

Many teachers of God's Word need to become learners before they can truly teach the Scriptures to others. Were Christ on earth, He would say to them, Ye teach for doctrine the commandments of men; ye are ignorant both of the Scriptures and of the power of God. *They know little of true moral and religious science,* and less of the Word of God. A knowledge of the Scriptures would make them wise unto salvation, but they stand only on the threshold of knowledge. They have never entered in to obtain true spiritual understanding. Because of the simplicity of the truth, they think it necessary to clothe it with their far-fetched explanations. But did they do no more than read the Scriptures, the common people would understand God's Word far better. The Scriptures are made intricate by the way in which they are interpreted. Better would it be for the student to compare scripture with scripture, *using one passage to unlock another. Scripture can be correctly interpreted only by scripture.* ST January 11, 1899, par. 6

My brethren in the Lord, I am instructed to say that you must raise the standard of piety and truth and holiness higher, still higher. *Compare scripture with scripture. Encourage the people to study their Bibles. Nearly all have the common version,* and the words are so simple and plain that all who read may understand. Let the Scriptures be read freely in the family and in the pulpit. The men who wrote the books of the Bible, *were inspired of God, and the words of Holy Writ are for our admonition,* upon whom the ends of the world are come. 21LtMs, Lt 188, 1906, par. 5

Revelation is a sealed book, but it is also an opened book. It records marvelous events that are to take place in the last days of this earth's history. The teachings of this book are definite, not mystical and unintelligible. *In it the same line of prophecy is taken up as in Daniel. Some prophecies God has repeated, thus showing that importance must be given to them. The Lord does not repeat things that are of no great consequence.*—Manuscript 107, 1897, pp. 1,2.

It was my idea to have the two books bound together, Revelation following Daniel, as giving fuller light on the subjects dealt with in Daniel. *The object is to bring these books together, showing that they both relate to the same subjects.* TM 117.2

The Lord has revealed the power of His Word to His people in the past as He did to ancient Israel. *But we have been pained to see men and women who were resolved not to see the evidences of truth. How difficult it is for the truth to make a favorable impression on the mind when that truth is not in harmony with men's ideas.* There are few who will investigate the Word of God with that spirit that led the noble Bereans to compare Scripture with Scripture. *When will those men in responsible positions recognize the voice of the true Shepherd, and*

follow Him rather than a stranger? 14LtMs, Ms 23, 1899, par. 18

Our success in educational lines depends upon the spirit which we cherish and bring into the school. *A profession of faith does not make men Christians*, but if teachers will open the Word in study, and compare Scripture with Scripture, they will find it profitable. *The spirit of controversy must not come in, but let each seek to obtain that light and knowledge which he needs.* “We ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we let them slip. For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation: which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him.” [Hebrews 2:1-3.] 13LtMs, Ms 53, 1898, par. 5

This many of the teachers in the churches are doing today. *They propagate error by teaching for doctrine the commandments of men.* In no way do their lives honor God or the Scriptures. *Falsehoods which have been handed down from century to century are taught as the Word of God.* If these are questioned, those who advocate them do not say, *“Let us search the Word of God, which is the test of all doctrine; let us compare scripture with scripture, for the Word of God is the treasure-house of all knowledge.”* Instead, they utterly refuse to make unprejudiced investigation. ST March 1, 1899, par. 4

Many choose darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil. But there are those who, if the truth could have been presented in a different manner, under different circumstances, giving them a fair chance to weigh the arguments for themselves, and to compare scripture with scripture, *would have been charmed by its clearness and would have taken hold upon it.* T24 137.2

It has been very *indiscreet for our minister to publish to the world the wily sophistry of error*, furnished *by designing men to cover up and make of none effect the solemn, sacred truth of Jehovah. These crafty men who lie in wait to deceive the unwary give their strength of intellect to pervert the word of God. The inexperienced and unsuspecting are deceived to their ruin. It has been a great error to publish to all, and furnish every class of minds with the arguments of opponents wherewith to battle the truth of God, which many had never thought of. Some one must render an account for this unwise generalship.* T24 137.3

We cannot obtain wisdom without earnest attention and prayerful study. *Some portions of Scripture are indeed too plain to be misunderstood; but there are others whose meaning does not lie on the surface, to be seen at a glance. Scripture must be compared with scripture.* There must be careful research and

prayerful reflection. And such study will be richly repaid. As the miner discovers veins of precious metal concealed beneath the surface of the earth, so will he who perseveringly searches the word of God as for hid treasure, find truths of the greatest value, which are concealed from the view of the careless seeker. The words of inspiration, pondered in the heart, will be as streams flowing from the fountain of life. CE 58.3

Satan and his angels mark all the mean and covetous acts of these persons, and present them to Jesus and His holy angels, saying reproachfully: "These are Christ's followers! They are preparing to be translated!" Satan compares their course with passages of Scripture in which it is plainly rebuked, and then taunts the heavenly angels, saying: "These are following Christ and His word! These are the fruits of Christ's sacrifice and redemption!" Angels turn in disgust from the scene. CET 174.1

"Search the Scriptures," was the injunction of the Master. Many have lost much because they have *neglected this duty. When we search the word of God, angels are by our side*, reflecting bright beams of light upon its sacred pages. The Scriptures appeal to man as having power to choose between right and wrong; they speak to him in warning, in reproof, in entreaty, in encouragement. *The mind must be exercised* on the solemn truths of God's word, or it will grow weak. *We have the truth brought out in publications*, but it is not enough to rely upon other men's thoughts. We must examine for ourselves, and learn the reasons of our faith by comparing scripture with scripture. Take the Bible, and on your knees plead with God to enlighten your mind. If we would study the Bible diligently and prayerfully every day, we should every day see some beautiful truth in a new, clear, and forcible light.—The Review and Herald, March 4, 1884. CSW 22.2

God calls upon those who hold responsible positions in Sabbath school work to put away all egotism, all self-confidence, and pride of opinion; if a message comes that you do not understand, take pains that you may hear the reasons the messenger may give, comparing scripture with scripture, that you may know whether or not it is sustained by the word of God. If you believe that the positions taken have not the word of God for their foundation, if the position you hold on the subject cannot be controverted, then produce your strong reasons; for your position will not be shaken by coming in contact with error. There is no virtue or manliness in keeping up a continual warfare in the dark, closing your eyes lest you may see, closing your ears lest you may hear, hardening your heart in ignorance and unbelief lest you may have to humble yourselves and acknowledge that you have received light on some points of truth. CSW 28.2

What book can compare with the Bible? An understanding of its teachings is

essential for every child and youth, and for those of mature age; for it is the word of God, given to guide the human family to heaven. In the world today there are gods many and *doctrines many*. *Without an understanding of the Scriptures* it is impossible for the youth to *understand what is truth, or to discern between the sacred and the common*. CT 427.1

The Bible is its own expositor. Scripture is to be compared with scripture. The student should learn to view the word as a whole and to see the relation of its parts. He should gain a knowledge of its grand central theme—of God's original purpose for the world, of the rise of the great controversy, and of the work of redemption. He should understand the nature of the two principles that are contending for the supremacy, and should learn to trace their working through the records of history and prophecy to the great consummation. He should see how this controversy enters into every phase of human experience; how in every act of life he himself reveals the one or the other of the two antagonistic motives; and how, whether he will or not, he is even now deciding upon which side of the controversy he will be found. CT 462.1

I would say to my brethren and sisters, Keep close to the instruction found in the word of God. Dwell upon the rich truths of the Scriptures. *Thus only can you become one in Christ*. You have no time to engage in controversy regarding the killing of insects. Jesus has not placed this burden upon you. “What is the chaff to the wheat?” These side issues which arise are as hay, wood, and stubble *compared with the truth for these last days*. Those who leave the great truths of God's word to speak of such matters are not preaching the gospel. They are dealing with the idle sophistry which the enemy brings forward to divert minds from the truths that concern their eternal welfare. They have no word from Christ to vindicate their suppositions. CW 47.2

God does not compel men to give up their unbelief. Before them are light and darkness, truth and error. It is for them to decide which they will accept. *The human mind is endowed with power to discriminate between right and wrong*. God *designs that men shall not decide from impulse, but from weight of evidence, carefully comparing scripture with scripture*. Had the Jews laid by their prejudice and compared written prophecy with the facts characterizing the life of Jesus, they would have perceived a iand ministry of the lowly Galilean. DA 458.3

In their mockery of the Saviour, the men who professed to be the expounders of prophecy were repeating the very words which Inspiration had foretold they would utter upon this occasion. Yet in their blindness they did not see that they were fulfilling the prophecy. Those who in derision uttered the words, “He trusted

in God; let Him deliver Him now, if He will have Him: for He said, I am the Son of God,” little thought that their testimony would sound down the ages. But although spoken in mockery, *these words led men to search the Scriptures as they had never done before.* Wise men heard, searched, pondered, and prayed. *There were those who never rested until, by comparing scripture with scripture, they saw the meaning of Christ's mission.* Never before was there such a general knowledge of Jesus as when He hung upon the cross. Into the hearts of many who beheld the crucifixion scene, and who heard Christ's words, the light of truth was shining. DA 749.2

The apostle says, “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.” [2 Timothy 3:16, 17.] *The Bible is its own expositor. One passage will prove to be a key that will unlock other passages, and in this way light will be shed upon the hidden meaning of the word. By comparing different texts treating on the same subject, viewing their bearing on every side, the true meaning of the Scriptures will be made evident.* CE 85.1

Many think that they must consult *commentaries* on the Scriptures in order to understand the meaning of the word of God, and we would not take the position that commentaries should not be studied; but *it will take much discernment to discover the truth of God under the mass of the words of men.* How little has been done by the church as a body professing to believe the Bible, to gather up the scattered jewels of God's word into one perfect chain of truth? The jewels of truth do not lie upon the surface, as many suppose. The master mind in the confederacy of evil is ever at work to keep the truth out of sight, and to bring into full view *the opinions of great men.* The enemy is doing all in his power to obscure heaven's light *through educational processes;* for he does not mean that men shall hear the voice of the Lord, saying, “This is the way, walk ye in it.” [Isaiah 30:21.] CE 85.2

The jewels of truth lie scattered over the field of revelation; *but they have been buried beneath human traditions, beneath the sayings and commandments of men,* and the wisdom from heaven has been practically ignored; for Satan has succeeded in making the world believe that the words and achievements of men are of great consequence. The Lord God, the Creator of the worlds, at infinite cost has given the gospel to the world. Through this divine agent, glad, refreshing springs of heavenly comfort and abiding consolation have been opened for those who will come to the fountain of life. There are veins of truth yet to be discovered; but spiritual things are spiritually discerned. *Minds beclouded with evil cannot appreciate the value of the truth as it is in Jesus.* When iniquity is cherished, men do not feel the necessity of making diligent effort, with prayer and

reflection, to understand what they must know or lose heaven. They have so long been under the shadow of the enemy, that they view truth as men behold objects through a smoked and imperfect glass; for all things are dark and perverted in their eyes. Their spiritual vision is feeble and untrustworthy; for they look upon the shadow, and turn away from the light. CE 86.1

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 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

When working for the unconverted Jews, *he did not at once begin* to preach that which they regarded as dangerous heresy, but *commenced with doctrines upon which they could agree*. Beginning with Moses and the prophets, *he led them gradually from point to point, comparing scripture with scripture, tracing down the fulfillment of prophecy, showing the evidence that Messiah was to have come,* and the manner of his coming. He then clearly presented before them the object of his coming, and what he was to have done upon earth, and how he was to have been received. LP 160.2

Note: Prophecy can be understood.

All who handle the word of God are engaged in a most solemn and sacred work; for in their research they are to receive light and *a correct knowledge*, that they may give to those who are ignorant. *Education is the inculcation of ideas which are light and truth*. Everyone who diligently and patiently searches the Scriptures that he may educate others, entering upon the work correctly and with an honest heart, *laying his preconceived ideas*, whatever they may have been, and *his hereditary prejudices at the door of investigation*, will gain true knowledge. *But it is very easy to put a false interpretation on Scripture, placing stress on passages, and assigning to them a meaning, which, at the first investigation, may appear true, but which on further search, will be seen to be false*. If the seeker after truth will compare scripture with scripture, he will find the key that unlocks the treasure house and gives him a true understanding of the word of God. Then he will see that his first impressions would not bear investigation, and that continuing to believe them would be mixing falsehood with truth.”—Manuscript

4, 1896, 1, 2. (Untitled, February 4, 1896.) 3MR 430.2

Professed Christians of today who reject light will be no more favorable to those who receive and rejoice in the light of truth than the Jews in the days of Christ. If they had known that He was the Prince of Life, they would not have crucified Him. Why did they not know? Because they refused every evidence given them that Christ was the Messiah. *God gives light today upon truth, but men, without searching with humble heart to compare Scripture with Scripture, take the course the Jews took. They will look upon the believers as a little, weak people, a few fanatics, and will speak derisively of them. They will belittle their faith. They will love and cherish the lies some have made up in regard to them. They will repeat the foolish stories that have come to their ears and belittle the faith of a God-fearing, conscientious people who would sacrifice their life rather than one principle of truth. They are God's faithful noblemen in the world, and yet are jeered at and ridiculed and laughed at for their peculiar faith.* 3LtMs, Lt 35a, 1877, par. 19

In the days of Christ there were many who incurred deep guilt because they denounced His teaching without carefully investigating its claims to their attention. We are sorry to say that similar guilt is incurred today through a similar cause. There are many who hear the words of Christ, but *they do not in moral independence go to the Word of God* to search the Scriptures and see whether or not these things are so. *Though they have souls to save or to lose, they dare to rely upon the interpretation and application that their religious teachers give.* God has endowed men with reasoning powers that they may compare scripture with scripture and know for themselves what is truth, that they may be able to give a reason for the hope that is within them, with meekness and fear. *When the Lord graciously sends to us the means of knowing the truth and we turn from the precious privilege and are indifferent to His message, we insult the Spirit of God, and we shall walk in darkness and stumble in unbelief.* 6LtMs, Lt 4, 1889, par. 65

Endeavoring to lay aside all preconceived opinions, and dispensing with commentaries, *he compared scripture with scripture by the aid of the marginal references and the concordance.* He pursued his study in a regular and methodical manner; beginning with Genesis, and reading verse by verse, he proceeded no faster than the meaning of the several passages so unfolded as to leave him free from all embarrassment. When he found anything obscure, *it was his custom to compare it with every other text which seemed to have any reference to the matter under consideration. Every word was permitted to have its proper bearing upon the subject of the text, and if his view of it harmonized with every collateral passage, it ceased to be a difficulty. Thus whenever he met*

with a passage hard to be understood he found an explanation in some other portion of the Scriptures. As he studied with earnest prayer for divine enlightenment, that which had before appeared dark to his understanding was made clear. He experienced the truth of the psalmist's words: "The entrance of Thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple." Psalm 119:130. GC 320.1

There are many who *cannot distinguish between the work of God and that of man.* I shall tell the truth as God gives it to me, and I say now, If you continue to find fault, to have a spirit of variance, you will never know the truth. Jesus said to His disciples, "I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now" (John 16:12). They were not in a condition to appreciate sacred and eternal things; but Jesus promised to send the Comforter, who would teach them all things, and bring all things to their remembrance, whatsoever He had said unto them. *Brethren, we must not put our dependence in man.* "Cease ye from man, whose breath is in his nostrils: for wherein is he to be accounted of?" (Isaiah 2:22). You must hang your helpless souls upon Jesus. It does not become us to drink from the fountain of the valley, when there is a fountain in the mountain. Let us leave the lower streams; let us come to the higher springs. *If there is a point of truth that you do not understand, upon which you do not agree, investigate, compare scripture with scripture, sink the shaft of truth down deep into the mine of God's Word. You must lay yourselves and your opinions on the altar of God, put away your preconceived ideas, and let the Spirit of Heaven guide you into all truth.* 1SM 412.3

God has not apportioned you your lot to merely watch over and care for yourselves. *You are required to minister to, and watch over, others, and in this exercise you will manifest those evils in your character which need correcting, and will strengthen those weak points that need strengthening. This is the part of the work we have to perform; not impatiently, fretfully, unwillingly, but cheerfully, gladly, in order to reach Christian perfection. To remove from us everything which is not exactly agreeable is not imitating Christ. You should be very jealous for the honor of God. How circumspectly should you walk, where now your course is not as it should be.* If you could see the pure angels with their bright, searching eyes intently fixed on you, watching to record how the Christian glorifies his Master; or could you observe the exulting, sneering triumph of the evil angels, as they trace out every crooked way, and then quote Scripture which is violated, and compare the life with this Scripture which you profess to follow but from which you swerve, you would be astonished and alarmed for yourselves. *It takes the entire man to make a valiant Christian.* Oh, what blind, shortsighted creatures we are! How little do we discern sacred things, and how feebly do we

comprehend the riches of His grace! 2T 170.2

Christ and His word are in perfect harmony. Received and obeyed, they open a sure path for the feet of all who are willing to walk in the light as Christ is in the light. *If the people of God would appreciate His word, we should have a heaven in the church here below. Christians would be eager, hungry, to search the word. They would be anxious for time to compare scripture with scripture and to meditate upon the word. They would be more eager for the light of the word* than for the morning paper, magazines, or novels. Their greatest desire would be to eat the flesh and drink the blood of the Son of God. *And as a result their lives would be conformed to the principles and promises of the word.* Its instruction would be to them as the leaves of the tree of life. It would be in them a well of water, springing up into everlasting life. Refreshing showers of grace would refresh and revive the soul, causing them to forget all toil and weariness. They would be strengthened and encouraged by the words of inspiration. 3TT 238.1

Above everything else, it is essential for the teachers of the Word of God to seek most earnestly to possess themselves of the *internal evidence of the Scriptures*. Those who would be blessed with this evidence must search the Scriptures for themselves. As they learn the lessons given by Christ, and compare scripture with scripture, to see *whether they themselves bear its credentials, they will obtain a knowledge of God's Word, and the truth will write itself on their souls.* BLJ 107.4

We are thankful that we have a sure word of prophecy, so that none of us need be deceived. We know that there are *heresies and fables* in our world at the present time, and we want to know what is truth. It becomes us to search carefully for ourselves that we may gain this knowledge. *We cannot do this with a mere reading of the Scriptures, but we must compare scripture with scripture.* We must search the Scriptures for ourselves, so that we shall not be led astray; and while many may be led astray because there are all kinds of doctrines in our world, *there is one truth*. Many may come to you and tell you that they have the truth, but *it is your privilege to search the Scriptures for yourself*. "To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." We must be acquainted with the Scriptures ourselves, that we may understand the true reason of the hope that is within us. RH April 3, 1888, par. 2

There is a great work to be done for this time, and we do not half realize what the Lord is willing to do for his people. We talk about the first angel's message, and the second angel's message, and we think we have some understanding of the third angel's message; *but we should not be satisfied with our present knowledge.*

Our petitions, mingled with faith and contrition, should go up to God, for an understanding of the mysteries that God would make known to his saints. We should have a realization that ***unless taught by the Holy Spirit***, we shall not rightly comprehend the Bible; for it is a sealed book even to the learned, ***who are wise in their own conceit***. Jesus meant just what he said when he directed his disciples to “*search the Scriptures.*” ***Searching means to compare scripture with scripture, and spiritual things with spiritual. We should not be satisfied with a superficial knowledge.*** We should search for the hidden treasure concealed beneath the surface, as the merchant-man seeks for goodly pearls. Light, great light, will reward the diligent searcher for truth. RH June 4, 1889, par. 8

If you read the Bible carefully, you will see what reformation is needed in yourself in order for you to be a faithful shepherd of the flock of Christ. ***Compare scripture with scripture, and then open your own heart.*** Gain light yourself and then from an experimental knowledge, ***you can set before the people of God what constitutes Christian character.*** The power of the Holy Spirit will accompany your words if your own life is a representation of the truth which sanctifies the character; for you will then be a living epistle known and read of all men.... RH August 13, 1959, par. 14

There are many who are surrounded with clouds of darkness. They try to do something themselves, some great and good work which will win the favor of God and make them happy, but ***they neglect the very work that they should do. But the path of happiness is the path of obedience.*** We should in no case blind our eyes to our true condition, and then pray in a loose, general manner. Prayers of this kind rise no higher than the petitioner's head, and bring no answer of mercy, because they are dictated by no sense of need. Says the apostle, “Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves.” Inquire into the character of your thoughts, purposes, temper, words, and deeds. **Compare your experience with the declarations of Scripture, and see whether you are gathering with Christ or scattering abroad. See if your life testifies that you are in the faith.** ST May 15, 1884, par. 8