

6-2019

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Recommended Citation

Knight, George R., "Righteousness by Faith and the Third Angel's Message — 6" (2019). *Lake Union Herald*. 862.
<https://digitalcommons.andrews.edu/luh-pubs/862>

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Righteousness by Faith and the Third Angel's Message — 6

And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle (Revelation 14:14 KJV).



▲ George R. Knight

I dare say that Ellen White could get excited about a few topics. But her enthusiasm was never greater than that which she had for the plan of salvation in Christ.

Reflecting on the recently completed 1888 General Conference session, she noted that “Elder E. J. Waggoner had the privilege granted him of speaking plainly and presenting his views upon justification by faith and the righteousness of Christ in relation to the law. This was no new light, but it was old light placed where it should be in the third angel’s message.

“What is the burden of that message? John sees people. He says, ‘Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus’ (Rev 14:12). This people John beholds just before he sees the Son of Man ‘having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle’ (Rev 14:14).

“The faith of Jesus has been overlooked and treated in an indifferent, careless manner. It has not occupied the prominent position in which it was revealed to

John. Faith in Christ as the sinner’s only hope has been largely left out, not only of the discourses given but of the religious experience of very many who claim to believe the third angel’s message.

“At this meeting I bore testimony that the most precious light had been shining forth from the Scriptures in the presentation of the great subject of the righteousness of Christ connected with the law, which should be constantly kept before the sinner as his only hope of salvation.

“This was not new light to me for it had come to me from higher authority for the last forty-four years, and I had presented it to our people by pen and voice in the testimonies of His Spirit. But very few had responded. . . . There was altogether too little spoken and written upon this great question. The discourses given of some might be correctly represented as like the offering of Cain — Christless.

“The standard by which to measure character is the royal law. The law is the sin detector. By the law is the knowledge of sin. But the sinner is constantly being drawn to Jesus” who died for each individual’s sins on the cross (MS 24, 1888) [sic].

Meditate upon Him today and what He has done for you. Such thoughts will not only comfort your soul, but will invigorate your life and transform your actions. ■

George R. Knight is a retired professor of church history at the Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University. This article is from his book, *Lest We Forget*, a daily devotional, published by the Review and Herald Publishing Association, page 285.

LAKE UNION HERALD

Faithful and True

Although raised as a Seventh-day Adventist, as time went along, I stopped practicing my faith. There was no time for God. I was a busy wife and owner of a successful farrier business where I traveled from farm to farm, trimming and shoeing horses. I eventually came to the place where I knew something was missing.

My older brother sensed my restlessness and began witnessing to me of the peace Jesus brings to life. Soon I began Bible studies with Lena Church pastor, Rick Binford, and loved the studies! Suddenly the Bible wasn’t just [a book of] rules, but one which revealed a God trying to save me and show me how to be completely happy.

I remember taking a walk with my husband; he was not happy with my new choices, as my beliefs were changing my lifestyle. I was walking along one day thinking, “You could just let this all go and return to your old life. Your husband would be happy, and life would be easier.” Then I prayed, “God give me the strength to move forward.” By God’s amazing grace, I was re-baptized; for the first time felt my life was complete.

Since my husband and I do not share the same faith, tithing became an issue. Again, I prayed, and we came to an agreement I would tithe from my income. I was grateful, yet felt I wanted to do more for God in offerings. “How was I to do that and stay true to my husband as well?”

Once again, I took this to God in prayer and He provided an answer. As a farrier, I often received tips, so I decided to return any tips I received to Him.

At church that week, I had learned that our Pathfinders had advanced to the Bible Experience finals and needed funds to travel to Washington D.C. So, Monday morning before work, I prayed, “Please, Lord, I want to help; all my tips are Yours.”

After my second job that morning, my client added \$100 to the bill as a tip. I had to call and share the amazing news with my pastor. I then stopped to tell my younger brother and his wife the good news; they promptly pulled out their checkbook and added to the handsome amount.

Yet God’s answers didn’t stop there. I prayed one morning about my desire to help support a church plant our church is sponsoring, and that very morning a client added a \$70 tip to his bill. You have to understand; tips are common but certainly not for that amount.

God’s gracious answers to prayer continue. One of my client’s daughters, Sarah, took Bible studies and was baptized. And my younger brother and his wife have chosen to be baptized.

I will praise You, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works (Psalm 9:1). ■

Jodi Pennings of the Lena Church, with Juanita Edge, Wisconsin Communication director



▲ Jodi Pennings

◀ Jodi Pennings, pictured here with Mike, her husband of 17 years, owns and operates a farrier business called Lucky Horseshoeing. As a hobby, she enjoys rehabbing lost-cause horses and finding good-fit homes for them. She is a member of the Lena Church, leading in Sabbath School and Personal Ministries.

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