is only maintained moment by moment in the strength of Christ—not in our own: AA 561:2, COL 158:2-160:3, SC 41, 1 SM 327-328, 6 BC 1105.

2 - Here are a number of Bible comments on this important topic:

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“As he which hath called you is holy, so be ye *holy* in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.”-1 *Peter* 1:15-16.

“Every man that hath this hope in him *purifieth himself*, even as he is pure.”-1 *John* 3:3.

“Follow peace with all men, *and holiness*, without which no man shall see the Lord.”-*Hebrews* 12:14.

“Thanks be to God, *which giveth us the victory* through our Lord Jesus Christ.”-1 *Corinthians* 15:57.

“What the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: *that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*”-*Romans* 8:3-4.

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, *Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.* . *If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.*”-*John* 8:34, 36.

“Ye will not come to me, *that ye might have life.*”-*John* 5:40.

“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? . . . *But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.*”-*Romans* 6:16, 22.

“Finally, brethren, farewell. Be *perfect*, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace.”-2 *Corinthians* 13:11.

“*Let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.*” *James* 1:4.

“*If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*”-2 *Corinthians* 5:17.

“*Whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world.*”-1 *John* 5:4.

“Thou shalt call his name JESUS: *for he shall save his people from their sins.*”-*Matthew* 1:21.

“*Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin.*”-1 *John* 3:9.

“Shall we continue in sin? . . . *God forbid.*”-*Romans* 6:1-2.

“Thanks be unto God, *which always causeth us to triumph in Christ.*”-2 *Corinthians* 2:14.

“If we be dead with Christ, we believe that *we shall also live with Him.*”-*Romans* 6:8.

“*This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.*”-1 *John* 5:4.

“*Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.* For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.”-*Philippians* 2:12-13.

“Whereby are given unto us *exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*”- 2 *Peter* 1:4.

“*Sin shall not have dominion over you.*” *Romans* 6:14.

7. THE JUDGMENT OF THE LIVING

THE BLOTTING OUT OF SIN

The investigative judgment is the closing work within the heavenly Sanctuary. It focuses on all those who have ever lived on earth, who have professed faith in Christ (GC 428, 422-490), and concerns both the dead and the living (GC 436). This judgment began in 1844 (GC 422, 424, 436) with the cases of dead (EW 280; GC 483,490; 1SM 125). Soon, none know how soon, it will pass to the cases of the living (GC 490; 5T 692). It will end at the general close of probation (GC 436). There is no further probation after It ends (COL 123). The sentencing judgment of the wicked is a distinct and separate work (GC 480), which will occur during the