

“Peter exhorts his brethren to ‘grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.’ Whenever the people of God are growing in grace, they will be constantly obtaining a clearer understanding of His word. They will discern new light and beauty in its sacred truths. This has been true in the history of the church in all ages, and thus it will continue to the end. But as real spiritual life declines, it has ever been the tendency to cease to advance in the knowledge of the truth. Men rest satisfied with the light already received from God’s word and discourage any further investigation of the Scriptures. They become conservative and seek to avoid discussion.

“The fact that there is no controversy or agitation among God’s people should not be regarded as conclusive evidence that they are holding fast to sound doctrine. There is reason to fear that they may not be clearly discriminating between truth and error. When no new questions are started by investigation of the Scriptures, when no difference of opinion arises which will set men to searching the Bible for themselves to make sure that they have the truth, there will be many now, as in ancient times, who will hold to tradition and worship they know not what.

“I have been shown that many who profess to have a knowledge of present truth know not what they believe. They do not understand the evidences of their faith. They have **no just appreciation of the work for the present time.** When the time of trial shall come, there are men now preaching to others who will find, upon examining the positions they hold, that there are many things for which they can give no satisfactory reason. Until thus tested they knew not their great ignorance. And there are many in the church who take it for granted that they understand what they believe; but, until controversy arises, they do not know their own weakness. When separated from those of like faith and compelled to stand singly and alone to explain their belief, they will be surprised to see how confused are their ideas of what they had accepted as truth. Certain it is that there has been among us a departure from the living God and a turning to men, putting human in place of divine wisdom.

“God will arouse His people; if other means fail, **heresies will come in among them, which will sift them, separating the chaff from the wheat.** The Lord calls upon all who believe His word to awake out of sleep. Precious light has come, appropriate for this time. It is Bible truth, showing the perils that are right upon us. This light should lead us to a diligent study of the Scriptures and a most critical examination of the positions which we hold. God would have all the bearings and positions of truth thoroughly and perseveringly searched, with prayer and fasting. Believers are not to rest in suppositions and ill-defined ideas of what constitutes truth. Their faith must be firmly founded upon the word of God so that when the testing time shall come and they are brought before councils to answer for their faith they may be able to give a reason for the hope that is in them, with meekness and fear.

“Agitate, agitate, agitate. The subjects which we present to the world must be to us a living reality. It is important that in defending the doctrines which we consider fundamental articles of faith we should never allow ourselves to employ arguments that are not wholly sound. These may avail to silence an opposer, but they do not honor the truth. We should present sound arguments, that will not only silence our opponents, but will bear the closest and most searching scrutiny. With those who have educated themselves as debaters there is great danger that they will not handle the word of God with fairness. In meeting an opponent it should be our earnest effort to present subjects in such a manner as to awaken conviction in his mind, instead of seeking merely to give confidence to the believer.

“Whatever may be man’s intellectual advancement, let him not for a moment think that there is no need of thorough and continuous searching of the Scriptures for greater light. As a people we are called individually to be students of prophecy. We must watch with earnestness that we may discern any ray of light which God shall present to us. We are to catch the first gleamings of truth; and through prayerful study clearer light may be obtained, which can be brought before others.” *Testimonies*, volume 5, 706–708.

“God will **arouse His people**; if other means fail, **heresies will come in among them, which will sift them, separating the chaff from the wheat.**”

“**God is sifting His people.** He will have a clean and holy church. We cannot read the heart of man. But the Lord has provided means to keep the church pure. A corrupt people has arisen who could not live with the people of God. They despised reproof, and would not be corrected. They had an opportunity to know that theirs was an unrighteous warfare. They had time to repent of their wrongs; **but** self was too dear to die. They nourished it, and it grew strong, and they separated from the trusting people of God, **whom He is purifying** unto Himself. We all have reason to thank God that a way has been opened to save the church; for the wrath of God must have come upon us if **these corrupt pretenders** had remained with us.

“Every honest soul that may be deceived by these disaffected ones, will have true light **in regard to them**, if every angel from heaven has to visit them, to enlighten their minds. We have nothing to fear in this matter. **As we near the judgment, all will manifest their true character, and it will be made plain to what company they belong.** The sieve is moving. Let us not say: Stay Thy hand, O God. The church must be purged, and it will be. God reigns; let the people praise Him. I have not the most distant thought of sinking down. I mean to be right and do right. The judgment is to set, the books are to be opened, and we are to be judged according to our deeds. All the falsehoods that may be framed against me will not make me any worse, nor any better unless they have a tendency to drive me nearer my Redeemer.” *Testimonies*, volume 1, 99, 100.

Two Parties

“Today Satan is working upon human minds by his crooked principles. These will be adopted and acted upon by some who claim to be loyal and true to God’s government. How shall we know that they are disloyal and untrue?—‘By their fruits ye shall know them.’ God does not force any one. He leaves all free to choose. But he says, ‘By their fruits ye shall know them.’ The Lord will not write as **wise** those **who cannot distinguish between a tree that bears thorn-berries and a tree that bears olives.**” *Review and Herald*, September 7, 1897.

Judgment of the Living

“It is high time you were thoroughly converted, that your sins may go beforehand, and **be blotted out now in probationary time**, lest it shall be forever too late for wrongs to be righted. Read Isaiah 30:8–13.” *The 1888 Materials*, 1300.

The Seventh Seal

Counterfeit Movement/Organization

False Signs
A Holy Generation

The Binding Off Message

“To us, as God’s servants, has been entrusted the third angel’s message, the binding-off message, that is to prepare a people for the coming of the King. We are to make every effort to give a knowledge of the truth to all who will hear, and there are many who will listen. All through the large cities God has honest souls who are interested in what is truth.

“Time is short; the Lord desires that everything connected with His cause shall be brought into order. He desires that the solemn message of warning and of invitation shall be proclaimed as widely as His messengers can carry it. Nothing that would hinder the advance of the message is to be allowed to come into our plans. ‘Repeat the message, repeat the message,’ were the words spoken to me over and over again. ‘Tell My people to repeat the message in the places where it was first preached, and where church after church took their position for the truth, the power of God witnessing to the message in a remarkable manner.’” *Testimonies* volume 9, 98.

“**The third angel’s** message must go over the land, and **awaken** the people, and call their attention to the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. **Another angel** unites his voice with the third angel, and **the earth is lighted with its glory**. The light increases, and it shines out to all the nations of the earth. It is to go forth as a light that burneth. It will be attended with great power, until its golden beams have fallen upon every tongue, every people, and every nation upon the face of the whole earth. Let me ask you, What you are doing to prepare for this **work**? Are you building for eternity? You must remember that **this angel represents the people that have this message to give to the world. Are you among that people? Do you really believe that this work in which we are engaged is truly the third angel’s message? If so, then you understand that we have a mighty work to do, and that we ought to be about it.** We must **sanctify ourselves by a strict obedience to the truth, placing ourselves in right relation to God and his work.** As the truth goes forth, Satan intensifies his zeal to defeat its progress by **presenting pleasing delusions.** As we urge the truth, he urges his errors. He will stir up his agents, in view of the coming of the Lord, to go out and cry, ‘Lo! here is Christ, and lo! there is Christ.’ And here arises this superstition, and there arises that heresy. And tell me, what are we to do about it? I will tell you: we can become familiar, with the Bible, and read what saith the Lord. Not only the ministers but all who love and fear God are to do the Master’s work; and that is to let the light that he has given you shine before all. Here are **two companies**; one of them is being bound in bundles to burn, the other is being bound by the cords of truth and love. Satan is binding his followers with the work of iniquity; Christ is binding together his people in love and faith in the keeping of his commandments. And this work will increase more and more, and Satan will work to divide and separate God’s people one from the other. And while he is doing this kind of work, be careful that none of you are found helping him. We want to put away our cold-heartedness, and let love, tender compassion, true courtesy, and the spirit of tenderness come into our midst. Here **we are in the waiting time, in the day of God’s preparation.** Here in this world we are to fit up for these great trials that are soon coming upon us. And yet some of us act as though we had a whole millennium before us in which to accomplish the work. But, says the text, ‘Watch and pray; for ye know not when the time is.’ And what Christ said to his disciples, I say unto you, ‘Take ye heed, watch and pray,’ that when the Master comes to reckon with his servants, you may receive from him the crown of life laid up for the overcomer, and rejoice with him in his kingdom.” *Review and Herald*, August 18, 1885.

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Moving the Foundations
Moving Waymarks
The Old Paths
Trumpet Message
1888

Laodicea

A New Gospel

The Time of Visitation

“But those souls who are perverting their God-given capabilities by their words and works are scattering from the truth. They are not building up souls in the most holy faith. They are not making straight paths for their feet lest the lame be turned out of the way. They draw back from self-denial and self-sacrifice. They find fault with God and His Word in finding fault with those whom God has sent with His messages of mercy. What have these complainers, these accusers of the brethren, done to gather with Christ? What have they done to advance the work and cause of God in the earth? Have they not done only harm to the messengers and the message God has sent them? They are in the position of those who might have done good service for the Master, but who have missed opportunity after opportunity until their senses are blunted, their perceptions confused. They call **evil good, and good evil; light they call darkness and darkness light**, because, says Christ, **they knew not the time of their visitation**.

“Oh, how many opportunities have come and gone when they could have been a blessing had they but been converted! **But their minds are mixed with contradictory sentiments, and they have not perception to distinguish the wheat from the tares. May the Lord pity and forgive these unfaithful workers who dishonor God and do not love Jesus nor the truth.** Self and self-righteousness are as filthy rags, yet they cling to them and will not receive the garments of Christ’s righteousness. Christ says of these unfaithful stewards, ‘Ye have not honored Me in receiving My messengers; ye have not honored Me with your substance. Ye did it not unto Me. The opportunity has come and gone and thus stands your record in the great book of account. Thou gavest Me no water for My feet; thou gavest Me not the care and devotion of thy heart; My head with oil thou didst not anoint.’ Oh, my God, grant that these souls may not always be under the educating power of the arch deceiver!” *Manuscript Releases*, volume 21, 298.

New Kids on the Block

Elisha/Samuel Snow

False Christ

False Witness

“Unsanctified ministers are arraying themselves against God. **They are praising Christ and the god of this world in the same breath.** While professedly they receive Christ, they embrace **Barabbas**, and by their actions say, ‘Not this Man, but Barabbas.’ **Let all who read these lines, take heed.** Satan has made his boast of what he can do. He thinks to dissolve the unity which Christ prayed might exist in His church. He says, ‘I will go forth and be **a lying spirit** to deceive those that I can, to **criticize, and condemn, and falsify.**’ Let the son of deceit and false witness be entertained by **a church that has had great light**, great evidence, and **that church will discard the message the Lord has sent**, and receive **the most unreasonable assertions and false suppositions and false theories.** Satan laughs at their folly, for he knows what truth is.

“**Many** will stand in our pulpits with **the torch of false prophecy in their hands**, kindled from the hellish torch of Satan. If doubts and unbelief are cherished, the faithful ministers will be removed from the people who think they know so much. ‘If thou hadst known,’ said Christ, ‘even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now **they are hid from thine eyes.**’

“**Nevertheless, the foundation of God standeth sure.** The Lord knoweth them that are His. The sanctified minister must have no guile in his mouth. He must be open as the day, free from every taint of evil. A sanctified ministry and press will be a power in flashing the light of truth on this untoward generation. Light, brethren, more light we need. Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound an alarm in the holy mountain. Gather the host of the Lord, with sanctified hearts, to hear what the Lord will say unto His people; for **He has increased light for all who will hear.** Let them be armed and equipped, and come up to the battle—to the help of the Lord against the mighty. God Himself will work for Israel. **Every lying tongue will be silenced.** Angels’ hands will overthrow the deceptive schemes that are being formed. The bulwarks of Satan will never triumph. Victory will attend the third angel’s message. **As the Captain of the Lord’s host tore down the walls of Jericho**, so will the Lord’s commandment-keeping people triumph, and all opposing elements be defeated. Let no soul complain of the servants of God who have come to them with a heaven-sent message. Do not any longer pick flaws in them, saying, ‘They are too positive; they talk too strongly.’ They may talk strongly; but is it not needed? **God will make the ears of the hearers tingle if they will not heed His voice or His message.** He will denounce those who resist the word of God.

“Satan has laid every measure possible that nothing shall come among us as a people to reprove and rebuke us, and exhort us **to put away our errors.** But there is a people who will bear the ark of God. Some will go out from among us who will bear the ark no longer. But these cannot make walls to obstruct the truth; for it will go onward and upward to the end. In the past God has raised up men, and He still has men of opportunity waiting, prepared to do His bidding—men who will go through restrictions which are only as walls daubed with untempered mortar. When God puts His Spirit upon men, they will work. They will proclaim the word of the Lord; they will lift up their voice like a trumpet. The truth will not be diminished or lose its power in their hands. They will show the people their transgressions, and the house of Jacob their sins.” *Testimonies to Ministers*, 409–411.

False Sanctification