

“. . . faith is not our Saviour. It earns nothing. DA 175.4

James 2:14 What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? **can faith save him?**

Paul 1Cor. 13:2 . . . and **though I have all faith**, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, **I am nothing.**

Charity =’s love =’s the Ten Commandments Matt. 22:37-40=’s Obedience =’s works.

1John 2:9 He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now.3:15 Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: 4:20 If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

Matt 5:44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; 45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? 47 And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so? 48 Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

Rev. 22:12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

Matt. 7:26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, **and doeth them not**, THIS IS ANTI-CHRIST 1John 2:18,22;4:4; 2John 1:7.

James Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

There are many whose religion consists in theory. To them a happy emotion is godliness. They say, "Come to Jesus, and believe in him. It makes no difference what you believe so long as you are honest in your belief." They do not seek to make the sinner understand the true character of sin. He is not urged to search the Scriptures on bended knees that he may know what is truth, or to pray that his eyes may be anointed with eyesalve that he may see the grace of Christ. When the lawyer came to Christ, saying, "Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" the **Saviour did not say, Believe, only believe, and you will be saved.** "What is written in the law?" he said; "how readest thou?" The lawyer answered: "Thou shalt love

the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself." Christ said, "Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live." ***Here the false doctrine that man has nothing to do but believe is swept away. Eternal life is given to us on the condition that we obey the commandments of God.*** {RH, June 26, 1900 par. 4}

Note: This is the Lie of Jones and Waggoner's righteousness by faith "Which justify the wicked for reward, and take away the righteousness of the righteous from him." Isa. 5:23. See Faith and Works EG White pg. 111-113

***It is not enough for us to believe*** that Jesus is not an impostor, and that the religion of the Bible is no cunningly devised fable. We may believe that the name of Jesus is the only name under heaven whereby man may be saved, and yet we may not through faith make Him our **personal Saviour**. ***It is not enough to believe the theory of truth. It is not enough to make a profession of faith in Christ and have our names registered on the church roll.*** "He that keepeth His commandments dwelleth in Him, and He in him. And hereby we know that He abideth in us, ***by the Spirit*** which He hath given us." "Hereby we do know that we know Him if we keep His commandments." 1 John 3:24; 1 John 2:3. This is the genuine evidence of conversion. Whatever our profession, ***it amounts to nothing unless Christ is revealed in works of righteousness.*** COL 312.3

Impersonal adj., 1 not influenced by, showing, or involving personal feelings 2 not existing as a person; having no personality: aloof, distant, remote, reserved, withdrawn, unemotional, unfeeling, unsentimental, dispassionate, passionless, unresponsive, indifferent, unconcerned;

Note: This is the result of Jones and Waggoner's misconception of a impersonal faith instead of a Personal Faith in Christ, that separates the worker from his works. Pay particular attention to the Bible references for they define that by our works Christ is revealed to those whom we serve, Job, Paul etc. Why then do ministers teach anything else. If it's not our light then why did Jesus say let your light shine. Matt. 5:16. How did it shine? Matt. 25:31-40. Of the Laodicean's possessing an impersonal faith is expressed in lukewarmness. Rev. 3:15-15

But there is also a deep spiritual lesson taught in the command. ***Every man builds his own character.*** Paul says, "Ye are God's *building*" and every building will be tested by the Lord. <sup>21</sup> CIS 278.3

***It is possible to build a character that will pass the test of the judgment, and in this world stand as a beacon light in the moral darkness of sin, guiding others safely into the haven of rest.*** On the other hand, like the housetop without any battlement, we may be the cause of ruin to many souls. In our character-building,

we need to make straight paths for our feet, “lest that which is lame be turned out of the way.” <sup>22</sup> CIS 278.4

The wondering crowd that pressed close about Christ realized no accession of vital power. But when the suffering woman put forth her hand to touch Him, believing that she would be made whole, she felt the healing virtue. So in spiritual things. To talk of religion in a casual way, to pray without soul hunger and living faith, avails nothing. A nominal faith in Christ, which accepts Him merely as the Saviour of the world, can never bring healing to the soul. The faith that is unto salvation is not a mere intellectual assent to the truth. He who waits for entire knowledge before he will exercise faith, cannot receive blessing from God. It is not enough to believe *about* Christ; we must believe *in* Him. The only faith that will benefit us is that which embraces Him as a personal Saviour; which ***appropriates His merits to ourselves.*** ***Many hold faith as an opinion.*** ***Saving faith is a transaction*** by which those who receive Christ join themselves in ***covenant*** relation with God. Genuine faith is life. A living faith means an increase of vigor, a confiding trust, ***by which the*** our ***“soul becomes a conquering power.*** DA 347.1; DAR 515.1-516.1.

Appropriate: *V.* take (something) ***for one's own use,*** typically without the owner's permission: seize, commandeer, expropriate, annex, arrogate, sequester, sequester, ***take possession of, take over, assume, secure, acquire,*** wrest, usurp, claim, lay claim to, hijack.

Note: Make His merits YOUR OWN by exactly reproducing them in your character.

***God never forces the will or the conscience; but Satan's constant resort—to gain control of those whom he cannot otherwise seduce—is compulsion by cruelty.*** ***Through fear or force*** he endeavors to rule the conscience and to secure homage to himself. To accomplish this, ***he works through both religious and secular authorities,*** moving them to the enforcement of human laws ***in defiance of the law of God.*** GC 591.2; Heb. 9:14; 7:19. What purges our conscience? The guilt of the blood of Christ.

Note: God never forces the will or conscience therefore He cannot transfer His Character to us. Christ does Impute His Righteousness to cover sins and Justify them who confess and repent. And the Impart-impartation of His Righteousness by leaving a written transcript-example of His character by which we are to form character is Sanctification.

The knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ, ***expressed in character***, is an exaltation above everything that is esteemed in earth or in heaven. ***It is the very highest education. It is the key that opens the portals of the heavenly city. This knowledge it is God's purpose that all who put on Christ by baptism shall possess. And it is the duty of God's servants to set before these souls the privilege of their high calling in Christ Jesus.*** 6T 97.1; EW 15.1; Col. 405.1-421.

Note: To this end it is God's purpose to give to all men the measure of faith, the written transcript of His character—His two witnesses, the Bible the Old and New Testaments for the perfection of our Character by process of Sanctification.

Moses spent forty years as a shepherd of flocks ***to prepare him to understand himself, and to purify himself by emptying himself***, that the Lord could accomplish His will in him. The Lord did not take for His workmen mere machines in intellect or feelings. Both are essential to do the work, but these human elements of character must be purged from defects, ***not by talking of the will of God, but by doing His will.*** If any man will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine. Moses was under training to God. He endured a long process of mental training to fit him to be leader of the armies of Israel. 2MR 324.5

Note: His Will was to deliver Israel from Bondage.

Testing times come to all. How do we conduct ourselves under the test and proving of God? Do our lamps go out? or do we still keep them burning? Are we prepared for every emergency by our connection with Him who is full of grace and truth? The ***five wise virgins could not impart their character*** to the five foolish virgins. ***Character must be formed by us as individuals. It cannot be transferred to another, even if the possessor were willing to make the sacrifice.*** There is much we can do for each other while mercy still lingers. ***We can represent the character of Christ. We can give*** faithful warnings to the erring. ***We can reprove***, rebuke, with all long-suffering and doctrine, bringing the doctrines of Holy Writ home to the heart. ***We can give*** heartfelt sympathy. ***We can pray*** with and for one another. By living a circumspect life, by maintaining a holy conversation, we may give an example of what a Christian should be; ***but no person can give to another his own mold of character.*** ***Let us duly consider the fact that we are to be saved, not as companies, but as individuals. We shall be judged according to the character we have formed.*** It is perilous to neglect to prepare the soul for eternity, and to put off making our peace with God until upon a dying bed. ***It is*** by the daily transactions of life, by the spirit we manifest, that we determine our eternal destiny. He who is faithful in that which is least, is

faithful also in much. ***If we have made Christ our pattern, if we have walked and worked as he has given us an example in his own life, we shall be able to meet the solemn surprises that will come upon us in our experience, and say from our heart, "Not my will, but thine, be done."*** RH September 17, 1895, par. 10

God's law is the transcript of his character, and ***those only who obey this law will be accepted by him. Every departure from obedience to the law of God is rebellion. It is for the highest interest of man to obey the law of God; for conformity to the principles of this law is essential to the formation of a righteous character.*** The rules of life that the Lord has given will make men pure and happy and holy. Those only who obey these rules can hear from the lips of Christ the words, "Come up higher." RH March 15, 1906, par. 18

Note And so were we raised, as we proved that we were able to safely occupy the area our parents trusted us in they allowed us greater freedom. And just so God will give to those who live here by these principles ability to travel the universe. We live eternally by those laws or die eternally for violating them.  
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The gospel ***deals with individuals. Every human being has a soul to save or to lose.*** Each has an individuality separate and distinct from all others. Each must be convicted for himself, converted for himself. He must receive the truth, repent, believe, and ***obey for himself.*** He must ***exercise his will*** for himself. No one can do this work by proxy. No one can submerge his individuality in another's. Each must surrender to God ***by his own act*** and the mystery of godliness.—[Manuscript 28, 1898. 2MCP 423.2](#)

Note: Wait my pastor can't do it for me. My pastor can't tell me Jesus did it for me. Collectively my church can't complete it for me. NO!

Upon those who keep the commandments of God the benediction is pronounced: "Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." They are "a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people;" that they should show forth the praises of Him who hath called us out of darkness into His marvelous light. ***The obedient are called the just;*** they are drawn to the holy magnet, Jesus Christ; ***the holy attracts the holy.*** He that is unjust will be unjust still. ***Character cannot then be made or transformed. The oil of grace cannot be lent by one to another,*** neither have the foolish virgins time to buy oil for themselves. ***The righteous are those who keep the commandments of God, and they will be forever separated from the disobedient and unrighteous who trampled underfoot the law of God.*** The pure ore and the dross will no longer

commingle. TM 235.2

“Jesus proceeded to show His hearers” in the sermon on the mount “what it means to keep the commandments of God—that it is a reproduction in themselves of the character of Christ. For in Him, God was daily made manifest before them.” MB 55.1

### [EGWRighteousnessByFaith](#)

Due 6:25 And *it shall be our righteousness*, if we observe to do all these commandments before the LORD our God, as he hath commanded us.

Ps. 119:172 My tongue shall speak of thy word: for *all thy commandments are righteousness.*

Isa. 54:17 No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and *their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD.*

Rev. 19:8 “And to her” The New Jerusalem “was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: *for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.* 6:11 And *white robes were given unto every one of them;* . . . 7:9,13,14. 3:4 . . they shall walk with me in white: *for they are worthy* 14:4 These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. *These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth.*

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But Christ has given us no assurance that to attain perfection of character is an easy matter. *A noble, all-round character is not inherited.* It does not come to us by accident. *A noble character is earned by individual effort through the merits and grace of Christ. God gives the talents, the powers of the mind; we form the character.* It is formed by hard, stern battles with self. Conflict after conflict must be waged against hereditary tendencies. We shall have to criticize ourselves closely, and allow not one unfavorable trait to remain uncorrected. COL 331.1

*Heaven recognizes the loyalty of the soul that is struggling to do the will of God, and to grow into the likeness of Christ. Each has to win his way by struggles and efforts to elevation of character and noble attainments.* Jesus has

divine help to give every one of us in our aspirations *to seek to work out our own salvation* with fear and trembling. God is ready to give abundant grace, and the door of the heart must be open to receive. Open the door and let the Saviour in. Then we must teach this, reveal it in our lives. What rich promises we have, how deep, how full, how abundant! *If we do not grasp them*, we meet with a great loss, and those with whom we associate also meet with a loss. 21MR 308.1

Note: Inherited tendencies are those that we were taught or receive from our parents example. Cultivated tendencies are those we teach ourselves. Do you punish yourself with sin, do you reward yourself with sin? Acts make up habits and habits form character. Jesus came to loose the bond of sin so that we CAN be free to obey—keep the law—be righteous. Rom. 6:16 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

James 1:13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: 14 But *every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed*. 15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. 16 Do not err, my beloved brethren.

The prophets and apostles did not perfect Christian character by a *miracle*. They used the *means* which God had placed within their reach; and all who will put forth *the same effort* will secure the same results.—The Sanctified Life, pp. 82-84. {RC 97.7}

Large buildings can give no Christlike character to the work, be they ever so imposing. *Correct principles maintained, a righteous character developed* by those in Christ's service, *firm resistance against evil*—these will do more to honor God than the finest buildings.—Letter 4, 1896. PM 190.1

Man, who has defaced the image of God in his soul by a corrupt life, cannot, by mere human effort, effect a radical change in himself. He must accept the provisions of the gospel; he must be reconciled to God through obedience to His law and faith in Jesus Christ. His life from thenceforth must be governed by a new principle. *Through repentance, faith, and good works he may perfect a righteous character*, and claim, through the *merits* of Christ, the privileges of the sons of God. *The principles of divine truth, received and cherished in the heart, will carry us to a height of moral excellence that we had not deemed it possible for us to reach.* “And it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is. And every man that hath this hope in Him purifieth himself, even as He is pure.” 4T

The great work of parents and teachers is character building; it is to seek to restore the image of Christ in those who are placed under their care. A knowledge of the sciences sinks into insignificance beside this great aim; but all true education may be made to help in the development of a righteous character. *The formation of character is the work of a lifetime, and it is for eternity. If all could realize this, if they would awaken to the thought that we are individually deciding our own destiny and the destinies of our children for eternal life or eternal ruin, **what a change would take place! How differently would this probationary time be occupied, and what different characters would fill our world!** SpTEd 73.1*

**Those things which seem to the Christian most grievous to be borne often prove his greatest blessing.** Reproach and falsehood have ever followed those who were faithful in the discharge of duty. *A righteous character, though blackened in reputation by slander and falsehood, will preserve the purity of its virtue and excellence. Trampled in the mire, or exalted to heaven, the Christian's life should be the same, and the proud consciousness of innocence is its own reward. The persecution of enemies tests the foundation upon which the reputation really rests.* Sooner or later it is revealed to the world whether or not the evil reports were true, or were the poisoned shafts of malice and revenge. Constancy in serving God is the only safe manner of settling such questions. Jesus would have his people use great care to give the enemies of his cause no ground to condemn their holy faith. No wrong action should cast a stigma upon its purity. When all arguments fail, the slanderers frequently open their galling fire upon the besieged servants of God; but their lying tongues eventually bring curses upon themselves. **God will finally vindicate the right, honor the guiltless, and hide them in the secret of his pavilion from the strife of tongues.** 2SP 212.1

I have been shown that here is where many will fail to bear the test. They develop their true character in the management of temporal concerns. They manifest unfaithfulness, scheming, dishonesty, in dealing with their fellow men. They do not consider that their hold upon the future, immortal life depends upon how they conduct themselves in the concerns of this life, and that the **strictest integrity is indispensable to the formation of a righteous character.** Dishonesty is practiced all through our ranks, and this is the cause of lukewarmness on the part of many who profess to believe the truth. They are not connected with Christ and are deceiving their own souls. I am pained to make the statement that there is an alarming lack of honesty even among Sabbathkeepers. 4T 309.3

Everyone is to keep himself separate from the world, which is full of iniquity.



We are not to walk with God for a time, and then part from His company and walk in the sparks of our own kindling. There must be a firm continuance, a perseverance in acts of faith. We are to praise God; ***to show forth His glory in a righteous character.*** *No one of us will gain the victory without persevering, untiring effort, proportionate to the value of the object which we seek, even eternal life.* TM 511.2

Gen. 7:1 And the LORD said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; ***for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation.***

***Enoch formed a righteous character, and the result was that he was translated*** to heaven without seeing death. When the Lord shall come the second time, there will be some who will be translated without seeing death, and we want to know if we will be among ***that number.*** We want to know if we are wholly on the Lord's side—***partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world*** through lust—not by trying to make a clear path for our feet where we shall have no trials or difficulties to meet, but by placing ourselves in right relation to God ***and letting Him take care of the consequences.***—Manuscript 83, 1886. CTr 42.6

These two brothers, Cain and Abel, represent the whole human family. ***They were both tested on the point of obedience, and all will be tested as they were.*** Abel bore the proving of God. ***He revealed the gold of a righteous character, the principles of true godliness.*** But Cain's religion had not a good foundation; it rested on human merit. He brought to God something in which he had a personal interest—the fruits of the ground, which had been cultivated by his toil; and he presented his offering as a favor done to God ***through which he expected to secure the divine approval.*** He obeyed in building an altar, obeyed in bringing a sacrifice, ***but it was only a partial obedience.*** The essential part, the recognition of the need of a Redeemer, was left out. ST December 23, 1886, par. 1

Heb. 11:4 By faith Abel ***offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts:*** and by it he being dead yet speaketh.

Note: He who is trying to reach heaven by his own ***works*** in keeping the law is attempting an impossibility. Man cannot be saved without ***obedience***, but his works should not be of himself; Christ should work in him to will and to do of His good pleasure. If a man could save himself by his own works, he might have something in himself in which to rejoice. The effort that man makes ***in his own strength*** to obtain salvation is ***represented*** by the offering of ***Cain.*** ***All that man can do without Christ is polluted*** with selfishness and sin; but that which is

wrought through faith is acceptable to God. When we seek to gain heaven through the merits of Christ, the soul makes progress. “Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith,” we may go on from strength to strength, from victory to victory; for through Christ the grace of God has worked out our complete salvation. FW 94.1

1John 3:7 “Little children, let no man deceive you: ***he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.*** 8 He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. 9 ***Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.*** 10 In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: ***whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God,*** neither he that loveth not his brother. 11 For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. 12 Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because ***his own works were evil,*** and ***his brother’s” own works were “righteous.”***

Note: Whoever teaches you can’t keep the 10 commandments in any phrase or way, “you can’t be righteous” is not of God! Eze. 13:1-21,22 ***Because with lies ye have made the heart of the righteous sad, whom I have not made sad;*** and strengthened the hands of the wicked, ***that he should not return from his wicked way, by promising him life:*** 23 ***Therefore ye shall see no more vanity, nor divine divinations: for I will deliver my people out of your hand: and ye shall know that I am the LORD.***

“ . . . Satan had deceived Judas and led him to think that he was one of Christ's true disciples; but his heart had ever been carnal. . . .” SR 208.1

But the faith and righteousness of ***Cornelius*** could not be perfect without a knowledge of Christ; therefore God sent that ***light and knowledge to him for the farther development of his righteous character.*** Many refuse to receive the light which the providence of God sends, them, and, as an excuse for so doing, quote the words of Peter to Cornelius and his friends: “But in every nation he that feareth Him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.” ***They maintain that it is of no consequence what men believe, so long as their works are good.*** Such ones are wrong; faith must unite with their works. They should advance with the light that is given them. ***If God brings them in connection with his servants who have received new truth, substantiated by the Word of God, they should accept it with joy.*** Truth is onward. Truth is upward. On the other hand, those who claim that their faith alone will save them, are trusting to a rope of sand; for faith

is strengthened and made perfect by works only. 7Red 1877 63.2

I have been shown that here is where many will fail to bear the test. They develop their true character in the management of temporal concerns. They manifest unfaithfulness, scheming, dishonesty, in dealing with their fellowmen. They do not consider that their hold upon the future, immortal life depends upon how they conduct themselves in the concerns of this life, and that ***the strictest integrity is indispensable to the formation of a righteous character*** (Testimonies for the Church 4:308-310). LHU 365.5

The working out of the great plan of redemption, as manifest in the history of this world, is not only to man, but to angels, a revelation of the Father. Here is seen the work of Satan in the degradation and ruin of the race by sin, and, on the other hand, the work of God in man's recovery and uplifting through the grace of Christ. ***Every soul that develops a righteous character and withstands the power of the wicked one is a testimony to the falsehood of Satan's charges against divine government.*** Through the eternal ages the exaltation of the redeemed will be a testimony to God's love and mercy. This is set forth in the touching and beautiful words of the apostle Paul. He says that "we are a spectacle unto the world, to angels, and to men." 1 Corinthians 4:9. "God who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, ... that in *the ages to come* he might show the exceeding riches of his grace, in his kindness toward us, through Christ Jesus." Ephesians 2:4-7. BTS December 1, 1907, par. 1

When man placed himself in opposition to the will of the Father, infinite pity filled the breast of the Son of God. He offered his life to pay the penalty of the broken law, that man might have another trial. He promised to give those who believed in him grace to resist temptation, and ***power to build up a righteous character, through keeping the commandments of God.*** Our Saviour purchased this privilege for us at an infinite cost. How blind must man be to his own interests, that he does not accept the terms of God, and receive eternal life! It is a solemn thought that the condition of man required the sacrifice of the Son of God in order that he might be redeemed from a life of sin to a life of faith and obedience. Though the race has fallen in rebellion, and ruin awaits those who neglect so great a salvation, Christ has promised to "make a man more precious than fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir." This honor will be conferred upon man, because the Son of God, as his substitute and surety, has imparted to him his own righteousness. Our precious Saviour laid aside his royal robes, stepped down from his royal throne, and was made man, that he might bring man into harmony with his God. RH February 14, 1888, par. 12

You may say that you believe in Jesus, when you have an appreciation of the cost of salvation. You may make this claim, when you feel that Jesus died for you on the cruel cross of Calvary; *when you have an intelligent, understanding faith that his death makes it possible for you to cease from sin, and to perfect a righteous character through the grace of God, bestowed upon you as the purchase of Christ's blood.* The eyes of fallen men may be anointed with the eye-salve of spiritual comprehension, and they may see themselves as they really are,—poor, and miserable, and blind, and naked. They may be brought to realize their need of repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. RH July 24, 1888, par. 5

My text declares that God is not mocked. God understands whether he has the whole heart's service, or whether we are simply professors of religion. The truth of God must be enshrined in the heart, and we must be determined to fight the battles of the Lord, if we would come off conquerors with the final triumph of the truth; for the truth will triumph gloriously. What are you sowing in your daily life? Are you sowing to your flesh? Are you thinking only of your pleasure, your convenience? sowing to pride and vanity and ambition? “Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.” If you are sowing faith, rendering obedience to Christ, you will reap faith and power for future obedience. If you are seeking to be a blessing to others, God will bless you. We should bring all the good possible into our lives, that we may glorify God, and be a blessing to humanity. *The Lord has made it possible for us to have a righteous character in this life, that we may reflect the image of Christ to the world,* and bring hope and joy to others. The joy we give to others will be reflected upon us again; for as we sow, we shall reap. But if we educate our souls in the line of doubt, we shall reap doubt at a time when faith and confidence are most essential, and shall be powerless to hope and believe. If we talk doubt, and question the dealings of God, we shall have an abundant harvest of doubt and questioning to reap. We shall be sowing to the flesh, and of the flesh shall reap corruption. RH May 5, 1891, par. 4

Many are in as great blindness concerning the plan of salvation as were the Pharisees, who professed obedience to God while they rejected Him who came to work out their salvation, that their efforts to gain a righteous character should have *virtue* with God through the sinner's Advocate and substitute. ST March 21, 1878, par. 17

“Sin is the transgression of the law;” and Jesus died, the just for the unjust, the innocent for the guilty, *that the honor of God's law might be preserved,* and yet man be restored to the favor of heaven. *By repentance, faith, and obedience, he may perfect a righteous character,* and, through the *merits* of Christ, become a

son of God. ST October 15, 1896, par. 10

You should be prepared to follow the example of these noble youth. Never be ashamed of your colors; put them up, unfurl them to the gaze of men and angels. Do not be controlled by false modesty, by false prudence which suggests to you a course of action contrary to this advice. By your choice words and a consistent course of action, by your propriety, your earnest piety, make a telling confession of your faith, determined that Christ shall occupy the throne in the soul temple; and lay your talents without reserve at his feet to be employed in his service. For your present and eternal good it is best to commit yourself wholly to the right, that the world may know where you are standing. Many are not wholly committed to the cause of God, and their position of wavering is a source of weakness in itself, and a stone of stumbling to others. With principles unsettled, unconsecrated as they are, the waves of temptation sweep them away from what they know to be right, and they do not make holy endeavor to overcome every wrong, and ***through the imputed righteousness of Christ, perfect a righteous character.*** YI February 2, 1893, par. 3

We are now living in a most perilous time, and not one of us should be tardy in seeking a preparation for the coming of Christ. Let none follow the example of the foolish virgins, and think that it will be safe to wait until the crisis comes before gaining a preparation of character to stand in that time. It will be too late to seek for the righteousness of Christ when the guests are called in and examined. Now is the time to put on the righteousness of Christ,—the wedding garment that will fit you to enter into the marriage supper of the Lamb. In the parable, the foolish virgins are represented as begging for oil, and failing to receive it at their request. This is symbolic of those who have not prepared themselves by developing a character to stand in a time of crisis. It is as if they should go to their neighbors and say, Give me your character, or I shall be lost. Those that were wise could not impart their oil to the flickering lamps of the foolish virgins. Character is not transferable. It is not to be bought or sold; it is to be acquired. ***The Lord has given to every individual an opportunity to obtain a righteous character through the hours of probation; but he has not provided a way by which one human agent may impart to another the character which he has developed by going through hard experiences, by learning lessons from the great Teacher, so that he can manifest patience under trial, and exercise faith so that he can remove mountains of impossibility. It is impossible to impart the fragrance of love,—to give to another gentleness, tact, and perseverance. It is impossible for one human heart to pour into another the love of God and humanity.*** YI January 16, 1896, par. 2

But the day is coming, and it is close upon us, when every phase of character will be revealed by special temptation. ***Those who remain true to principle, who***

**exercise faith to the end, will be those who have proved true under test and trial during the previous hours of their probation, and have formed characters after the likeness of Christ. It will be those who have cultivated close acquaintance with Christ, who, through his wisdom and grace, are partakers of the divine nature.** But no human being can give to another, heart-devotion and noble qualities of mind, and supply his deficiencies with moral power. We can each do much for each other by giving to men a Christlike example, thus influencing them to go to Christ for the righteousness without which they cannot stand in the judgment. **Men should prayerfully consider the important matter of character-building, and frame their characters after the divine model.** YI  
January 16, 1896, par. 3

Note: Take the parables of the New Testament and apply them to those in the Old Testament Like Job. Was he the wayside, stony ground, thistles, or Good? Was he a goat or a sheep? Wise or foolish. Was he on the Broadway or narrow. Etc. Compare him to the standards of the Sanctuary and you'll come to the same conclusion concerning Job and others of God's people.

**The law of God is the standard by which the characters and the lives of men will be tested in the judgment.** Says the wise man: "Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment." Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14. The apostle James admonishes his brethren: "So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty." James 2:12. GC 482.2

How can the Lord bless those who manifest a spirit of "I don't care," a spirit which leads them to walk contrary to the light which the Lord has given them? But I do not ask you to take my words. Lay Sister White to one side. Do not quote my words again as long as you live until you can obey the Bible. **When you make the Bible your food, your meat, and your drink, when you make its principles the elements of your character,** you will know better how to receive counsel from God. I exalt the precious Word before you today. Do not repeat what I have said, saying, "Sister White said this," and "Sister White said that." Find out what the Lord God of Israel says, and then do what He commands.--Manuscript 43, 1901. (From an address to church leaders the night before the opening of the General Conference session of 1901.) {3SM 33.1}

Eph. 4:6 One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. . . . 23 And **be renewed in the spirit of your mind;** 24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

Phil. 2:5 **Let this mind be in you**, which was also in Christ Jesus:

Col. 1:5 For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before **in the word of the truth** of the gospel; 6 Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth: . . . 27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory:** 3:16 **Let the word of Christ dwell in you** richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

**Through trial and persecution the glory—the character—of God is revealed in His chosen ones.** The believers in Christ, hated and persecuted by the world, are educated and disciplined in the school of Christ. On earth they walk in narrow paths; they are purified in the furnace of affliction. They follow Christ through sore conflicts; they endure self-denial and experience bitter disappointments; but thus they learn the guilt and woe of sin, and they look upon it with abhorrence. Being partakers of Christ's sufferings, they can look beyond the gloom to the glory, saying, "I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." Romans 8:18. AA 576.4

The glory of God, **the perfection of Christian character, is to be the aim,** . . . DG 169.2

**What is this glory?—The character of God.** This is what he proclaimed to Moses . . . GW92 237.1

1Thess. 2:13 For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, **when ye received the word of God** which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, **but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.**