

My heart aches when I consider *the stubborn resistance* on the part of some to *the truth we have held for half a century*. Night after night I can not sleep. My soul is bowed down with heavy burdens when I consider that some of my old friends, and some of my own relatives are refusing to walk in the light that God is sending by His Holy Spirit. O that the searcher of hearts would arouse these souls to realize their true condition. I call to mind the trial that Christ was called to endure when He was rejected by the members of His own family. "Neither did His own brethren believe in Him," - this must have been one of the cruelest of His many trials. {PC 77.2}

Letters such as this have been coming from different ones. The warning is given me to give to parents, If your children are in Battle Creek, call them away without delay. Satan has come down with great power to work with all deceivableness of unrighteousness. *The sentiment is prevailing that the testimonies of warning and reproof given for the past half a century are not reliable, because they may be the product of a human mind, and not of divine origin*. The same argument might be used that the words and works of Christ are not reliable; therefore the whole Christian religion is something upon which there is no dependence to be placed. {20MR 66.5}

It is your privilege to know what is truth, because for more than half a century *we have been guided step by step by the counsels of the Spirit of God*. At this time many efforts will be made to unsettle our faith in the sanctuary question, but we must not waver. *Not a pin is to be moved from the foundations of our faith. Truth is still truth. Those who become uncertain will drift into erroneous theories and will finally find themselves infidel in regard to the past evidence we have had of what is truth. The old waymarks must be preserved, that we lose not our bearings.*--Letter 395, 1906, p. 4. (To S. M. Cobb, Dec. 25, 1906.) White Estate Washington, D. C. August 22, 1981

God has placed in our hands a banner on which is inscribed the words, "The commandments of God and the faith of Jesus." "Here are they that keep the commandments of God, and have the testimonies of Jesus Christ," He declares. At all times and in all places we are to hold the banner firmly aloft. God's denominated people are to take a firm stand under the banner of truth. *The truths that we have been proclaiming for more than half a century have been contested again and again. Again and again the facts of faith have been disputed; but every time the Lord has established the truth by the working of His Holy Spirit. Those who have arisen to question and overthrow the principles of present truth, have been sternly rebuked.* {10MR 45.2}

Elder Ballenger does not see what he is trying to bring to pass. The message

that Christ came to give to John on the Isle of Patmos needs now to be carefully studied by Elder Ballenger, for these words of warning tell us that men will arise claiming to have new light, whose theories, if received, *would destroy our faith in the truths that have stood the test for half a century.* We need to study and understand the message given in the third chapter of Revelation. {MR760 15.4}

A great crisis awaits the people of God. A great crisis awaits the world. The most momentous struggle of all the ages is before us. *Events which for more than half a century we have, upon the authority of the prophetic Word, declared to be impending, are now taking place before our eyes.* An amendment to the Constitution restricting liberty of conscience, has long been urged upon the legislators of the nation; and the question of enforcing Sunday observance has become one of national importance. Are we ready for the issue involved in the Sunday movement? {ST, November 28, 1900 par. 1}

"Now the spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils" (1 Timothy 4:1). The time of this apostasy is here. *Every conceivable effort will be made to throw doubt upon the positions that we have occupied for over half a century. . . .* {3SM 408.3}

For more than half a century the different points of present truth have been questioned and opposed. New theories have been advanced as truth, which were not truth, and the Spirit of God revealed their error. As the great pillars of our faith have been presented, the Holy Spirit has borne witness to them, and especially is this so regarding the truths of the sanctuary question. Over and over again the Holy Spirit has in a marked manner endorsed the preaching of this doctrine. *But today, as in the past, some will be led to form new theories and to deny the truths upon which the Spirit of God has placed His approval.--*Manuscript 125, 1907. {Ev 224.2}

The work of bookmaking is a grand and good work; but it has not always stood in the high and holy position that God designed it should occupy, because self has been interwoven with the work of some who have engaged in it. The book work should be the means of quickly giving the sacred light of present truth to the world. The publications that come forth from our presses today are to be of such a character *as to strengthen every pin and pillar* of the faith that was established by the word of God and by the revelations of His Spirit. {9T 69.4}

The truth that God has given for His people in these last days *should keep them firm when there come into the church those who present false theories. The truth that has stood firm against the attacks of the enemy for more than half a century must still be the confidence and comfort of God's people.* {9T 69.5}

*Few can discern* the result of entertaining the *sophistries* advocated by some at this time. But the Lord has lifted the curtain, and has shown me the result that would follow. The *spiritualistic theories* regarding the personality of God, followed to their logical conclusion, *sweep away the whole Christian economy. They estimate as nothing the light that Christ came from heaven to give John to give to His people. They teach that the scenes just before us are not of sufficient importance to be given special attention. They make of no effect the truth of heavenly origin, and rob the people of God of their past experience, giving them instead a false science.* {1SM 203.4} See few months learnings study

Every one of us needs to have a deep insight into the *teachings* of the word of God. Our minds must be prepared to stand every test, and to resist every temptation, whether from without or from *within*. We must know *why we believe as we do*, why we are on the Lord's side. The *truth* must keep watch in our hearts, ready to sound an alarm, and summon us to *action* against every foe. The powers of darkness will open their batteries upon us; and all who are indifferent and careless, who have set their affections on their earthly treasure, and who have not cared to *understand* God's dealings with his people, *will be ready victims*. No power *but* a knowledge of the truth as it is in Jesus, *will ever make us steadfast*; but with this, one may chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight. {RH, April 29, 1884 par. 6}

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 accounted 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 the sand, and storm and tempest would sweep away the structure. {1SM 204.2}

We are not to receive the words of those who come with a message that contradicts the special points of our faith. They gather together a mass of Scripture, and pile it as proof around their asserted theories. This has been done over and over again during the past fifty years. And while the Scriptures are God's word, and are to be respected, the application of them, ***if such application moves one pillar from the foundation that God has sustained these fifty years, is a great mistake.*** He who makes such an application knows not the wonderful demonstration of the Holy Spirit that gave power and force to the past messages that have come to the people of God.-- Preach the Word, p. 5. (1905.) {CW 32.2} {1SM 161.2}

Elder G's proofs are not reliable. If received, they would destroy the faith of God's people in the truth that has made us what we are. {1SM 161.3}

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}

I am instructed to say that these words we may use as appropriate for this time, for the time has come when sin must be called by its right name. We are hindered in our work by men who are not converted, who seek their own glory. They wish to be thought originators of new theories, which they present claiming that they are truth. But ***if these theories are received, they will lead to a denial of the truth that for the past fifty years God has been giving to His people, substantiating it by the demonstration of the Holy Spirit.***--Letter 329, 1905. {1SM 162.1}

In the future, deception of every kind is to arise, and we want solid ground for our feet. We want solid pillars for the building. ***Not one pin is to be removed from that which the Lord has established.*** The enemy will bring in false theories, such as the doctrine that there is no sanctuary. This is one of the points on which there will be a departing from the faith. ***Where shall we find safety unless it be in the truths that the Lord has been giving for the last fifty years?***-- Review and Herald, May 25, 1905. {CW 53.2} {RH, May 25, 1905 par. 28}

There have been one and another who in studying their Bibles thought they discovered great light, and new theories, but these have not been correct. The Scripture is all true, but by misapplying the Scripture men arrive at wrong

conclusions. We are engaged in a mighty conflict, and it will become more close and determined as we near the final struggle. We have a sleepless adversary, and he is constantly at work upon human minds *that have not had a personal experience in the teachings of the people of God for the past fifty years*. Some will take the truth applicable to their time, and place it in the future. Events in the train of prophecy that had their fulfillment away in the past are made future, and thus by these theories the faith of some is undermined. {17MR 2.4}

*Let none seek to tear away the foundations of our faith*,--the foundations that were laid at the beginning of our work, by prayerful study of the Word and by revelation. Upon these foundations we have been building for more than fifty years. Men may suppose that they have found a new way, that they can lay a stronger foundation than that which has been laid; but this is a great deception. "Other foundation can no man lay than that is laid." [1 Corinthians 3:11.] In the past, many have undertaken to build a new faith, to establish new principles; but how long did their building stand? It soon fell; for it was not founded upon the Rock. {GW 307.1}{8T 297.1}

*What influence is it that would lead men at this stage of our history to work in an underhanded, powerful way to tear down the foundation of our faith,-- the foundation that was laid at the beginning of our work by prayerful study of the word and by revelation?* Upon this foundation we have been building for the past fifty years. Do you wonder that when I see the beginning of a work that would remove some of the pillars of our faith, I have something to say? I must obey the command, "Meet it!" {SpTB02 58.1}

We need many more canvassers, not to sell books containing fables, but books that are filled with the truth of God. We cannot as a people afford to increase the circulation of publications that work counter to the truth we should be teaching. We cannot afford to spend our time and talents *in the employ of men who are working to make of none effect the truths that have made us a peculiar people, truths to which we have held for over fifty years*. I am often warned of the importance of faithfulness on the part of our people in proclaiming to the world the messages that God has entrusted to them, that a people may be prepared for the great closing up of this earth's history. We have an extensive line of literature that should come before the people of the world. {PM 314.1}

*The past fifty years have not dimmed one jot or principle of our faith* as we received the great and wonderful evidences that were made certain to us in 1844, after the passing of the time. The languishing souls are to be confirmed and quickened according to his word. And many of the ministers of the gospel and the Lord's physicians will have their languishing souls quickened according to the

word. Not a word is changed or denied. That which the Holy Spirit testified to as truth after the passing of the time, in our great disappointment, is the solid foundation of truth. Pillars of truth were revealed, and we accepted the foundation principles that have made us what we are--Seventh-day Adventists, keeping the commandments of God and having the faith of Jesus. {NYI, February 7, 1906 par. 4}

In these last days many influences will arise to draw the worker from standing firmly for a "Thus saith the Lord." Men who themselves have departed from the faith will seek to draw workers into *controversy*, and by this method attempt to present heresies that will lead souls astray. My brethren, do not be enticed by such influences. Engage in no debate. Take no heed to the persuasions and challenges of those who would draw you from your legitimate work. You have no time to voice their sentiments or to repeat their words. Time is golden; truth is precious. We are to carry forward the work of God in the same spirit of simplicity that has marked our efforts for the past fifty years. But while our work is to be done in simplicity and meekness, we are to stand firmly for the principles of the faith. {NPU Gleaner, December 11, 1907 par. 2}

My brethren, *the value of the evidences of truth that we have received during the past half century, is above estimate.* These evidences are as treasure hidden in a field. Search for them. *Study the Bible truths that for fifty years have been calling us out from the world. Present this evidence in clear, plain lines.* Those who have been long in the truth, and those who have recently received the truth, must now dig for the buried heavenly treasure. Let every man work to the point. Study the Word of God. Revive the evidences given in the past. "Search the Scriptures," Christ said; "for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me." {RH, April 19, 1906 par. 13}

Those who stand before the people as teachers of truth are to grapple with great themes. They are not to occupy precious time in talking of *trivial subjects*. Let them study the word, and preach the word. Let the word be in their hands as a sharp, two-edged sword. *Let it testify to past truths*, and show what is to be in the future. {RH, April 19, 1906 par. 14}

Christ came from heaven to give to John the great, wonderful truths that are to shape our lives, and that by us are to be proclaimed to the world. We are to keep abreast of the times, bearing a clear, intelligent testimony, guided by the unction of the Holy Spirit. {RH, April 19, 1906 par. 15}

We are God's commandment-keeping people. For the past fifty years every phase of heresy has been brought to bear upon us, to becloud our minds regarding the teaching of the word,--especially concerning the ministration of Christ in the heavenly sanctuary, and the message of heaven for these last days, as given by the

angels of the fourteenth chapter of Revelation. Messages of every order and kind have been urged upon Seventh-day Adventists, to take the place of the truth which, *point by point, has been sought out by prayerful study, and testified to by the miracle-working power of the Lord. But the way-marks which have made us what we are, are to be preserved, and they will be preserved, as God has signified through His word and the testimony of His Spirit. He calls upon us to hold firmly, with the grip of faith, to the fundamental principles that are based upon unquestionable authority.* {SpTB02 59.1}

I am now authorized to say that the time has come to take *decided action*. The development seen in the cause of God is similar to the development seen when Balaam caused Israel to sin just before they entered the promised land. How dangerous it is so to exalt any man that he becomes confused, and confuses the minds of others *in regard to the truths that for the last fifty years the Lord has been giving his people.* {SpTB07 36.4}

Few can see the meaning of the present apostasy. But the Lord has lifted the curtain, and has shown me its meaning, and the result that it will have if allowed to continue. We must now lift our voices in warning. Will our people acknowledge God as the supreme Ruler, or will they choose the misleading arguments and views that, when fully developed, make Him, in the minds of those who accept them, as nothingness? {SpTB07 37.1}

I was instructed to call upon our physicians and ministers to take a firm stand for the truth. We are not to allow atheistic, spiritualistic sentiments to be brought before our youth. God has led us in the past, giving us truth, eternal truth. By this truth we are to stand. Some of the leaders in the medical work have been deceived, and if they continue to hold fanciful, spiritualistic ideas, they will make many believe that *the platform upon which we have been standing for the past fifty years has been torn away.* These men need now to see with anointed eyes, with clear spiritual vision, that in spite of all men can do, "the foundation of God standeth sure," and "the Lord knoweth them that are His." {SpTB07 38.2}

This large work and its sure results are plainly presented to me. I am so sorry that sensible men do not discern the trail of the serpent. I call it thus; for thus the Lord pronounces it. Wherein are those who are designated as departing from the faith and giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils, *departing from the faith which they have held sacred for the past fifty years?* I leave that for the ones to answer who sustain those who develop such acuteness in their plans for spoiling and hindering the work of God. {SpTB07 61.2}

Some are acting the part of Aaron, to help on the work of apostasy. They have been weighed in the balances, and have been found wanting. Men are spoiling their

record, and are ***proving that they are not to be trusted***, but that they will betray the interests of the cause of God, making them the sport of sinners. The messages of heavenly origin that God has sent to his people, to prepare them to stand in the last days, they have sneered at and scorned. ***But the evidence we have had for the past fifty years of the presence of the Spirit of God with us as a people, will stand the test of those who are now arraying themselves on the side of the enemy and bracing themselves against the message of God.*** -Testimony to members of the B. C. Church, October 24, 1907.-{PC 139.3}

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From our own personal experience we can speak of the truth that has made us what we are, - Seventh-day Adventists. Truth felt within is most precious, but ***truth confirmed by the testimony of the word and by the Holy Spirit's power is of the highest value.*** We can confidently say, The truth that has come to us through the Holy Spirit's working is ***not a lie.*** ***The evidences given for the last half century bear the evidence of the Spirit's power.*** In the word of God ***we have found the truth that substantiates our faith.*** We have watched the influence of the heresies that have come in, and we have seen them come to naught. God has given us sacred, holy truths. Let us hold them fast. I am instructed to say that ***we are now to present these truths, in plainness and simplicity, to the people of God.*** {PC 257.1}

There are schools out of and away from Battle Creek that are in far less danger of losing their respect for the testimonies that have been coming to the people of God for the past half century. Representations are given me that the first proposition to reopen the school in Battle Creek was the first note of opposition to the light God has given. However, the result has proved as I was instructed it would be. The plausible excuses and reasons for the starting of this school were not inspired by God, but by the enemy of God, to confuse minds, and place our people where they would not know where they are standing. That this has been the result, I know. The testimonies borne are not heeded. The enemy is at work, and a neglect of the warnings sent is preparing the way for Satan to come in with his sophistries and errors. {15MR 204.2}

Ministers have gone to Battle Creek and are not presenting the truth but ***errors that strike at the foundation of our faith and our experience of the last half century.*** This is just as Satan meant it to be. Men are giving heed to seducing spirits and will become adept in misconstruing the Scriptures and testifying to falsehoods. Satan is looking on with great delight. {15MR 204.3}

I am given a message for all our people: "Believe them not, for they are working to draw minds away from the Scriptures." They will so confuse Scriptures that many will lose their bearings. Satan is preparing fallacies of every kind to use



in playing the game of life for souls. {15MR 204.4}

Parents, your children had better remain at home than to mingle with a mass of people who do not believe the truth. The education they receive in such a place will be so mingled with sentiments represented as wood, hay, and stubble, that the truth will lose its force upon their mind at a time when they need to have the truth confirmed. {15MR 205.1}

Let not a mammoth sanitarium be built in any place. If there are large buildings miles away from the cities, that in the providence of God are offered at a price much below their value, and if you see the evidence of God's hand in this, work judiciously to obtain possession of these buildings. {21MR 91.6}

Let your sanitariums be conducted by physicians and ministers who are in harmony with the light God has been giving to His people for the last half century. Place not men in positions of holy office who will not listen to God's counsel concerning His way and His will. There are influences working mightily against the very work God requires to be done. The time has come when the Lord's name is to be magnified in all your camp meetings. Every soul must now draw in even cords. Unbelief has taken possession of men who have been warned in regard to the seducing influence of Satan's working and the methods of his work, yet who have taken no heed. They are of the party that will give heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. ***Where is this party that will depart from the faith? Consider this.*** Do not place in charge of your important work or even of the less important enterprises, those who will lead minds away from the truth which is to decide the destiny of souls. {21MR 91.7}

Our Lord has the power that must be recognized by our people. God calls for unity in conformity to His expressed will. The flock of God should be watched that they shall not be led into false paths. ***Unite with no human influence that is not in agreement with the truth of God which has stood the test for half a century.*** {21MR 92.1}

The doctrines must be ***plainly understood.*** The men accepted to teach the truth must be anchored; then their vessel will hold against storm and tempest, because the anchor holds them firmly. The deceptions will increase.-- Letter 1, 1897. {2SM 58.2}

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Christ came from heaven to give to John the great, wonderful truths that are to shape our lives, and that by us are to be proclaimed to the world. We are to keep abreast of the times, bearing a clear, intelligent testimony, guided by the unction of the Holy Spirit. {RH, April 19, 1906 par. 15}

We are God's commandment-keeping people. For the past fifty years every phase of heresy has been brought to bear upon us, to becloud our minds regarding the teaching of the word,--especially concerning the ministration of Christ in the heavenly sanctuary, and the message of heaven for these last days, as given by the angels of the fourteenth chapter of Revelation. Messages of every order and kind have been urged upon Seventh-day Adventists, to take the place of the truth which, ***point by point, has been sought out by prayerful study, and testified to by the miracle-working power of the Lord. But the way-marks which have made us what we are, are to be preserved, and they will be preserved, as God has signified through His word and the testimony of His Spirit. He calls upon us to hold firmly, with the grip of faith, to the fundamental principles that are based upon unquestionable authority.*** {SpTB02 59.1}

I am now authorized to say that the time has come to take ***decided action***. The development seen in the cause of God is similar to the development seen when Balaam caused Israel to sin just before they entered the promised land. How dangerous it is so to exalt any man that he becomes confused, and confuses the minds of others ***in regard to the truths that for the last fifty years the Lord has been giving his people.*** {SpTB07 36.4}

Few can see the meaning of the present apostasy. But the Lord has lifted the curtain, and has shown me its meaning, and the result that it will have if allowed to continue. We must now lift our voices in warning. Will our people acknowledge God as the supreme Ruler, or will they choose the misleading arguments and views that, when fully developed, make Him, in the minds of those who accept them, as nothingness? {SpTB07 37.1}

I was instructed to call upon our physicians and ministers to take a firm stand for the truth. We are not to allow atheistic, spiritualistic sentiments to be brought before our youth. God has led us in the past, giving us truth, eternal truth. By this truth we are to stand. Some of the leaders in the medical work have been deceived, and if they continue to hold fanciful, spiritualistic ideas, they will make many believe that ***the platform upon which we have been standing for the past fifty years has been torn away.*** These men need now to see with anointed eyes, with clear spiritual vision, that in spite of all men can do, "the foundation of God standeth sure," and "the Lord knoweth them that are His." {SpTB07 38.2}

This large work and its sure results are plainly presented to me. I am so sorry that sensible men do not discern the trail of the serpent. I call it thus; for thus the Lord pronounces it. Wherein are those who are designated as departing from the faith and giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils, ***departing from the faith which they have held sacred for the past fifty years?*** I leave that for the ones to answer who sustain those who develop such acuteness in their plans for spoiling and hindering the work of God. {SpTB07 61.2}

Some are acting the part of Aaron, to help on the work of apostasy. They have been weighed in the balances, and have been found wanting. Men are spoiling their record, and are ***proving that they are not to be trusted***, but that they will betray the interests of the cause of God, making them the sport of sinners. The messages of heavenly origin that God has sent to his people, to prepare them to stand in the last days, they have sneered at and scorned. ***But the evidence we have had for the past fifty years of the presence of the Spirit of God with us as a people, will stand the test of those who are now arraying themselves on the side of the enemy and bracing themselves against the message of God.*** -Testimony to members of the B. C. Church, October 24, 1907.-{PC 139.3}

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

To exalt a minister as perfection because he has not displeased any one by reproofing errors, *not only brings a snare upon the minister, but brings disaster upon the people.* He who does not hurt the spiritual self-complacency of the people is almost deified by them, while a devoted, faithful servant of God, who lays bare the errors of the church-members, is supposed to be defective, because he does not see what they suppose are their personal merits. He reproofs wrongs which really exist, and this is counted an indignity, and his authority and instruction are cast aside and trodden under foot of men. These extremes in the way the people look upon ministers are found among the professed children of God; and who will now examine their hearts, and tenderly, earnestly and faithfully set these things in order? {RH, July 25, 1893 par. 8}

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God has placed in our hands a banner on which is inscribed the words, “The commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.” “Here are they that keep the commandments of God, and have the testimonies of Jesus Christ,” He declares. At all times and in all places we are to hold the banner firmly aloft. God's denominated people are to take a firm stand under the banner of truth. The truths that we have been proclaiming for more than half a century have been contested again and again. Again and again the facts of faith have been disputed; but every time the Lord has established the truth by the working of His Holy Spirit. Those who have arisen to question and overthrow the principles of present truth, have been sternly rebuked. 10MR 45.2

There are two great principles, *one of loyalty*, the other of disloyalty. We all need greater Christian courage, that we may uplift the standard on which is inscribed the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. *We are to make no compromise with the leaders of rebellion. The line of demarcation between the obedient and the disobedient must be plain and distinct*. We must have a firm determination to do the Lord's will at all times and in all places. RH May 9, 1899, Art. A, par. 1

Satan has a large confederacy, his church. Christ calls them the synagogue of Satan because the members are the children of sin. *The members of Satan's church have been constantly working to cast off the divine law*, and confuse the distinction between good and evil. Satan is working with great power in and through the children of disobedience to exalt treason and apostasy as truth and loyalty. And at this time the power of his satanic inspiration is moving the living agencies to carry out the great rebellion against God that commenced in heaven.

## TM 16.1

As a people we have been greatly humiliated by the course that some of our brethren in responsible positions have taken in **departing from the old landmarks.** There are those who, in order to carry out their plans, have by their words denied their faith. This shows how little dependence can be placed on human wisdom and judgment. **Now, as never before, we need to see the danger of being led unguardedly away from loyalty to God's commands.** We need to realize that God has given us a decided message of warning for the world, even as He gave Noah a message of warning for the antediluvians. Let our people beware of ***belittling the importance of the Sabbath in order to link up with unbelievers. Let them beware of departing from the principles of our faith, making it appear that it is not wrong to conform to the world. Let them be afraid of heeding the counsel of any man, whatever his position may be, who works counter to that which God has wrought in order to keep His people separate from the world.*** 7T 107.1

The Lord is testing His people to see **who will be loyal to the principles of His truth.** Our work is to proclaim to the world the ***first, second, and third angels' messages.*** In the discharge of our duties we are neither to despise nor to fear our enemies. **To bind ourselves up by contracts with those not of our faith is not in the order of God.** We are to treat with kindness and courtesy those who refuse to be loyal to God, but ***we are never, never to unite with them in counsel regarding the vital interests of His work.*** Putting our trust in God, we are to move steadily forward, doing His work with unselfishness, in humble dependence upon Him, committing to His providence ourselves and all that concerns our present and future, holding the beginning of our confidence firm unto the end, remembering that we receive the blessings of heaven, not because of our worthiness, but because of Christ's worthiness and our acceptance, through faith in Him, of God's abounding grace. 7T 107.2

God in His wisdom permitted Satan to carry forward his work, until the spirit of disaffection ripened into active revolt. It was necessary for his plans to be fully developed, that their true nature and tendency might be seen by all. Lucifer, as the anointed cherub, had been highly exalted; he was greatly loved by the heavenly beings, and his influence over them was strong. God's government included not only the inhabitants of heaven, but of all the worlds that He had created; and Satan thought that if he could carry the angels of heaven with him in rebellion, he could carry also the other worlds. He had artfully presented his side of the question, employing sophistry and fraud to secure his objects. His power to deceive was very great, and by disguising himself in a cloak of falsehood he had gained an advantage. Even the loyal angels could not fully discern his character or see to what his work was leading. GC 497.1

Satan had been so highly honored, and all his acts were so clothed with mystery,

that it was difficult to disclose to the angels the true nature of his work. Until fully developed, sin would not appear the evil thing it was. Heretofore it had had no place in the universe of God, and holy beings had no conception of its nature and malignity. They could not discern the terrible consequences that would result from setting aside the divine law. ***Satan had, at first, concealed his work under a specious profession of loyalty to God.*** He claimed to be seeking to promote the honor of God, the stability of His government, and the good of all the inhabitants of heaven. While instilling discontent into the minds of the angels under him, he had artfully made it appear that he was seeking to remove dissatisfaction. When he urged that changes be made in the order and laws of God's government, it was under the pretense that these were necessary in order to preserve harmony in heaven. GC 497.2

There will be a sharp conflict ***between those who are loyal to God and those who cast scorn upon His law. Reverence for God's law has been subverted. The religious leaders are teaching for doctrine the commandments of men.*** As it was in the days of ancient Israel, so it is in this age of the world. ***But because of the prevalence of disloyalty and transgression, will those who have revered the law of God now cherish less respect for it? Will they unite with the powers of earth to make it void?*** The loyal will not be carried away by the current of evil. They will not throw contempt on that which God has set apart as holy. They will not follow Israel's example of forgetfulness; they will call to remembrance God's dealings with His people in all ages, and ***will walk in the way of His commandments.*** 8T 120.1

The test comes to everyone. There are only two sides. On which side are you? 8T 120.2

Those whose faith and zeal are proportionate to their knowledge of the truth ***will reveal their loyalty to God by communicating the truth,*** in all its saving, sanctifying power, to those with whom they associate. Their lives of holiness and unselfish service will be in conformity with the vital principles of the kingdom of heaven. 8T 118.3