

## ***By Whom are we sealed?***

***Who are standing in the counsel of God at this time? Is it those who virtually excuse wrongs among the professed people of God and who murmur in their hearts, if not openly, against those who would reprove sin?*** Is it those who take their stand against them and sympathize with those who commit wrong? No, indeed! Unless they repent, and leave the work of Satan in oppressing those who have the burden of the work and in holding up the hands of sinners in Zion, they will never receive the mark of ***God's sealing*** approval. They will fall in the general destruction of the wicked, represented by the work of the five men bearing slaughter weapons. Mark this point with care: Those who receive ***the pure mark*** of truth, ***wrought in them by the power of the Holy Ghost***, represented by a mark by the man in linen, are those "that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done" in the church. Their love for purity and the honor and glory of God is such, and they have so clear a view of the exceeding sinfulness of sin, that they are represented as being in agony, even sighing and crying. Read the ninth chapter of Ezekiel. {3T 267.1}

## ***Why the Holy Spirit as a Person is denied!***

This is the danger to which the church is now exposed--that the inventions of finite men shall ***mark out the precise way for the Holy Spirit to come***. Though they would not care to acknowledge it, some have already done this. And because the Spirit is to come, not to praise men or to build up their ***erroneous theories***, but to ***reprove*** the world of sin, and of ***righteousness***, and of ***judgment***, many turn away from it. They are not willing to be deprived of the garments of their own self-righteousness. They are not willing to exchange their own righteousness, which is unrighteousness, ***for the righteousness of Christ, which is pure, unadulterated truth.*** TM 65

There is one office of the Spirit which is not only ignored, but denied by many at the present time. ***It is that of Reprover.*** Jesus said:- {1877 JHW, SGOM 14.1} "And when he is come he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment." John 16:8. {1877 JHW, SGOM 14.2}

They who deny the exercise of this office to the Spirit say that the promise of the direct presence of the Spirit is only to the church, as a Comforter; that they only who are members of the church can receive the influence of the Spirit in any manner; and that they who receive it do so, not as an evidence of that membership, but because of that membership. The world is reprov'd, they say, only by the word which the Spirit has indited; and the threatenings of the word are the only method

of reproof, the Spirit itself not being present at all. {1877 JHW, SGOM 14.3}

But this does not accord with the words of the Saviour, that the Spirit comes into the world to reprove the world. It plainly appears that the Spirit of God was striving with man in the days of Noah. Gen. 6:3. Stephen accused the Jews of resisting it. Acts 7:51. And if it is allowable to assume that the Spirit strives with and reproves men only by means of the threatenings and reproofs of the word, we may with equal propriety assume that it comforts the saints only by the promises of the word. And ***then we have the Spirit banished entirely***, as far as actual presence is concerned, and the promise of the Saviour is destroyed. We claim, and we think with good reason, that to deny its presence in comforting the saints is doing no greater violence to the Scriptures than to deny its presence in reproofing sinners. And if there be no real presence of the Spirit in these works ***we may in vain ask the Father to give us the Spirit***, notwithstanding the Saviour's instructions in Luke 11:9-13. Nor can it then be true, as promised in our text, John 14:16, that the Spirit will abide with us forever, no, nor even visit us at all. {1877 JHW, SGOM 15.1}

***We ought to consider ourselves responsible for every conclusion which may logically be drawn from our position.*** Therefore men ought to fear greatly when they take such a position as that which we now call in question, because it really removes the Spirit from the work of the gospel, as a Comforter as well as a Reprover. We fear that such positions are taken because men are too easily satisfied with a nominal religion, destitute of the Spirit's power. {1877 JHW, SGOM 15.2}

Matthew. 12:31 Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but ***the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven*** unto men.