

1888—911

“Those who name the name of Christ should adopt Christian maxims. They should fear to ridicule the message or the messenger. Let no man say that this conversation is in heaven, while he is manifestly groveling in the dust, and his thoughts and feelings are as far separated from God as the east from the west. The true Christian will fear to make light of God’s message, lest he may lay a stumbling block in the way of a soul who may see and imitate his example. {15MR 92.1}

“The church of God is to shine as a light to the world, but Jesus is the illuminator, and He is represented as moving among His people. No one shines by his own light. The Lord God almighty and the Lamb are the lights thereof. **The message given us by A. T. Jones, and E. J. Waggoner is the message of God to the Laodicean church**, and woe be unto anyone who professes to believe the truth and yet does not reflect to others the God-given rays. Elder Smith, had you been unprejudiced, had not reports affected you and led you to bar your heart against the entrance of what these men presented; had you, like the noble Bereans, searched the Scriptures to see if their testimony agreed with its instruction, you would have stood upon vantage ground, and been far advanced in Christian experience. If you had received the truth into a good and honest heart, you would have become a living channel of light, with clear perception and sanctified imagination. Your conceptions of truth would have been exalted, and your heart made joyful in God. God would have given you a testimony clear, powerful, and convincing. But the first position you took in regard to **the message and the messenger**, has been a continual snare to you and a stumbling block.

“The many and confused ideas in regard to Christ's righteousness and justification by faith are the result of **the position you have taken toward the man and the message sent of God**. But oh, Jesus longs to bestow upon you the richest blessings, and [to] make you a mouthpiece for Himself, that you may declare concerning the grace that dwelleth in you. Jesus has looked upon you with sorrow, because you have not answered His expectations. ‘Watchman, what of the night?’ This is the question that has been asked and will continue to be asked and answered. What will you answer, my brother?

“The Laodicean message has been sounding. Take this message **in all its phases** and sound it forth to the people wherever Providence opens the way. **Justification by faith and the righteousness of Christ are the themes to be presented to a perishing world**. Oh, that you may open the door of your heart to Jesus! The voice of Jesus, the great vendor of heavenly treasures, is calling to you, ‘I counsel thee to buy of Me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed.’ But I will write no more. My heart is drawn out in love toward you, and my desire is that you shall triumph with the third angel’s message.” *Manuscript Releases*, volume 15, 92, 93.

EPHESUS

“As **the disciples searched the prophecies** that testified of Christ, **they were brought into fellowship with the Deity**, and learned of Him who had ascended to heaven to complete the work He had begun on earth. They recognized the fact that in Him dwelt knowledge which no human being, unaided by divine agency, could comprehend. They needed the help of Him whom kings, prophets, and righteous men had foretold. **With amazement they read and reread the prophetic delineations of His character and work.** How dimly had they comprehended **the prophetic scriptures!** how slow they had been in taking in the great truths which testified of Christ! Looking upon Him in His humiliation, as He walked a man among men, they had not understood **the mystery of His incarnation, the dual character of His nature.** Their eyes were holden, so that they did not fully recognize **divinity in humanity.** But after they were illuminated by the Holy Spirit, how they longed to see Him again, and to place themselves at His feet! How they wished that they might come to Him, and have Him explain the scriptures which they could not comprehend! How attentively would they listen to His words! What had Christ meant when He said, ‘I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now’? John 16:12. How eager they were to know it all! They grieved that their faith had been so feeble, that their ideas had been so wide of the mark, that they had so failed of comprehending the reality.” *The Desire of Ages*, 507.

“The tidings that Christ is our righteousness has brought relief to many, many souls, and God says to His people, ‘Go forward.’ The message to the Laodicean church is applicable to our **condition.** How plainly is pictured the position of those who **think they have all the truth**, who **take pride in their knowledge of the Word of God**, while **its sanctifying power has not been felt in their lives.** The fervor of the love of God is wanting in their hearts, but it is this very fervor of love that makes God’s people the light of the world. . . .

“Let us consider our **condition** before God; let us heed the counsel of the True Witness. Let none of us be filled with prejudice, **as were the Jews**, that light may not come into our hearts. Let it not be necessary for Christ to say of us as He did of them, ‘Ye will not come to Me, that ye might have life’ (John 5:40).

“In every meeting since the General Conference, souls have eagerly accepted the precious message of the righteousness of Christ. We thank God that there are souls who realize that they are in need of something which they do not possess—**gold** of faith and love, **white** raiment of Christ’s righteousness, **eyesalve** of spiritual discernment.” *Faith and Works*, 82–84.

Romans 1:16; 10:12; Galatians 3:26–29; Colossians 3:10, 11; Acts 10:45; 11:2, 3; Romans 2:28–3:2; Romans 3:29, 30; 4:9–12

“Oh, what a description! How many there are in this fearful condition. **I earnestly entreat every minister to study diligently the third chapter of Revelation, for in it is portrayed the condition of things existing in the last days.** Study carefully every verse in this chapter, for through these words Jesus is speaking to you.” *Manuscript Releases*, volume 18, 193.

“In all the land saith the Lord; TWO PARTS therein shall be cut off, and die; but the THIRD shall be left therein. God says he will bring the THIRD PART through the fire, and refine them. They shall call upon him, and he will hear them. He will say IT IS MY PEOPLE; and they shall say the LORD IS MY GOD.’ First part, SARDIS, the nominal church or Babylon. Second part, Laodicea, the nominal Adventist. Third part, Philadelphia, the only true church of God on earth, for they ask to be translated to the city of God. Revelation 3:12; Hebrews 12:22–24. In the name of Jesus, I exhort you again to flee from the Laodiceans, as from Sodom and Gomorrah. Their teachings are false and delusive; and lead to utter destruction. Death! DEATH!!* eternal DEATH!!! is on their track. Remember Lot’s wife.” Joseph Bates, *Review and Herald*, volume 1, November 1850.

Zechariah 13; Malachi 3:1–4; Matthew 3:11, 12