

The Church whence came it?

So God has spoken to man. He has spoken to man in His Son and in His Word. ***And the revelation of His truth for us is in the Bible, as it is nowhere else.***

That being so, the question of the ultimate authority regarding truth is settled. The last and supreme word concerning God, man, life, death, and eternity has been spoken. That supreme authority is the Bible.

The reasoning faculties of mankind have been affected by the fall of the race. Sin has not left these untouched but has unsettled their delicate balance and accurate functioning. Absolute reliance cannot be placed on their operation. Even if this were not so, there is such a thing as truth and reality wholly apart from, and independent of, reason.

Truth is not what I *believe*. Truth is not even what I *know*. Truth is *fact*. ***I may not believe it. I may not know it.*** That does not change it. It is there nevertheless, waiting to be discovered and believed.

Truth does not depend on the unsettled and changing opinions of men. ***It was truth before it was believed. It remains truth, whether it is believed or not.*** Reason does not originate or create it. It merely discovers it. Consequently, reason is not a source. Truth goes back beyond reason.

Others would have us believe that the church is the source of authority, particularly in matters of theology. They are wrong. The church is the product of truth. It does not originate it. It came into being by accepting divine revelation. It is not the source of that revelation. Truth goes beyond the church, is antecedent to it.—Carlyle B. Haynes. When A Man Dies. page. 19.2-21.1.

Note: So then the Church is the Body of Believers. Therefore they must believe as all from Adam to John Believed. For Prophecy came not in Old time by the *WILL* of man, neither does the interpretation come by the will of man. Those who accept this truth are the church, this Church is not Babylon! But those who do not accept this truth are/ become what? Revelation 16:19.

On the Church Books?

The young want just what they have not; namely, religion. Nothing can take the place of this. ***Profession alone is nothing. Names are registered upon the church-books upon earth, but not in the book of life.*** I saw that there is not one in twenty of the youth who knows what experimental religion is. They serve themselves, and yet profess to be servants of Christ; but unless the spell which is upon them be broken, they will soon realize that the portion of the transgressor is theirs. ***As for self-denial or sacrifice for the truth's sake, they have found an easier way above it all.*** As for the earnest pleading with tears and strong cries to God for His pardoning grace, and for strength from Him to resist the temptations of Satan, they have found it

unnecessary to be so earnest and zealous; they can get along well without it. Christ, the King of glory, went often alone to the mountains and desert places to pour out His soul's request to His Father; but sinful man, in whom is no strength, thinks he can live without so much prayer.--"Testimonies for the Church," Vol. I, pages 503-505. {1T 504.2}

Let church members bear in mind that the fact that their names are registered on the church books will not save them. They must show themselves approved of God, workmen that need not be ashamed. Day by day they are to ***build their characters in accordance with Christ's directions.*** They are to abide in Him, constantly exercising faith in Him. Thus they will grow up to the full stature of men and women in Christ—wholesome, cheerful, grateful Christians, led by God into clearer and still clearer light. If this is not their experience, they will be among those whose voices will one day be raised in the bitter lamentation: "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and my soul is not saved! Why did I not flee to the Stronghold for refuge? Why have I trifled with my soul's salvation, and done despite to the Spirit of grace?" 62 {CCh 67.5}

"This is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and [men and women] loved darkness rather than light." ***They will not come to the light for fear that their deeds will be reprov'd.*** This is the position taken by many. Their names are in the church books. They observe a round of ceremonies, ***but they do not love the truth.*** They have been satisfied to stand at the door. They do not press their way into Christ's presence, to share with Him the glory of His royal life. Their characters are not brought into harmony with the ***truth.*** They have not the faith that works by love and purifies the soul. Evil-speaking, evil-surmising, dishonest actions, cast a dark shadow athwart their pathway. Their faith sinks into this shadow of shame, and they feel that they are separated from Christ. There is a sting in the conscience, a condemnation in the life. They feel a desire to hide away from God. Light has come into the world, but they love darkness rather than light, because their deeds are evil. . . . {CTr 52.3}

Jesus and his loyal subjects ascend to the top of the city. The wicked host behold the splendor of the city, and the happy redeemed company upon its walls, and are amazed at the scene. They behold Jesus in his kingly majesty, his countenance surpassing the brightness of the sun, surrounded by the angelic throng. As the wicked look upon the redeemed, and see their faces radiant with glory, and glittering crowns upon their heads, their courage fails, and they wail in anguish as they realize that they chose a life of rebellion against God, and Jesus Christ their Saviour, and for their disloyalty have lost eternal life, and an imperishable treasure. Then many who had professed to be Christ's followers, but who had not honored God in their lives, enumerate their good deeds performed when they lived upon the earth, and entreat to be admitted into the city. ***They plead that their names were upon the church books,*** and they had prophesied in the name of Christ, and in his name cast out devils, and done many wonderful works. ***Christ answers, Your cases have been decided. Your names are not found enrolled in the book of life.*** You professed to believe in my name, but you trampled upon the law of God. I know you not, depart from me ye workers of iniquity. Satan and his angels try to encourage the wicked multitude to action; but fire descends from Heaven, and unites with the fire in the earth, and aids in the general conflagration. {3SG 86.1}

It is the character, not the placing of our names on the church books, that makes us Christians. What manifestations will appear when Christ, abiding in the heart, is shining in the faces of those who love Him and keep His commandments. Truth is written there. The man is transformed into Christ's image. A worldling may pass by and not mark the change, but those who have had communion with Christ discern the expression of Christ in word, in spirit. The influence upon the heart is seen in a habitual gentleness, a more than human love. The sweet peace of heaven will be in the soul, and will be revealed in the countenances.--Letter 6, Jan. 14, 1899, to "Brethren and Sisters in Camp Meeting at Ballarat." {UL 28.5}

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}

Religion is a personal matter. ***We are not saved by companies; we are not saved by having our names on the church books; we are not saved by numbers. The matter is, How is it with my soul? Have I made the surrender to God?*** Luke 10. Read the test made to Christ, "What shall I do to inherit eternal life?" Christ responds to the lawyer, "What is written in the law? how readest thou?" (Read the whole on this point.) Am I converted to God? Has His transforming power made me a new man? Am I kind? Have I the attributes of Christ, or the attributes of Satan? Am I polite to God whose property in souls I am responsible for? Am I kind? Am I patient? Am I tender? Do I have the love of Christ for the souls for whom He has died? {1SAT 178.2}

Those who live doing the works of the enemy, yet bearing the name of the Lord, are lying; they profess to believe the Bible, yet they are working right away from it in their lives and character. In the place of representing Jesus in the character that they shall give to the world, they represent the works of Satan, the works of darkness. Now any such names that may be on your church books, although they may give of their means to help to sustain the church, notwithstanding all that, they are stumbling blocks to the church every day they are in it. {1888 121.5}

Eze. 14:14 Though these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they should deliver but their own souls by their righteousness, saith the Lord God.

14:20 Though Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, as I live, saith the Lord God, they shall deliver neither son nor daughter; they shall but deliver their own souls by their righteousness.

A part of Laodicean Babylon!

Revelation 3:14 14:8; 18.

Note: Here are two parallel Prophecies. Both were produced by the same events and express the condition of the professed Christian Church before the Second Advent, yet with Laodicea is

illustrated the two servants. Both are messages to the Christian Church.—6T 77.2. 1T 186.1. Illustrating the result of committing fornication with civil government, by accepting the wine of false doctrine, which the eye salve would heal. Jer. 51:9; EW 277.1. And as we see in Revelation 16:19 making the 3rd part of apostasy. And Jesus said Matt. 12:30 “He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.” On what side would one expect those to be who refuse present truth for fables ? Even though they profess or are members of a Church.

The warning for *the last church* also *must be proclaimed to all who claim to be Christians. The Laodicean message, like a sharp, two-edged sword, must go to all the churches*: "I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of My mouth. 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: 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. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent." Verses 15-19. It is our work to proclaim this message. Are we putting forth every effort that the churches may be warned? {6T 77.2}

I was shown that the testimony to the Laodiceans applies to God's people *at the present time*, and the reason it has not accomplished a greater work is because of the hardness of their hearts. But God has given the message *time to do its work. The heart must be purified from sins which have so long shut out Jesus. This fearful message will do its work*. When it was first presented, it led to close examination of heart. Sins were confessed, and the people of God were stirred everywhere. Nearly all believed that this message would end in the loud cry of the third angel. But as they failed to see the powerful work accomplished in a short time, many lost the effect of the message. I saw that this message would not accomplish its work in a few short months. It is designed to arouse the people of God, to discover to them their backslidings, and to lead to zealous repentance, that they may be favored with the presence of Jesus, and be fitted for the loud cry of the third angel. As this message affected the heart, it led to deep humility before God. Angels were sent in every direction to prepare unbelieving hearts for the truth. The cause of God began to rise, and His people were acquainted with their position. If the counsel of the True Witness had been fully heeded, God would have wrought for His people in greater power. Yet the efforts made since the message has been given, have been blessed of God, and many souls have been brought from error and darkness to rejoice in the truth. {1T 186.1}

I saw angels hurrying to and fro in heaven, descending to the earth, and again ascending to heaven, preparing for the fulfillment of some important event. Then I saw another mighty angel commissioned to descend to the earth, to unite his voice with the third angel, and give power and force to his message. Great power and glory were imparted to the angel, and as he descended, the earth was lightened with his glory. The light which attended this angel penetrated everywhere, as he cried mightily, with a strong voice, "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird." The message of the fall of Babylon, as given by the second angel, is repeated, with the additional mention of the corruptions which have been entering the churches since 1844. The work of this angel comes in at the right time to join in the last great work of the third angel's

message as it swells to a loud cry. And the people of God are thus prepared to stand in the hour of temptation, which they are soon to meet. I saw a great light resting upon them, and they united to fearlessly proclaim the third angel's message. {EW 277.1}

The tares and wheat are now *commingled*, but then the one hand that alone can separate them will give to everyone his true position. Those who have had the light of truth, and heard the warning message, *heard the invitation to the marriage supper--farmer*, merchant, lawyer, false shepherds who have quieted the convictions of the people, unfaithful watchmen who have not sounded the warning or known the time of night--all who have refused obedience to the laws of the kingdom of God, will have *no right therein*. Those who have sought an *excuse to avoid the cross of separation from the world* will, with the world, be taken in the snare. *They mingled with the tares from choice. Like drew to like in transgression.* It is a fearful assimilation. Men choose to stand with the first rebel, who tempted Adam and Eve in Eden to disobey God. The tares multiply themselves, for they sow tares, and they have their part with the root of all sin--the devil. {TM 235.1}

"The *spirit of the papacy*,--*the spirit of conformity to worldly customs, the veneration for human traditions* above the commands of God,--is permeating the Protestant churches, and *leading them on to do the same work of Sunday exaltation* which the papacy has done before them. **Would the reader understand the agencies to be employed in the soon-coming contest? He has but to trace the record of the means which Rome employed for the same object in ages past.** Would he know how papists and Protestants united will deal with those who reject their dogmas? Let him see the spirit which Rome manifested toward the Sabbath and its defenders." {4SP 390.3}

Note what Matters? Prophecy, Even the gospel as protestants do!

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 (DA 635.1)*; 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}

The class of *professed Sabbathkeepers* who try to *form a union* between Christ and Belial, who take hold of the truth with one hand and of the world with the other, have surrounded their children and clouded the church with an atmosphere *entirely foreign* to religion and the Spirit of Christ. They dared not openly oppose the claims of truth. They dared not take a bold stand and say they did not believe the testimonies; but, while nominally believing both, they have obeyed *neither*. By their course of action they have denied both. They desire the Lord to fulfill to them

His promises; but *they refuse to comply* with the conditions on which these promises are based. They will not *relinquish* every rival for Christ. Under the preaching of the word there is a partial suppression of worldliness, but no radical change of the affections. Worldly desires, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life ultimately gain the victory. This class are all professed Christians. Their names are on the church books. *They live for a time a seemingly religious life and then yield their hearts, too often finally, to the predominating influence of the world.* {5T 52.2}

Some who have been channels of light, whose hearts have been made glad by the precious light of truth, *have denied that truth by assimilating to the world.* They have thus lost the spirit of self-sacrifice and *the power of the truth,* and have depended for happiness upon unstable things of earth. They are in great peril. Having once rejoiced in the light, they will be left in total darkness unless they speedily gather up the rays that are still shining upon them and return to the Lord with repentance and confession. We are in a day of peril, when error and deception are captivating the people. Who will warn the world, who will show them the better way, *unless those who have had the light of truth are sanctified through it* and shall let their light so shine that others may see their good works and glorify God? I wish I could impress upon all the danger they are in of losing heaven. Joining the church is one thing, and connecting with Christ is quite another. *Not all the names registered in the church books are registered in the Lamb's book of life.* Many, though apparently sincere believers, do not keep up a living connection with Christ. They have enlisted, they have entered their names on the register; but the inner work of grace is not wrought in the heart. As the result they are not happy, and they make hard work of serving God. {5T 278.2}

I call upon my brethren who are appointed to educate, to change their course of action. *It is a mistake for you to link your interests with any political party, to cast your vote with them or for them.* Those who stand as educators, as ministers, as laborers together with God in any line, *have no battles to fight in the political world.* Their citizenship is in heaven. The Lord calls upon them to stand as a separate and peculiar people. He would have no schisms in the body of believers. His people are to possess the elements of reconciliation. {GW 393.2}

The conflict is to wax fiercer and fiercer. Satan will take the field and personate Christ. He will misrepresent, misapply, and pervert everything he possibly can, to deceive, if possible, the very elect. Even in our day there have been and will continue to be *entire families* who have once rejoiced in the truth, but who will lose faith because of *calumnies* and *falsehoods* brought to them in regard to those whom they have loved and with *whom* they have had sweet *counsel.* *They opened their hearts to the sowing of tares; the tares sprang up among the wheat; they strengthened; the crop of wheat became less and less; and the precious truth lost its power to them. For a time a false zeal accompanied their new theories, which hardened their hearts against the advocates of truth* as did the Jews against Christ. {TM 411.2}

Under the *zeal of Satan,* some have for a time the appearance of men in a flourishing condition; but it is only for a season. Satan carried them so far that *they do despite* to the Spirit of God. They spread themselves like a green bay tree. The Lord suffers them for a time. He allows them to manifest their envy and hatred against the people of God, as He has allowed Satan to

develop his character, that he might stand before the heavenly universe, before the worlds unfallen, and the fallen world, in his true attributes, as a deceiver, an accuser of the brethren, a murderer at heart. {TM 412.1}

“The conviction is gaining ground in the world that Seventh-day Adventists are giving the trumpet an uncertain sound, that they are following worldlings.” {TM 86.2} {GCB, April 1, 1897 par. 2} {1888 1332.1}

Many will stand in our pulpits with the torch of false prophecy in their hands, kindled from the hellish torch of Satan. If doubts and unbelief are cherished, the *faithful ministers will be removed from the people who think they know so much.* "If thou hadst known," said Christ, "even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes." {TM 409.3}

Note: what is preached? whence came this preaching?

I terribly fear that many that bear the name of *Seventh-day Adventists are stumbling-blocks in the way of sinners. They neither enter into the work themselves, and those that would enter in, they hinder by their unconsecrated lives.* God forbid that we should go down to death with the blood of souls upon our garments. God forbid that we should stand merely bearing the name of Christians, when we are not sanctified by the truths we profess. God forbid that we at last find that our lives have been an entire failure, an entire mistake, and there appear no soul to whom we can point, as one whom we have been the means of saving, and bringing in through the gates, into the city. Shall it appear finally that we have been wrapped up in our own self-righteousness, all covered up with the spirit and love of the world? {RH, August 17, 1869 par. 2}

Already the judgments of God are abroad in the land, as seen in storms, in floods, in tempests, in earthquakes, in perils 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 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. {RH, January 11, 1887 par. 2}

By Giving up the foundation.

The enemy of souls has sought to bring in the supposition that a great reformation was to take place *among Seventh-Day Adventists*, and that this reformation would consist in *giving up the doctrines which stand as the pillars of our faith*, and engaging in a process of reorganization. Were this reformation to take place, what would result? **The principles of truth that God in His**

wisdom has given to the remnant church, would be discarded. Our religion would be changed. **The fundamental principles that have sustained the work for the last fifty years would be counted as error.** A new organization would be established. Books of a new order would be written. A system of *intellectual philosophy* would be introduced. The founders of this system would go into the cities, and do a wonderful work. The sabbath, of course, would be lightly regarded, as also the God who created it. Nothing would be allowed to stand in the way of the new movement. The leaders would teach that virtue is better than vice, but God being removed, they would place their dependence on human power, which, without God, is worthless. Their foundation would be built on sand, storm and tempest would sweep away the structure. {1SM 204.2}

Notice these are those who accept not the foundation of the SDA church are part of babylon.

We must be decided on this subject; for the points that he is trying to prove by Scripture, are not sound. They do not prove that the past experience of God's people was a fallacy. We had the truth; we were directed by the angels of God. It was under the guidance of the Holy Spirit that the presentation of the sanctuary question was given. **It is eloquence for every one to keep silent in regard to the features of our faith in which they acted no part.** God never contradicts Himself. Scripture proofs are misapplied if forced to testify to that which is not true. Another and still another will arise and bring in supposedly great light, and make their assertions. But we stand by the *old landmarks*. [1 John 1:1-10 quoted.] {1SM 161.4}

By Rejecting the Holy Spirit.

There is to be in the [Seventh-day Adventist] churches a wonderful manifestation of the power of God, but it will not move upon those who have not humbled themselves before the Lord, and opened the door of the heart by confession and repentance. In the manifestation of that power which lightens the earth with the glory of God, ***they will see only something which in their blindness they think dangerous, something which will arouse their fears, and they will brace themselves to resist it. Because the Lord does not work according to their ideas and expectations they will oppose the work.*** "Why," they say, "should we not know the Spirit of God, when we have been in the work so many years?"--RH Extra, Dec. 23, 1890. {LDE 209.3}

The third angel's message will not be comprehended, the light which will lighten the earth with its glory will be ***called a false light***, by those who refuse to walk in its advancing glory.—RH May 27, 1890. {LDE 210.1} {Mar chapter 219.}

There are persons in the church who are not converted, and who will not unite in earnest, prevailing prayer. We must enter upon the work individually. We must pray more, and talk less. Iniquity abounds, and ***the people must be taught not to be satisfied with a form of godliness without the spirit and power.*** If we are intent upon searching our own hearts, putting away our sins, and correcting our evil tendencies, our souls will not be lifted up unto vanity; we shall be distrustful of ourselves, having an abiding sense that our sufficiency is of God. {RH, March 22,

1887 par. 3}

We have far more to fear from within than from without. The hindrances to strength and success are far greater *from the church itself than from the world.* Unbelievers have a right to expect that those who profess to be keeping the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, will do more than any other class to promote and honor, by their consistent lives, by their godly example and their active influence, the cause which they represent. But how often have *the professed advocates of the truth proved the greatest obstacle to its advancement!* The unbelief indulged, the doubts expressed, the darkness cherished, encourage the presence of evil angels, and open the way for the accomplishment of Satan's devices. {RH, March 22, 1887 par. 4}

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}