

REMNANT PROPHECY SEMINAR

Self-Sacrificing Love

O4: The First Love-2

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In this study we are going to look at the church of Laodicea. The Spirit of Prophecy actually ties in the message of Ephesus with Laodicea. In Revelation 3 we have the counsel of the True Witness and when Sister White is applying the message and experience of Ephesus, she says the True Witness comes to the church of Ephesus. That lets us know that when we look at Ephesus, we look at Laodicea; it is the same church—God is declaring the end of His church from the beginning. The experiences of the other churches, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, also repeat in Laodicea.

Revelation 3:17 “Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: 18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. 19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.”

This church thinks they have everything; they are rich and increased with goods, they don't need anything; but Jesus, as the true and faithful Witness identified their true condition, that they are wretched, and miserable, poor, blind, and naked; there are five attributes here.

We need to accept the counsel of the True Witness and buy of the wares from the Heavenly Merchantman; the gold, white raiment and eyesalve. This is the Three Angel's Messages in experience; you can tie in the Gold with the First, the White Raiment with the Second, and the Eyesalve with the Third.

The first thing Jesus tells them to buy is Gold tried in the fire; this is Faith and Love. Ephesus left their first love, and because of this, it prepared the way for the doctrines of the Nicolaitanes, of Balaam, and of Jezebel. This is what allowed Paganism and worldliness to come into the church as a flood. Then in Sardis, the church is reduced to having a name to live, but it is really dead. When we lose our first Love, this is the beginning of apostasy. In the early Christian church, they still hung onto the forms of doctrine, but later that was given up as well. You have a name to live, but you are dead—you are only nominal.

Then in Philadelphia, the church of Brotherly Love, this First Love experience was regained. They had the message that Jesus was coming soon; it was the end of the world and the Judgment was opening up. However there comes a time in between Philadelphia to Laodicea where that Love once again is left behind; the experience of Ephesus is repeated, preparing the way for Balaam, Jezebel, and the Nicolaitanes, the doctrines of the Three-fold union of Modern

Babylon. We know that the doctrines of Catholicism, Spiritualism and apostate Protestantism are here in Adventism today, simply because we have left our first Love—the Self-denying Love.

Jesus says, “As many as I love I rebuke and chasten.” What Jesus does in order for us to see our need, is to reveal His Love to us, the principle of Self-sacrificing Love, hoping that this will woo us and draw us to Him so we would see that we are spiritually and morally bankrupt before Him. Faith and Love is the Gold tried in the fire and we will prove this from scripture.

1 Peter 1:7 “That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:”

In this text we see Faith, Gold and ‘tried with fire’, as in Revelation 3:17. There is a connection here—Gold tried in the fire. We have Faith and God desires that faith to be purified and refined so that it may be found to praise, honor, and glory when Christ comes the second time.

We have Faith now; but where do we see the connection between Faith and Love? Faith and Love are awakened when the sinner has a realization of the exceeding sinfulness of sin and what sin cost the Son of God. One has to go to Calvary and realize what He has done for us in order to give us another trial and probation. Jesus actually died the Second Death in type to save us from the Second Death, which is eternal, a final separation in fire and brimstone. We realize what He suffered for us in Gethsemane and then on Calvary, and this awakens Faith and Love in the believer. This will be seen in every soul that is truly converted. We have to go to the cross in order to have Faith and Love awakened in us. It is by love that love is awakened; Jesus demonstrates His love to us in order that love for Him might be awakened in us.

Galatians 5:5 “For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.”

As we talk about faith, now we introduce righteousness. Righteousness is right doing, and the standard of right doing is the Law of God, the Ten Commandments, the transcript of His character.

Galatians 5:6 “For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.”

True Reform

Our Faith and our beliefs, everything we practice in regard to educational reform; health reform; dress reform; country living; social reform; also our faith in the foundations and pillars of Adventism, the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation; the motivation for all of that should be Love. We are to dress because of Love; the way we eat, country living, social reform, our witnessing activities, our lifestyle, the foundation of it all, the basis of it all, should be Love—Self-sacrificing Love.

If you don’t have Self-sacrificing Love as the basis for all true reform that God is calling for in these last days in the Spirit of Prophecy, it is certain you will give up those reforms. You might practice them for a while in your own strength, your own energy and zeal, but like Peter, if you don’t have the Self-sacrificing Love abiding in you as a principle and power, the power being the Holy Spirit, you will give up those reforms. You will give up the truth for this time.

The Faith that works by Love is what the Gold represents. The experience of Gold tried in the fire is Faith that works by Love. Righteousness by Faith; how does it work? It works by Self-sacrificing Love. Continuing:

5:7 "Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?"

When we think about running, we think about running to and fro in the scriptures as knowledge is increased; the book of Daniel being unsealed. "Write the vision and make it plain upon tables that they may run that readeth it." Also we are to run the race with patience, laying aside every weight and the sin that does so easily beset us. How do we do that? We do it by looking to Jesus the Author and Finisher of our Faith.

What does it mean, "Look to Jesus"? Where do we find Jesus? We know He is in the Heavenly Sanctuary in the Most Holy Place, but when we look to Jesus we have to look to Calvary. Remember Calvary will always be with us, now and even in heaven, we will always have that reminder of Calvary before us. This is what allows us to run the race with patience and lay aside the weight of sin. But here it says, "Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?" in other words, Faith works by Love; that which allows us to 'run' is Love and to 'run' is to be obedient—to obey.

We might run the race; we might try to be Christians; we might try to do everything that God said. We have faith; we have belief; and we are running, we are obeying, but sooner or later we are going to run out of gas—run out of steam, if it's not powered by Love. We have connected Faith that works by Love; and Love gives us the energy, gives us the gas, the steam, the power to run well and to be obedient.

1 Peter 1:18 "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; 19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: 20 Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, 21 Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God."

We are learning about our Faith and Hope and our Love, based upon the sacrifice; based upon the precious Blood; this again is the motivation—Faith that works by Love. The Love demonstrated on Calvary, the infinite sacrifice of Heaven.

22 "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit . . .

We purify our souls by obeying the Truth; but how do we obey the Truth? Though the Holy Spirit; "Not by might; not by power, but by My Spirit saith the Lord". [Zechariah 4:6] This is how we are to obey the Truth; by Faith that works by Love. As we obey the truth and purify our souls, what is the evidence that our souls are being purified through the Holy Spirit?

". . unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:"

Unfeigned means genuine, without hypocrisy, there is nothing fake about it. Fervently means zealously, eagerly, ardently. How are we to have this 'unfeigned Love'? We are to obey the truth through the Holy Spirit. If we are not obeying the truth through the Holy Spirit, our souls are not being purified and we cannot have pure love for one another! How do we obey the truth

through the Holy Spirit? We do it through Faith that works by Love; and then that Love is going to be manifested; that Love is going to be revealed in how you treat your brethren. Love to God and Love to your neighbor, which is the fulfilling of the Law. Love has to be the basis of our obedience. The kind of Love we are to have is Self-sacrificing Love and the motivation for Self-sacrificing Love is Christ's sacrifice for us. Love is the basis of Creation, Redemption and Education.

2 Corinthians 5:14 "For the love of Christ constraineth us; . .

Constrains means it holds us together, obliges us, compels us, convinces us, it drives us. The Love of Christ is like the gas that powers our cars, without that you can't get anywhere.

. . because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:

Were we not all spiritually dead in our trespasses and sins?

15 "And that he [Christ] died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again."

Here is the reason why He died; He died that they, [we] which live, should not henceforth live unto themselves—that means self-sacrificing, not living for self, but living unto Him, that's Self-sacrificing Love. When you accept Christ as manifested on Calvary, you are not to live for self. How can you live for self when Jesus was willing to give up the throne of Heaven and not take it back until He knew our place in heaven was secured?

He said; "Father; I will that my brethren, the people that I died for, they too might be with Me where I am." He would not accept His glory back until He knew His sacrifice was accepted and the way was open for our Salvation. That is very deep Self-sacrificing Love! He was the Creator, all this was at His command, but He was willing to give it all up and not take it back unless the people He died for could be there with Him. The Desire of Ages says:

"But He waves them back. Not yet; He cannot now receive the coronet of glory and the royal robe. He enters into the presence of His Father. He points to His wounded head, the pierced side, the marred feet; He lifts His hands, bearing the print of nails. He points to the tokens of His triumph; He presents to God the wave sheaf, those raised with Him as representatives of that great multitude who shall come forth from the grave at His second coming. He approaches the Father, with whom there is joy over one sinner that repents; who rejoices over one with singing. Before the foundations of the earth were laid, the Father and the Son had united in a covenant to redeem man if he should be overcome by Satan. They had clasped Their hands in a solemn pledge that Christ should become the surety for the human race. This pledge Christ has fulfilled. When upon the cross He cried out, "It is finished," He addressed the Father. The compact had been fully carried out. Now He declares: Father, it is finished. I have done Thy will, O My God. I have completed the work of redemption. If Thy justice is satisfied, "I will that they also, whom Thou hast given Me, be with Me where I am." John 19:30; 17:24.

"The voice of God is heard proclaiming that justice is satisfied. Satan is vanquished. Christ's toiling, struggling ones on earth are "accepted in the Beloved." Ephesians 1:6. Before the heavenly angels and the representatives of unfallen worlds, they are declared justified. Where He is, there His church shall be. "Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other." Psalm 85:10. The Father's

arms encircle His Son, and the word is given, "Let all the angels of God worship Him." Hebrews 1:6." DA 834.

When we understand and know all that, how can we be so selfish and live unto ourselves? Our life does not belong to us, it belongs to Him. When you have that thought in mind you would not complain about whatever He asks you to do; you are going to do it; you are going to accept it. That was the kind of Love that Ephesus had, but they lost it, and when that goes, everything else goes with it eventually.

I hope and pray that the Holy Spirit of God through frail human language is helping us to really understand this divine principle of Self-sacrificing Love. This is what Laodicea needs; this is the first thing Jesus offers to them. This is the essential qualification; without this, all the other excellences and graces will do us no good; they are aids in the work but they can't complete the work.

Power of Calvary

1 Peter 2:21 "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: 22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: 23 Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously: 24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed."

This is the Power of Calvary! If we follow in His steps it will lead us to the same experience where we won't sin any more, neither will guile be found in our mouths. This is that special group of people that Revelation 7 and 14 talks about before the throne of God without fault and no guile is in their mouths. This is what it means to follow the Lamb; to follow in His steps withersoever He goeth. Every step is Self-sacrificing; the sacrifices get greater as you continue to follow Him.

Is it possible for us to live without sinning, where we don't do any sin in thought, word or action? Yes; but that is going to take sacrifice; Self-sacrificing Love. God says:

Psalm 50:5 "Gather my saints together unto me; those that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice."

He died for us that we would henceforth not live unto self, unto sin anymore but we would live unto righteousness; by Whose stripes we are healed; Isaiah 53. This is the Power of Calvary so that we can be dead to sin and alive unto righteousness. The suffering of Christ; He calls us into the same suffering; it is through suffering that we cease from sin; no suffering, no victory over sin.

1 Peter 4:1 "Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; 2 That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, [selfishness] but to the will of God [selflessness]. 3 For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries:"

We're not living in the lusts of the flesh any more, we are living to the will of God; Self-sacrificing Love.

The First Love

As we talk about this first love, the Bible tells us that Ephesus is the one who left their first Love. That Love has been lost all through the churches until you come to Philadelphia; after Philadelphia it is lost again and Laodicea needs to find it. One of the best places to learn about this First Love is to go to the church of Ephesus. Ephesus in the Bible is in the book of Ephesians. In that book you find that every single chapter is focussing on Self-sacrificing Love. As you study Ephesians, you may be able to attain that First Love that Ephesus lost.

Ephesians 1:3 "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: 4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:"

What have we been chosen for? What is His purpose in choosing us? It is that we should be holy and without blame in Love. In this verse Love is connected with holiness and blamelessness. For you and me to be holy and blameless before Him; this is the reason He has chosen us—this is Love. Understand that Holiness as a lifestyle and behaviour is connected with Love. We show our Love for God by being obedient and holy.

Of course we know that we can't be Holy by our own merits; our own strength; by our own feeble efforts. Holy and blameless before Him in Love is what He has chosen us for. Let's notice some areas of holiness. Another word for holiness is sanctification; to sanctify something means to set it apart for a holy use—to make it holy. God wants us to be sanctified; He wants us to be holy as He is holy. We are to reflect His character.

Glorify God in our Diet

1 Corinthians 3:16 "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? 17 If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are."

Our body is the temple of God. If we defile that temple, then God is going to destroy us. Our body is holy because the Holy Spirit dwells in us.

We can defile our body temples through improper diet; in Daniel 1:8 we see that fact. In order to train the children of Judah to fill their stations in the kingdom of Babylon, the king thought he would give them his food from his own table; his meat, flesh food and the king's drink of fermented beverages; he thought that this would help them. This was not the healthiest diet, but we know also that the food from the king's table was consecrated or blest by idols. This is not hard to see—when we sit down to eat we "say grace" and ask the Lord to bless our food and that basically shows the God you serve. Obviously they would do the same thing; their food would be consecrated to their idols.

Daniel did not want to eat that food, first-off because of the laws of health—these were unclean foods that would impair his health, mind and judgment; but he also knew that if he ate that food he would be partaking of the worship of the Babylonian gods. He requested a more pure diet; a

simple vegetarian diet—Daniel wanted a whole-food plant-based diet instead of an animal flesh and animal products diet.

Daniel 1:8 “But 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.”

So one of the ways we reveal our holiness to the Lord is in the area of diet and health reform. There are a lot of reasons God gives this to us; of course He does not want us to be sick and have these different diseases; He wants us to be healthy and enjoy life. God also gives us diet and health reform because there is a connection between our diet and our spirituality; our characters. In order to be holy and sanctified, He gives us a certain type of diet to aid in developing holiness of character. Health reform helps prepare us to stand in the final crisis.

What are some reasons we should be vegetarians and eating a whole food plant-based diet? You can prove this from science and nutrition; and from the fact that the animal kingdom is suffering with diseases [brought about by the activities of man] whether fowls of the heaven, beasts of the earth, or even fish of the sea. But what provides our motivation to change our diet? We give glory to God by what we eat and drink; that is part of the First Angel's Message and a very important part of the Everlasting Gospel.

1 Corinthians 6:19 “What? [Don't you know this? This is basic!] know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.”

We are bought with the price of the Blood of Christ shed on Calvary; therefore because ye are bought with a price; ye are not your own because of the Self-sacrificing Love demonstrated for us on Calvary. Because of Self-sacrificing Love, because of Calvary; when you accept Calvary, you accept His Love and what He has done for you, therefore there should be no problem with sacrificing ourselves and giving God glory in our bodies in what we eat and drink. There are many reasons why we should be health reformers today but the foundation and motivation is the Self-sacrificing Love of the cross.

All Christians claim to accept Christ, so based upon Calvary we should not be eating and drinking things that defile our bodies. If the Creator made you and the Creator died for you, He deserves to own us three times—He made us; He redeemed us, bought us back; and then also by our consent we are His. If we look at vegetarianism in the light of the Self-sacrificing Love that Jesus expressed on Calvary for us, it wouldn't be a problem.

Many accept vegetarianism and health reform but it is not based on the Self-sacrificing Love of Calvary. Maybe you were raised this way; maybe because the Spirit of Prophecy says so; but why is it that so many who know these principles and know what is going on in the world, they know the science and that a plant based diet is better than animal based, and that an animal based diet leads to cancer and all these other diseases, but they still give into appetite and lust after flesh foods? They do not have the motivation or power of Self-sacrificing Love; they choose to gratify self, the fleshly appetites, instead of being obedient to the heavenly guidance.

God gives us diet because we are to be holy and without blame before Him in love. So because of what Christ did for me I am going to glorify God in my body which is His; I am not going to eat

and drink the Babylonian diet; I am not going to do it because of Calvary. That will hold you; it is greater than health; greater than science; or even divine inspiration. It is the power of Self-sacrificing Love as seen in the Cross of Christ; it is part of the first Love. If you accept Calvary and the glory of Self-sacrificing Love and you want that to be an abiding principle and power in your life then you should be willing to change your diet based on that alone.

Glorify God in Dressing

Exodus 28:2 “And thou shalt make holy garments for Aaron thy brother for glory and for beauty.”

Not only were these garments to be worn as they minister in the priest’s office, and we know these garments represent Christ’s righteousness; they were highly prophetic and pointed to the Everlasting Gospel; but notice these garments were holy and they were made for Aaron for glory and for beauty.

We are a royal priesthood and a holy nation; how do we give glory to God in this context of dress reform? Do we dress for the glory of self or for the glory of God? There will be no problem glorifying God in our dress-code when we understand the principle of Self-sacrificing Love and you embrace Calvary as the motivation and basis of dress reform.

Dress reform is a very controversial subject; in fact we don’t hear anything about it in the nominal churches. If we start addressing jewelry, dress, makeup and adornment, things you don’t hear about in the church, there is always contention and fighting. But I wonder if we looked at it from the standpoint of the cross and Self-sacrificing Love, would it be a problem to change what I wear? If I dress to give God glory it is to represent His holiness. I am to glorify God; I don’t belong to myself and so I am not living unto self, but living unto Him. If He wants me to eat this way and dress this way for His glory and His honor, I will not have a problem doing it. We get health and spiritual benefits from it also.

But when dress reform is presented to us and the cross is left out; Calvary and the amazing Love of God is not seen, we rebel against it. We might change for a while, but if we don’t have the fuel—the tank is running low and we don’t know how to fill it up; we soon get tired of it and put back on the Babylonian garments.

Self-sacrificing Love is dealing with holiness. Holiness is revealed in the sanctified life and you cannot divorce dress reform and health reform from sanctification. It is given to us to help us to be sanctified, to be holy to His glory and honor and not our own.

Ephesians 1:12 “That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.”

Part of the first Love is when we first trusted Christ and surrendered all to Him.

1:13 “In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise,”

When we accept Christ and we first trust in Him and receive the Word of the Gospel of our salvation, the Holy Spirit begins a work of sealing you; settling you into the truth intellectually and spiritually. The book of Ephesians is where the First Love is revealed and where we can get it back; Calvary is the place to get it and this is where Calvary leads us.

Ephesians 2:1 “And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; 2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: 3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past [past tense not present or future] in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. 4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, [Self-sacrificing Love—Calvary.] 5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) 6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: 7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.”

Notice the Love of God revealed there. We were dead in trespasses and sins; we were in the world fulfilling the lusts of our flesh, the desires of the flesh and the carnal mind. We were being moved by the prince of the power of the air; but God came and through the greatness of His love, He quickened us, [brought us to life] raised us up and saved us. That is Self-sacrificing Love. He delivered us out of the world and the slavery of sin and of Satan, from our flesh, and the desires of our carnal mind.

The Love of Christ is the very theme of the book of Ephesians, every chapter talks about it. This epistle was written for the church at Ephesus that left their first Love. Remember, that was their only fault; this is what they forgot. Their doctrines were correct; they were a soul-winning church, a missionary church; but they left their first love and that ended up bringing apostasy into the church.

Ephesians 3:16 “That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; 17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, . .

We are to be rooted and grounded in Love; something rooted and grounded can't be moved. What happens when Love is removed? When Love is gone, soon the principles of your faith in doctrine, health, prophecy, righteousness, all that is gone. We need to be rooted and grounded in Love and then when the storm comes you will not topple over. It will pass over you and do its worst to you but you will still be standing. Like a mighty oak tree that stands through storms, cyclones and floods because it is rooted deep in the earth.

18 “May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; 19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.”

The Love of Christ passeth knowledge, it is beyond our comprehension; it goes far beyond just an intellectual understanding. We can't fully understand the Love of Christ; we can to a certain point, but we are still lacking, still learning. That is why the Cross is going to be our study, throughout the ceaseless ages we will still be learning. The Love of Christ passeth knowledge, doctrines, reforms, all these things are true, important and correct. They define us and show us who we are, but the Love of Christ goes beyond that. We can see that fact in Peter's ladder; add to faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity—the Love of Christ. Even as you look at Peter's ladder, knowledge is the third round and charity is the top, the eighth round. So the Love of Christ goes beyond knowledge; it passes knowledge.

With this we can be filled with all the fullness of God; if we have everything from Faith to Charity, we can be filled with all the fullness of God. But if we only have knowledge, we are not filled with the fullness of God; we can't be rooted and grounded in Love. God wants us to comprehend and know the breadth, length, depth and height of the Love of Christ; this is what surpasses knowledge.

Knowledge is given to us so we can get to the understanding of the Love of Christ. We can't throw away knowledge; we don't sacrifice truth, doctrine or prophecy for love, no, but we realise that these things bring us to a full understanding of the Love of Christ for us so we can be filled with the fullness of God.

Ephesians 4:15 "But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:"

We are called to speak the truth; if we don't speak the truth we are liars and deceivers; false apostles. We have at times spoken the truth but have not been successful in winning someone. Speaking the truth with Love is what makes it effective. We don't compromise the truth; we don't lower it or water it down; we don't get rid of the truth, but we speak it in Love. Then we may grow up in all things; Faith to Charity.

16 "From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love."

The body is built up and edified by Self-sacrificing Love. In Ephesians 5 we are going to see the First, Second, Third and Fourth Angels.

Ephesians 5:1 "Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; 2 And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour."

It is very clear this is Self-sacrificing Love. You can notice in Ephesians as we have gone from chapter one to 5 that it is repeating and enlarging. Daniel does the same thing; Daniel 2, then 7 enlarges from 2; then 8 enlarges from 7; same in Revelation and the same in Ephesians 1 to 5, it just gets bigger, brighter and larger, deeper and sweeter.

Ephesians 5:3 "But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;"

Why not? It is because it goes against all the principles of Self-sacrificing Love. If you embrace Self-sacrificing Love then we don't want fornication, uncleanness, or covetousness. I don't want to do it because the Love of Christ constrains me.

Ephesians 5:4 "Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks. 5 For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God."

Why? It cannot because the very principles of the Kingdom of Christ, the very Law of that kingdom is the Law of self-renunciation; the Law of Self-sacrificing Love. In Heaven anything that does not have Self-sacrificing Love and abide by that principle is not going to be there. If you

don't sacrifice these things to God now, the idols, the fornication, the uncleanness and covetousness, you wouldn't want to be in heaven, because none of that is going to be there, so heaven would not be a very good place for you. That is why we have to change our diets and dress now. Some of us with our perverted and corrupted tastes would want flesh foods in heaven; we'd be looking for some dead fish or chicken, cow or hog and it won't be there.

What about the way we dress? We will be completely clothed in heaven; our body is not going to be exposed. If you have a problem covering up your body with the principles of modesty, health and spirituality now, you would not like long robes that cover everything. I hear people say, "Oh those Ellen White clothes; I don't want to wear those Ellen White clothes." God is not telling us to dress like Ellen White, but the principles, the standards are there for us to follow. If the world has a modest style of dress and it is in principle with the Word of God, we can adopt that style. Fashions and styles may change but the principles don't change.

None of this stuff, covetousness, idolatry, and whore-mongering is going to be in the kingdom of Christ because there everybody follows the Law of Self-sacrificing Love. If you don't follow it here you would not follow it there.

Ephesians 5:6 "Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. 7 Be not ye therefore partakers with them. 8 For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light: 9 (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) 10 Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. 11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. 12 For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret. 13 But all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light."

In these verses are the principles of Revelation 14 and 18.

Ephesians 5:1 "Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; 2 And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour."

Right there is the First Angel's Message; because one of the ways we give God glory is with our lifestyle. Are not the ways we are to eat and drink and dress different from the world? Do they not think that we are odd, singular and straight-laced, fanatical and kind of crazy because we are not in step with the world? In our dress and diet are we not giving God an offering and a sacrifice? That is giving glory to God—the First Angel's Message.

Ephesians 5:3 "But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; 4 Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks. 5 For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God."

Think of the words, 'fornication, idolatry, whoremonger, coveting'; this is Babylon; come out of Babylon; this is the Second Angel's Message. Don't let it be named among you as saints; come out of it.

Ephesians 5:6 “Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.”

Who gets the wrath of God? It is those with the Mark of the Beast; so this is the Third Angel’s Message—if you do these things, coveting, idolatry, fornication, filthiness, foolish talking, they are all the sins of Babylon, you will receive the wrath of God. These sins lead you to receive the Mark of the Beast.

Ephesian 5:7 “Be not ye therefore partakers with them. 8 For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light: 9 (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) 10 Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. 11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. 12 For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret. 13 But all things that are reprovèd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light.”

This is the Fourth Angel’s message because he lightens the earth with his glory. We reprove darkness and we have the fruit of the Spirit; we have received the Early and the Latter Rain and are the children of light. What glory is this that we lighten the earth with?

“Both the redeemed and the unfallen beings will find in the cross of Christ their science and their song. It will be seen that the glory shining in the face of Jesus is the glory of self-sacrificing love. In the light from Calvary it will be seen that the law of self-renouncing love is the law of life for earth and heaven.” DA 19.

That light, which lightens the earth with His glory, is the glory of Self-sacrificing Love, the Law of self-renouncing Love. When we are lighting the earth with His glory, what we are going to be revealing to the world is the glory of Self-sacrificing Love. The power of Self-sacrificing Love is what will cause people to surrender to God; to accept the Sabbath truth; to come out of the world and Babylon and take their stand with us. When they see that glory shining from us; it is the same glory as shown on the face of Moses; on the face of Stephen; and on the face of Christ; the same glory that shown on the face of Enoch and it is the same glory that God wants to shine on us; Self-sacrificing Love.

Therefore brethren; if we leave our first Love and don’t get it back, if we don’t accept the counsel of the True Witness, if we don’t have that Love, we cannot give to people something that we don’t have. Will we be able to participate in lighting the earth with His glory? We can’t give the Loud Cry of the Third Angel without it.

May we receive that glory of Self-sacrificing Love and regain our First Love experience through the Everlasting Gospel.