

*As the storm approaches, a **large class** who have professed faith in the third angel's message, but have not been sanctified through obedience to the truth, abandon their position and join the ranks of the opposition.* By *uniting* with the world and partaking of *its spirit*, they have come to *view matters in nearly the same light*; and when the test is brought, they are prepared to choose the easy, popular side. Men of talent and pleasing address, who once rejoiced in the truth, *employ their powers to deceive and mislead souls*. They become the most bitter enemies of their former brethren. When Sabbathkeepers are brought before the courts to answer for their faith, these apostates are the most efficient agents of Satan to misrepresent and accuse them, and by false reports and insinuations to stir up the rulers against them. {GC 608.2} {GC88 608.1} {4SP 426.1} {Mar 196.2} {FLB 336.7} {LDE 180.6}

But continually increasing numbers were attracted to the shores of America, *actuated by motives widely different from those of the first Pilgrims*. Though the primitive faith and purity exerted a widespread and molding power, *yet its influence became less and less as the numbers increased of those who sought only worldly advantage*. {GC 296.4}

The regulation adopted by the early colonists, of permitting *only members of the church to vote or to hold office in the civil government*, led to most *pernicious* results. This measure had been accepted as a means of preserving the purity of the state, but it resulted in the corruption of the church. A profession of religion being the *condition* of suffrage and officeholding, many, actuated solely by motives of worldly policy, united with the church without a change of heart. Thus the churches came to consist, to a considerable extent, of unconverted persons; and even in the ministry were those who not only held errors of doctrine, but who were ignorant of the renewing power of the Holy Spirit. Thus again was demonstrated the evil results, so often witnessed in the history of the church from the days of Constantine to the present, of attempting to build up the church by the aid of the state, of appealing to the secular power in support of the gospel of Him who declared: "My kingdom is not of this world." John 18:36. The union of the church with the state, be the degree never so slight, while it may appear to bring the world nearer to the church, does in reality but bring the church nearer to the world. {GC 297.1}

The great principle so nobly advocated by Robinson and Roger Williams, that truth is progressive, that Christians should stand ready to accept all the light which may shine from God's holy word, was lost sight of by their descendants. *The Protestant churches of America*,--and those of Europe as well,--so highly favored in receiving the blessings of the Reformation, failed to press forward in the path of reform. Though a few faithful men arose, from time to time, to proclaim new truth and expose long-cherished error, the majority, like the Jews in Christ's day or the papists in the time of Luther, *were content to believe as their fathers had believed and to live as they had lived. Therefore religion again degenerated into formalism; and errors and superstitions which would have been cast aside* had the church continued to walk in the light of God's word, *were retained and cherished. Thus the spirit inspired by the Reformation gradually died out, until there was almost as great need of reform in the Protestant churches as in the Roman Church in the time of Luther. There was the same worldliness and spiritual stupor, a similar reverence for the opinions of men, and substitution of human theories for the teachings of God's word*. {GC 297.2}

All the policy in the world *cannot save us from* a terrible sifting, and all the efforts made with high authorities will not lift from us the scourging, of God, just because sin is cherished. If as a people we do not keep ourselves in the faith and not only advocate with pen and voice the commandments of God, but keep them every one, not violating a single precept knowingly, then weakness and ruin will come upon us. It is a work that we must attend to in every one of our churches. Each man must be a Christian. {12MR 323.1} {3SM 384.3} {

Isa. 28:14 Wherefore hear the word of the LORD, ye scornful men, that rule this people which is in Jerusalem.

28:15 Because ye have said, *We have made a covenant* with death, and with hell are we at *agreement*; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, *it shall not come unto us: for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood have we hid ourselves:*

Ez. 20:32 And that which cometh into your mind shall not be at all, that ye say, *We will be* as the heathen, as the families of the countries, to serve wood and stone.

Jer. 44:18 But since we left off to burn incense to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto her, *we have wanted all things, and have been consumed by the sword and by the famine.*

Amos. 9:10 All the sinners of my people shall die by the sword, *which say, The evil shall not overtake nor prevent us.*

John. 19:15 But they cried out, Away with him, away with him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Shall I crucify your King? The chief priests answered, *We have no king but Caesar.*-- Jerusalem destroyed A.D. 70.

Already the judgments of God are abroad in the land, as seen in storms, in floods, in tempests, in earthquakes, in peril by land and by sea. The great I AM is speaking to those who make void His law. When God's wrath is poured out upon the earth, who will then be able to stand? Now is the time for God's people to show themselves true to principle. When the religion of Christ is most held in contempt, when His law is most despised, then should our zeal be the warmest and our courage and firmness the most unflinching. To stand in defense of truth and righteousness *when the majority forsake us*, to fight the battles of the Lord when champions are few--this will be our test. At this time we must gather warmth from the coldness of others, courage from their cowardice, and loyalty from their *treason*. The *nation* will be on the side of the great rebel leader. {5T 136.2}

Human reasoning has ever sought to evade or set aside the simple, direct instructions of the Word of God. *In every age a majority of the professed followers of Christ have disregarded those precepts which* enjoin self-denial and humility, which require modesty and simplicity of conversation, deportment, and apparel. The result has ever been the same--departure from the teachings of the gospel leads to the adoption of the fashions, customs, and principles of the world. Vital godliness gives place to a dead formalism. The presence and power of God, withdrawn from

those world-loving circles, are found with a class of humble worshipers, who are willing to obey the teachings of the Sacred Word. Through successive generations this course has been pursued. One after another different denominations have risen and yielding their simplicity, have lost, in a great measure, their early power. {CG 430.1}

Three days the people were before the mount. During this time, they had ample opportunity to review their past course of murmuring and impatience, and to repent. God had given them his gracious promise that they should become a peculiar treasure unto him, on condition of obedience; but if they were disobedient he would reject them, and choose another people. {ST, April 22, 1880 par. 12}

"One matter burdens my soul: The great lack of the love of God, which has been lost through continued resistance of light and truth, and the influence of those who have been engaged in active labor, who in the face of evidence piled upon evidence, have exerted an influence to counteract the message God has sent. I point them to the Jewish nation and ask, Must we leave our brethren to pass over the same path of blind resistance, till the very end of probation? If ever a people needed true and faithful watchmen, ***who will not hold their peace***, who will cry day and night, sounding the warning God has given, ***it is the Seventh-day Adventists***. Those who have had great light, blessed opportunities, who like Capernaum have been exalted to heaven in point of privileges, shall they, by non-improvement, ***be left to darkness corresponding to the greatness of the light given?***" {SpTA02a 28.1}

If Seventh-day Adventists had walked in the way of the Lord, refusing to allow selfish interests to control them, the Lord would greatly have blessed them. Those who have remained in Battle Creek contrary to the will of the Lord have lost the valuable experience and the spiritual knowledge they might have gained through obedience. ***Many of them have forfeited the favor of God***. The heart of the work has become congested. For a long time the warning has been given, but it has not been heeded. The reason for this disobedience is that the hearts and minds of many in Battle Creek are not under the influence of the Holy Spirit. They do not realize how much work there is to do. They are asleep.

This is the word of the living God. The law is God's great moral looking-glass. He is to compare his words, his spirit, his actions with the word of God. If we decide that in these last days we have ***no work assigned*** to us that is out of the common course of the nominal churches, we shall meet with great disappointment. The great question to be investigated, weighed, and decided is, What can I do to reach souls that are lost? God calls for a work to be done by Seventh-day Adventists that I need not define. ***Unless the work is first done in their own hearts***, all the specific directions that might be given to point out their course of action, will be labor in vain. Pamphlets PH086 ST 1898

"Ministers and people are unprepared for the time in which they live, and ***NEARLY ALL who profess to believe present truth are unprepared to understand the work of preparation for this time***. In their present state of worldly ambition, with their lack of consecration to God, their devotion to self, they are wholly unfitted to receive the latter rain*." 1T 466. See *LDE 210, Mar.

"Soon God's people will be tested by fiery trials, and ***THE GREAT PROPORTION of those who now appear to be genuine and true WILL PROVE TO BE BASE METAL.***" {5T 136}

"Today a ***LARGE PART*** of those who compose our congregations ARE DEAD IN TRESPASSES AND IN SINS. They come and go like the door upon its hinges. For years they have COMPLACENTLY listened to the most solemn, soul-stirring truths, BUT THEY HAVE NOT PUT THEM INTO PRACTICE. . . . If they continue in this state, GOD WILL REJECT THEM. They are unfitting themselves to be members of His family." {6T 426.4}

The doctrine of grace and salvation through Jesus Christ is a mystery ***to a large share*** of those whose names are upon the church books. If Christ were upon the earth speaking to His people, ***He would reproach them for their slowness of comprehension.*** He would say to the slow and uncomprehending, "I have left in your possession truths which concern your salvation, of which you do not suspect the value." {8MR 275.4}

If the people of our time would follow the example of the noble Bereans, in searching the Scriptures daily, and in comparing the messages brought to them with what is there recorded, there would be thousands loyal to God's law where there is one today. But MANY WHO PROFESS TO LOVE GOD have ***no desire to change from error to truth, and they cling to the pleasing fables of the last days. Error blinds the mind and leads from God;*** but truth gives light to the mind, and life to the soul. {LP 88.1}

"We have little enough of Christ's character. We need it all through our ranks, We must reveal that love which dwelt in Jesus. Then we shall keep the commandment [that we love one another], which ***NOT ONE IN A HUNDRED*** of those who claim to believe the truth for this time ARE KEEPING. . . ." {7MR 389.3}

There is not ***one in a thousand*** married or unmarried, who realize the importance of ***purity of habits***, in ***preserving*** cleanliness of the body and ***purity of thought.*** {KC 45}

The minds of the Bereans were not narrowed by prejudice, and they were willing to investigate and receive the truths preached by the apostles. If men and women would follow the example of the noble Bereans, in searching the Scriptures daily, and in ***comparing the messages brought to them with what is there recorded, there would be thousands loyal to God's law, where there is one today; Even many who profess to love God have no desire to change from error to truth, but cling to the pleasing fables*** of Satan's creation. Error never sanctifies the receiver; but truth of heavenly origin purifies the heart. {8Red 51.1}

"God's law is to be vindicated, by the obedience of heart and mind, ***and by strong arguments.*** {RH, February 16, 1905 par. 5}

"For a long time I have carried a heavy burden regarding the work to be done in Washington. ***Not one in a thousand of the people there knows what the Bible says about the Sabbath.*** The instruction given me is that the ten commandments should be printed in plain letters in a prominent place in the Review. Had these commandments been obeyed, the wickedness now seen in our world would never have existed. {RH, February 16, 1905 par. 6}

Sell Books That Give Light.--The Lord has sent His people much instruction, line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little, and there a little. Little heed is given to the Bible, and the Lord has ***given a lesser*** light to lead men and women to the greater light. Oh, how much good would be accomplished if the ***books*** containing this light were read with a determination to carry out the principles they contain! There would be a ***thousandfold*** greater vigilance, a ***thousandfold*** more self-denial and resolute effort. ***And many more would now be rejoicing in the light of present truth.*** {CM 125.2}

My brethren and sisters, work earnestly to circulate these ***books***. Put your hearts into this work, and the blessing of God will be with you. Go forth in faith, praying that God will prepare hearts to receive the light. Be pleasant and courteous. Show by a consistent course that you are true Christians. Walk and work in the light of heaven, and your path will be as the path of the just, shining more and more unto the perfect day.-- Review and Herald, Jan. 20, 1903.

"There are FEW really consecrated men among us, FEW who have fought and conquered in the battle with self. Real conversion is a decided change of feelings and motives; it is a virtual taking leave of worldly connections, a hastening from their spiritual atmosphere, a withdrawing from the controlling power of their thoughts, opinions, and influences." 5T 82.

O how FEW know the day of their visitation! How few, even among those who claim to believe in present truth, understand the signs of the times, or what they are to experience before the end. We are under divine forbearance today; but how long will the angels of God continue to hold the winds, that they shall not blow? We are convinced that among the people of God there is blindness of mind and hardness of heart, although God has manifested inexpressible mercy toward us. How few there are who are truly humble, devoted, God-fearing servants in the cause of Christ, whose hearts are full of gratitude and thanksgiving because they are called to act a part in the work of God, being co-laborers with Jesus Christ, partakers with Christ of his sufferings! How few there are who can say from the heart, "Our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal." {RH, April 4, 1893 par. 3}

Higher than the highest human thought can reach is God's ideal for his children. He wants our minds to be clear, our tempers sweet, our love abounding. Then the peace that passeth knowledge will flow from us to bless all with whom we come in contact. The atmosphere surrounding our souls will be refreshing.

But how FEW there are who are making determined efforts to reach this ideal. {RH, November 24, 1904.}

“How can I endure the thought that *most of the youth* in this age will come short of everlasting life!” 2T 144.

“The conviction is gaining ground in the world that Seventh-day Adventists are giving the trumpet an uncertain sound, that they are following worldlings.” T.M. 86

We have the most solemn message of truth ever borne to the world. *This truth is more and more respected by unbelievers, because it cannot be controverted.* {GW92 138.1}

Popular revivals are too often carried by appeals to the imagination, by *exciting the emotions*, by gratifying the love for what is new and startling. Converts thus gained have little desire to listen to *Bible truth*, little interest in the testimony of prophets and apostles. Unless a religious service has something of a *sensational character*, it has no attractions for them. A message which appeals to *unimpassioned* reason awakens no response. The plain warnings of God's word, relating directly to their eternal interests, are unheeded. GC 463

Men of action are needed--men who will labor with earnest, ceaseless energy for the purifying of the church and the warning of the world. {5T 187.3}