

The aim of the great rebel has ever been *to justify himself and to prove* the divine government responsible for the rebellion. To this end he has bent all the power of his giant intellect. He has worked deliberately and systematically, and with marvelous success, leading vast multitudes to accept *his version* of the great controversy which has been so long in progress. For thousands of years this chief of conspiracy has palmed off falsehood for truth. But the time has now come when the rebellion is to be finally defeated and the history and character of Satan disclosed. In his last great effort to dethrone Christ, destroy His people, and take possession of the City of God, the archdeceiver has been fully unmasked. Those who have united with him see the total failure of his cause. Christ's followers and the loyal angels behold the full extent of his *machinations* against the government of God. He is the object of universal abhorrence. GC 670.1

With one accord, Satan and his host threw the blame of their rebellion wholly upon Christ, *declaring that if they had not been reprov'd, they would never have rebelled.* Thus stubborn and defiant in their disloyalty, seeking vainly to overthrow the government of God, yet blasphemously claiming to be themselves the innocent victims of oppressive power, the archrebel and all his sympathizers were at last banished from heaven. DD 3.2

The same spirit that prompted rebellion in heaven still inspires rebellion on earth. Satan has continued with men the same policy which he pursued with the angels. His spirit now reigns in the children of disobedience. Like him they seek to break down the restraints of the law of God and promise men liberty through transgression of its precepts. Reproof of sin still arouses the spirit of hatred and resistance. When God's messages of warning are brought home to the conscience, Satan leads men to justify themselves and to seek the sympathy of others in their course of sin. Instead of correcting their errors, they excite indignation against the reprover, as if he were the sole cause of difficulty. From the days of righteous Abel to our own time such is the spirit which has been displayed toward those who dare to condemn sin. DD 3.3

You may say, What does Sister White mean? Is she classing me with these erratic workers whom she has mentioned? No, I do not; but I would present the difficulties that should make our publishing houses cautious, in order that you may see the necessity of measures being taken at our office of publication, to discourage the infatuation with which many are taken, in thinking that the Lord has laid upon them a burden to write and to publish a variety of matter that would not only not be for the benefit of the churches at this time, but would be to the injury of the one who engages in the enterprise. I wish you to see that something must be done to guard the people from impostors, and that *there was need to make resolutions that should discourage the determination of men to put their*

*imaginary theories into print.* CW 154.3

When the eyes of the members of our large churches are anointed with the heavenly eye-salve, they will arise, and go forth to fulfil this commission. When their hearts are imbued with the Holy Spirit, they will worship the Lord their God, and him only will they serve. The Lord is calling upon those who are congregated in congested centers to go forth into the places where the truth has never been proclaimed. They are to teach the things that Christ has commanded, ***leaving alone the various suppositions born of erratic theories.*** False teachers will come in, teaching for doctrine the commandments of men. Satan will bring forward fables to militate against the principles of Christ's teaching. God calls upon his faithful messengers to search his Word, and to ***teach only those things that Christ has commanded.*** RH February 9, 1905, par. 9

“Wherefore the Lord saith, Forasmuch as this people draw near Me with their mouth, and with their lips do honor Me, but have removed their heart far from Me, and their fear toward Me is taught by the precept of men: therefore, behold, I will proceed to do a marvelous work among this people, even a marvelous work and a wonder: for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid. Woe unto them that seek deep to hide their counsel from the Lord, and their works are in the dark, and they say, Who seeth us? and who knoweth us? Surely your turning of things upside down shall be esteemed as the potter's clay; for shall the work say of him that made it, He made me not, or shall the things framed say of him that framed it, He had no understanding? Is it not a very little while, and Lebanon shall be turned into a fruitful field, and the fruitful field shall be esteemed as a forest?” [Verses 9-17.] 23LtMs, Ms 27, 1908, par. 4

Here are represented some of the very things that have been ***taking place in Battle Creek*** in the introduction of ***strange suppositions.*** **The Lord has marked how some of the men who acted a prominent part in the leading out of the work have gradually allowed themselves to be led by Satan's devisings.** “Is it not a very little while,” the prophet asks, “and Lebanon shall be turned into a fruitful field, and the fruitful field shall be esteemed as a forest?” [Verse 17.] 23LtMs, Ms 27, 1908, par. 5

In these words is outlined the ***true condition*** that exists among many of our people. There has come into the ranks of Seventh-day Adventists ***false sentiments, an inclination on the part of some ministers and physicians to abolish the light that God has been sending.*** ***Some of our leading men have been denying the faith and giving heed to fanciful and erratic teachings.*** This is a scheme of Satan to call the mind away from the truth and lead men to give time and thought to the ***study of theories that confuse the mind and leave an indistinct understanding of the way of the Lord.*** 23LtMs, Ms 27, 1908, par. 6

I am instructed to say, ***Repeat not these errors or false teachings***, but write the truth, speak the truth. Let the Word of God speak in every place, vindicating ***the truth for this time***. The truth will triumph. ***When objectionable sentiments are introduced, repeat them not in your discourses, but hold to the affirmative***. The message I am instructed to give at this time is one that I have been charged again and again for many years to give. It is this: Advance the truth. 23LtMs, Ms 27, 1908, par. 7

Satan has been well pleased with the work of those men and women who have used their influence ***to undermine the confidence of our people in the messages the Lord is sending through the Spirit of prophecy***. I have been instructed that those who have engaged in such a work should ***not be chosen to occupy positions as leaders***; for the influence they exert, and their misstatements concerning this agency in which they have no faith, ***will result in making unbelief popular in our churches***. Let no man or woman be entrusted with responsibility in the church who will use the advantages such a position would give them ***to advocate sentiments of unbelief, thus sowing the tares of heresy among believers***. ***And it has sometimes been the case that when men have been reproved for this kind of work, they have begun a warfare against the messages sent, by making light of the warnings and reproofs***. 23LtMs, Ms 27, 1908, par. 8

What can be done to make these men with strong traits of character realize that they need to be ***reconverted***? Unless this experience comes to them, ***they will never become members of the royal family***, children of the heavenly King. They are wrapping themselves up in a garment of self-confidence. The messages that the Lord sends them, that they may understand how much they need to be taught of Him, ***they cast aside as idle tales, thus placing themselves where they will accept their own suppositions as divine revelations***. With their deficient experience, they are unfitted to understand the dealings of the Lord with His people. 23LtMs, Ms 27, 1908, par. 9

#### The Judas Effect on the Church.

“From that time he” Judas “***expressed doubts that confused*** the disciples. He ***introduced controversies and misleading sentiments, repeating*** the arguments urged by the scribes and Pharisees against the claims of Christ. All the little and large troubles and crosses, the difficulties and the apparent hindrances to the advancement of the gospel, Judas interpreted as evidences against its truthfulness. ***He would introduce texts of Scripture that had no connection*** with the truths Christ was presenting. ***These texts, separated from their connection, perplexed the disciples, and increased the discouragement*** that was constantly pressing upon them. Yet all this was done by Judas ***in such a way as to make it appear that he was conscientious***. And while the disciples were searching for evidence to confirm the words of the Great Teacher, Judas would lead them ***almost***

*imperceptibly on another track. Thus in a very religious, and apparently wise, way he was presenting matters in a different light* from that in which Jesus had given them, and *attaching to His words a meaning that He had not conveyed.* His suggestions were constantly *exciting an ambitious desire for temporal preferment*, and thus turning the disciples from the important things they should have considered. The dissension as to which of them should be greatest *was generally excited by Judas.* DA 719.2

Note: As Cain introduced an alternative system of doubts, so today they are introducing Sunday theology in the SDA church causing skepticism about the SDA pioneers.

The fate of Balaam was similar to that of Judas, and *their characters bear a marked resemblance to each other.* Both these men tried to unite the service of God and mammon, and met with signal failure. Balaam acknowledged the true God, and professed to serve Him; Judas believed in Jesus as the Messiah, and united with His followers. But Balaam hoped to make the service of Jehovah the steppingstone to the acquirement of riches and worldly honor; and failing in this he stumbled and fell and was broken. *Judas expected by his connection with Christ to secure wealth and promotion in that worldly kingdom which, as he believed, the Messiah was about to set up.* The failure of his hopes drove him to apostasy and ruin. Both Balaam and Judas had received great light and enjoyed special privileges, but *a single cherished sin poisoned the entire character* and caused their destruction. PP 452.1

It is a perilous thing to allow an unchristian trait to live in the heart. One cherished sin will, little by little, debase the character, bringing all its nobler powers into subjection to the evil desire. The removal of one safeguard from the conscience, the indulgence of one evil habit, one neglect of the high claims of duty, breaks down the defenses of the soul and opens the way for Satan to come in and lead us astray. The only safe course is to let our prayers go forth daily from a sincere heart, as did David, "Hold up my goings in Thy paths, that my footsteps slip not." Psalm 17:5. PP 452.2

We look with horror upon the treachery of Judas; but *his case represents a large class who file in under the banner of Christ, yet are really his worst enemies.* They worship only self and money, and use the name of Christian as a cloak to hide their evil deeds. They sell their integrity for money, and their Saviour for a little worldly advantage. 3SP 82.3

There have ever been two classes among those who profess to be followers of Christ. While one class study the Saviour's life and *earnestly seek to correct their defects and conform to the Pattern, the other class shun the plain,*

*practical truths which expose their errors.* Even in her best estate the church was not composed wholly of the true, pure, and sincere. *Our Saviour taught that those who willfully indulge in sin are not to be received into the church;* yet He connected with Himself men who were faulty in character, and granted them the benefits of His teachings and example, that they might have an opportunity *to see their errors and correct them.* Among the twelve apostles was a traitor. Judas was accepted, not because of his defects of character, but notwithstanding them. *He was connected with the disciples, that, through the instruction and example of Christ, he might learn what constitutes Christian character, and thus be led to see his errors, to repent, and, by the aid of divine grace, to purify his soul "in obeying the truth."* *But Judas did not walk in the light so graciously permitted to shine upon him. By indulgence in sin he invited the temptations of Satan. His evil traits of character became predominant. He yielded his mind to the control of the powers of darkness, he became angry when his faults were reprov'd, and thus he was led to commit the fearful crime of betraying his Master. So do all who cherish evil under a profession of godliness hate those who disturb their peace by condemning their course of sin. When a favorable opportunity is presented, they will, like Judas, betray those who for their good have sought to reprove them.* GC 43.2,

Note: The Judas effect: "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

*Mercy's pleading resisted,* the impulse of evil bore final sway. *Judas, angered at an implied rebuke and made desperate by the disappointment of his ambitious dreams, surrendered his soul to the demon of greed and determined upon the betrayal* of his Master. From the Passover chamber, the joy of Christ's presence, and the light of immortal hope, he went forth to his evil work—into the outer darkness, where hope was not. Ed 92.2

"Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray Him." John 6:64. Yet, knowing all, He had withheld no pleading of mercy or gift of love. Ed 92.3

Seeing the danger of Judas, He had brought him close to Himself, within the inner circle of His chosen and trusted disciples. Day after day, when the burden lay heaviest upon His own heart, *He had borne the pain of continual contact*

*with that stubborn, suspicious, brooding spirit;* He had witnessed and labored to counteract among His disciples *that continuous, secret, and subtle antagonism.* And all this that no possible saving influence might be lacking to that imperiled soul! Ed 92.4

“Many waters cannot quench love,  
Neither can the floods drown it;” “

For love is strong as death.” Song of Solomon 8:7, 6. Ed 93.1

So far as Judas himself was concerned, Christ's work of love had been without avail. But not so as regards his fellow disciples. To them it was a lesson of lifelong influence. Ever would its example of tenderness and long-suffering mold their intercourse with the tempted and the erring. And it had other lessons. *At the ordination of the Twelve the disciples had greatly desired that Judas should become one of their number,* and they had counted *his accession an event of much promise* to the apostolic band. He had come more into contact with the world than they, he was a man of good address, of discernment and executive ability, and, having a high estimate of his own qualifications, he had led the disciples to hold him in the same regard. *But the methods he desired to introduce into Christ's work were based upon worldly principles and were controlled by worldly policy.* They looked to the securing of worldly recognition and honor—to the obtaining of the kingdom of this world. The working out of these desires in the life of Judas, *helped the disciples to understand the antagonism between the principle of self-aggrandizement and Christ's principle of humility and self-sacrifice*—the principle of the spiritual kingdom. In the fate of Judas they saw the end to which self-serving tends. Ed 93.2

For these disciples the mission of Christ finally accomplished its purpose. Little by little His example and His lessons of self-abnegation molded their characters. His death destroyed their hope of worldly greatness. The fall of Peter, the apostasy of Judas, their own failure in forsaking Christ in His anguish and peril, swept away their self-sufficiency. They saw their own weakness; they saw something of the greatness of the work committed to them; they felt their need of their Master's guidance at every step. Ed 93.3

Note As the Apostles “greatly desired Judas to become one of their number, and had counted his accession of much promise” so Israel wanted Saul to be their king. Cain introduced an alternative system of doubts, so toady they are introducing sunday theology in the SDA church causing skepticism about the SDA pioneers.

[ErrorOfNoConsequence.](#) [OmegaSpiritualizeMystify2.](#)

[Wheat/Tares.](#) [LastFiftyYears.pdf](#)

The great deceiver has many agents ready to present *any and every kind of error* to ensnare souls--*heresies prepared to suit the varied tastes and capacities* of those whom he would ruin. It is his plan to bring into the church insincere, unregenerate elements that will encourage *doubt and unbelief*, and hinder all who desire to see the work of God advance and to advance with it. Many who have no real faith in God or in His word assent to some principles of truth and pass as Christians, and thus they are enabled to introduce their errors as Scriptural doctrines. {GC 520.1}

The position that it is of *no consequence* what men believe is one of Satan's most successful deceptions. He knows that the truth, received in the love of it, sanctifies the soul of the receiver; therefore he is constantly seeking to substitute *false theories, fables, another gospel. From the beginning* the servants of God have contended against false teachers, not merely as vicious men, but as inculcators of falsehoods that were fatal to the soul. Elijah, Jeremiah, Paul, firmly and fearlessly opposed those who were turning men from the word of God. That liberality which regards a correct religious faith as unimportant found no favor with these holy defenders of the truth. {GC 520.2}

The *vague* and fanciful interpretations of Scripture, and the many *conflicting theories* concerning religious faith, that are found in the Christian world are the work of our great adversary to confuse minds so that they shall not discern the truth. And the discord and division which exist among the churches of Christendom are in a great measure *due to the prevailing custom of wresting the Scriptures to support a favorite theory*. Instead of carefully studying God's word with humility of heart to obtain a knowledge of His will, many seek only to discover something odd or original. {GC 520.3}

The *truth* and the glory of God are inseparable; *it is impossible for us, with the Bible within our reach, to honor God by erroneous opinions. Many claim that it matters not what one believes, if his life is only right. But the life is molded by the faith. If light and truth is within our reach, and we neglect to improve the privilege of hearing and seeing it, we virtually reject it; we are choosing darkness rather than light.* {GC 597.2}

Faith is the medium through which *truth or error finds a lodging place in the mind.* It is by the same act of mind that truth or error is received, but it makes a decided difference whether we believe the Word of God or the sayings of men. {1SM 346.3}

...Paul's exhortation to Timothy: "Preach the word." *In that word are the only safe principles of action. It is a transcript of the will of God, an expression of divine wisdom. It opens to man's understanding the great problem of life. It will prove a*

*guide to all who heed it, so that their lives will not be wasted in misdirected efforts. God has declared his will, and it is absolute madness for men to change or even question that which has gone out of his lips. After Infinite Wisdom has spoken, there can be no doubtful questions for man to settle, no wavering probabilities for him to adjust. All the interests of time and of eternity are involved in a frank, earnest concurrence of the mind and will of men with the expressed will of God. Obedience is the highest dictate of reason as well as of conscience. Those who choose to listen to other voices and to follow other guides, will be turned unto fables, and, trusting to these, they will in the day of God meet with infinite loss. LP 324.2 see GC 583.1*

*“In rejecting the truth, men reject its Author. . . It is as easy to make an idol of false doctrines and theories as to fashion an idol of wood or stone. . .” GC 583.1 see LP 324.2*

*The Lord will not lead minds now to set aside the truth that the Holy Spirit has moved upon His servants in the past to proclaim. {17MR 12.4}*

*When the power of God testifies as to what is truth, that truth is to stand forever as truth. No after-suppositions, contrary to the light God has given are to be entertained. Men will arise with interpretations of Scripture which are to them truth, but which are not truth. The truth for this time, God has given us as a foundation for our faith. He Himself has taught us what is truth. One will arise, and still another with new light, which contradicts the light God has given under the demonstration of His Holy Spirit.*

Every conceivable message is coming to counterfeit the work of God, and always bearing the inscription of truth upon its banner. And *those who are prepared for anything new and sensational*, will handle these things in such a manner that our enemies will charge all that is inconsistent and overdone upon Mrs. E. G. White, the prophetess.... 3SM 404.3

There will be counterfeit messages coming from persons in all directions. One after another will rise up, appearing to be inspired, when they have not the inspiration of heaven, but are under the deception of the enemy. All who receive their messages will be led astray. Then let us walk carefully, and not open wide the door for the enemy to enter through impressions, dreams, and visions. God help us to look in faith to Jesus, and be guided by the words He has spoken.—Letter 66, 1894. 3SM 404.4

I was shown that almost every fanatic who has arisen, who wishes to hide his



sentiments that he may lead away others, ***claims to belong to the church of God.*** Such a name would excite suspicion at once, for the most absurd errors are concealed under this name. This name is too indefinite for the remnant people of God. The influence of such a name would lead to the supposition that we had a faith we wished to cover up. 4bSG 55.2

One thing is certain: Those Seventh-day Adventists who take their stand under Satan's banner will first give up their faith in the warnings and reproofs contained in the testimonies of God's Spirit.—Letter 156, 1903. PM 360.1

This discourse of Jesus cooled the enthusiasm of the people. If, by becoming his disciples, ***they must live righteous lives, deny self, and suffer humiliation, they had no desire to rally under his banner.*** Alas for Israel! They knew not the time of their visitation! They refused their Saviour, because ***they longed for a conqueror who would give them temporal power.*** They wanted the meat which perishes, and not that which endures unto everlasting life. Their ambition was for earthly riches and glory, and they had no relish for the words of Christ that taught personal purity, and a thorough reformation of life. 2SP 285.1

If it were not for the poverty of Christ, and the fact that the poor and humble are ranked beneath his banner, ***many would connect themselves with him and glorify his name.*** If he had bestowed honors and riches upon those who became his disciples, how gladly would the proud Pharisees, the chief priests and scribes, have paid him homage. ***Many in these days would accept the truth if there was no self-denial connected with it. If they could have the world with Christ, they would enlist in his army.*** But to follow him in his humiliation, with no prospect of an earthly reward thereby, is more than their feeble faith can endure. They turn back crest-fallen, as did the scribe from the rebuke of Jesus. 2SP 306.1

Satan therefore laid his plans to war more successfully against the government of God, ***by planting his banner in the Christian church. If the followers of Christ could be deceived,*** and led to displease God, then their strength, fortitude, and firmness would fail, and they would fall an easy prey. 4SP 42.2

***Aaron's calm assurance*** in a wrong course gave him greater influence with the people than Moses could have had in leading them in a right course and in subduing their rebellion. What terrible spiritual blindness had come upon Aaron that he should put light for darkness and darkness for light! What presumption in him to proclaim a feast to the Lord over their idolatrous worship of a golden image! Here is seen the power that Satan has over minds that are not fully controlled by the Spirit of God. Satan had set up his banner in the midst of Israel, and it was exalted as the banner of God. 3T 300.1