

Vineyard Labourer Bible College

Practical Exercises Module 8

“Among the first things to be aimed at should be a correct position, both in sitting and in standing. God made man upright, and He desires him to possess not only the physical but the mental and moral benefit, the grace and dignity and self-possession, the courage and self-reliance, which an erect bearing so greatly tends to promote.” Child Guidance page 364 para 3.

“... lift up thy voice with strength; lift *it* up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God!” Isaiah 40:9

“Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise.” Psalm 98:4.

“Voice culture is a subject that has much to do with the health of students. The youth should be taught how to breathe properly and how to read in such a way that no unnatural strain shall come on the throat and lungs, but that the work shall be shared by the abdominal muscles.” Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students page 297 para 2.

“And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.” Genesis 2:15.

“In the cultivation of the soil the thoughtful worker will find that treasures little dreamed of are opening up before him. No one can succeed in agriculture or gardening without attention to the laws involved. The special needs of every variety of plant must be studied. Different varieties require different soil and cultivation, and compliance with the laws governing each is the condition of success.” Adventist Home page 142 para 3.

“There is a wide field of service for women as well as for men. The efficient cook, the seamstress, the nurse-- the help of all is needed. Let the members of poor households be taught how to cook, how to make and mend their own clothing, how to nurse the sick, how to care properly for the home.” Adventist Home page 485 para 2.

“Cooking schools should be established, and house-to-house instruction should be given in the art of cooking wholesome food. Old and young should learn how to cook more simply.” Testimonies for the Church vol. 9, page 161.

“Enoch walked with God, and he bore a message of warning to the inhabitants of the old world. . . . As Enoch was, so are we to be. Personal piety is to be blended with the most earnest and energetic warnings and appeals.” Christ Triumphant page 46 para 5.

“Never should the Bible be studied without prayer. Before opening its pages we should ask for the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit, and it will be given.” Steps to Christ by E. White, page 91 para 1.

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[Vineyard Labourer Bible College Training for the Christian Walk](#)

8a - IN THE WORLD BUT NOT OF IT

"And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to Thee. Holy Father, keep through Thine own name those whom Thou hast given Me, that they may be one, as we are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Thy name: those that Thou gavest Me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled. And now I come to Thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have My joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them Thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world." John 17:11 - 14.

"Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." Titus 2:14.

"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:" 1 Peter 2:9.

Webster's 1828 Dictionary tells us that peculiar means, "1. Appropriate; belonging to a person and to him only. 2. Singular; particular. 3. Particular; special. 4. Belonging to a nation, system or other thing, and not to others."

Most Christians have read these texts and believe them. But how often do they then turn around and rely on and quote worldly "professionals" which contradict what God has clearly shown his people.

For example:-

- Ellen White was shown that we should eat simple foods free from grease, condiments and spices, and flesh meat, yet how many people are there who make up and promote very complicated and fancy recipes, promote the use of certain condiments and spices, and some even promote the use of flesh meat.
- There are countless quotes saying that we should not use drugs, yet how many people who get sick go straight to the Doctor not just for diagnosis, but to get some drug to 'cure' their every ailment.
- Through a study of the Bible one can determine that the world is only about 6,000 years old. This is also confirmed in the Spirit of Prophecy. Yet how many Christians believe that Creation took thousands of years instead of 6 days, or they believe that evolution is true and that animals including man took millions of years to evolve.
- God's Word says that man was created after His own image, yet many Christians believe mankind evolved from a kind of monkeys.
- Because of the previous two we find that all history and every kind of science taught in secular and most Christian schools, colleges, and universities is based on evolution not the truth of the Bible.
- God's Word tells us we are to be citizens of heaven not of this earth, yet how many Christian participate in politics whether standing themselves, supporting a party or individual, or simply voting, as if they were just common citizens of this world.

- God's Word tells us to separate from Babylon, worldliness, and to be a peculiar people, yet how many Christians promote ecumenism of all churches including Apostate Protestant churches and the Roman Catholic Church which are all part of Babylon.
- God's Word tells us to get ready, watch, and pray lest Christ's second coming takes us unaware, yet how many Christians don't really want Christ to come just yet for they have worldly ambitions.

Are not these things making Christians part of the world?

These are only a few examples of how Christians either consciously or unconsciously are part of the world and not just in it. But as you can see from these examples this covers every aspect of one's life.

In the rest of this module we will be looking more closely at some of the areas that are mentioned here, but for now let us read some of what Inspiration has to say on this topic:-

"The Bible is designed of God to be the book by which the understanding may be disciplined, the soul guided and directed. To live in the world and yet to be not of the world, is a problem that many professed Christians have never worked out in their practical life. Enlargement of mind will come to a nation only as men return to their allegiance to God. The world is flooded with books on general information, and men apply their minds in searching uninspired histories; but they neglect the most wonderful book that can give them the most correct ideas and ample understanding.-- Review and Herald, Feb. 25, 1896." F. E. p. 395 para. 1.

"Christ's life on earth was the embodiment of purity and holiness. He was in the world, but not of the world. The world did not understand him. His life of self-sacrifice was to them a mystery. He lived a life apart from them. Had he united with them in eager pursuit for applause, for riches, for worldly honor, they would have known him; for he would have been of them." Y. I. , October 18, 1900 par. 2.

"By His own example the Saviour has shown that His followers can be in the world and yet not of the world. He came not to partake of its delusive pleasures, to be swayed by its customs, and to follow its practices, but to do His Father's will, to seek and save the lost. With this object before him the Christian may stand uncontaminated in any surroundings. Whatever his station or circumstances, exalted or humble, he will manifest the power of true religion in the faithful performance of duty." A. A. p. 467 para. 2.

"The Son of God stooped to uplift the fallen. For this He left the sinless worlds on high, the ninety and nine that loved Him, and came to this earth to be 'wounded for our transgressions' and 'bruised for our iniquities.' Isaiah 53:5. He was in all things made like unto His brethren. He became flesh, even as we are. He knew what it meant to be hungry and thirsty and weary. He was sustained by food and refreshed by sleep. He was a stranger and a sojourner on the earth--in the world, but not of the world; tempted and tried as men and women of today are tempted and tried, yet living a life free from sin. Tender, compassionate, sympathetic, ever considerate of others, He represented the character of God. 'The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, . . . full of grace and truth.' John 1:14." A. A. p. 472 para. 1.

"Christ is our model; but unless we behold him, unless we contemplate his character, we shall not reflect his character in our practical life. He was meek and lowly in heart. He never did a rude action, never spoke a discourteous word. The Lord is not pleased with our blunt, hard,

unsympathetic ways toward others. All this selfishness must be purged away from our characters, and we must wear the yoke of Christ. Then we shall become laborers together with God, and shall be fitting up for the society of heavenly angels. We are to be in the world, but not of the world. We are to be representatives of Jesus Christ." Y. I., January 3, 1895 par. 6.

"The world is not to be our instructor; it sets up its standards which some suppose to be just the thing to be adopted; but they are no rule for us. God has chosen us out of the world; therefore the world knoweth us not because it knew him not. The motto of every true Christian should be, I must be in the world, and not of the world. We are not to be conformed to the world. The world will be impressed with the gospel only as we speak and act as the representatives of Christ, as the members of the royal family, children of the heavenly King, pilgrims and strangers, seeking a better country, even a heavenly. It is our privilege to show forth the praises of him who hath called us out of darkness into his marvelous light. Never is the least injustice to be done to God's subjects, the purchase of his blood. The Lord's way must be kept, and his way is exalted in righteousness. Christians, in their manner and words and character, are to reveal their heavenly extraction. **We are never to apologize to the world for being Christians and daring to be right.**" The Ellen G. White 1888 Materials p. 1315 para. 1.

"Not Removed From Temptation.--Daniel loved, feared, and obeyed God. Yet he did not flee away from the world to avoid its corrupting influence. In the providence of God he was to be in the world yet not of the world. With all the temptations and fascinations of court life surrounding him, he stood in the integrity of his soul, firm as a rock in his adherence to principle. He made God his strength and was not forsaken of Him in his time of greatest need."

"The Result of Faithful Home Training.--Daniel's parents had trained him in his childhood to habits of strict temperance. They had taught him that he must conform to nature's laws in all his habits; that his eating and drinking had a direct influence upon his physical, mental, and moral nature, and that he was accountable to God for his capabilities; for he held them all as a gift from God, and must not, by any course of action, dwarf or cripple them. As the result of this teaching, the law of God was exalted in his mind, and revered in his heart. During the early years of his captivity, Daniel was passing through an ordeal which was to familiarize him with courtly grandeur, with hypocrisy, and with paganism. A strange school indeed to fit him for a life of sobriety, industry, and faithfulness! And yet he lived uncorrupted by the atmosphere of evil with which he was surrounded."

"The experience of Daniel and his youthful companions illustrates the benefits that may result from an abstemious diet, and shows what God will do for those who will co-operate with Him in the purifying and uplifting of the soul. They were an honor to God, and a bright and shining light in the court of Babylon."

Te. p. 190 para. 3 - p. 191 para. 1.

"The Lord would have His people in the world, but not of the world. They should seek to bring the truth before the men in high places, and give them a fair chance to receive and weigh evidence. There are many who are unenlightened and uninformed, and as individuals we have a serious, solemn, wise work to do. We are to have travail of soul for those who are in high places, and go to them with the gracious invitation to come to the marriage feast. Very much more might have been done than has been done for those in high places. The last message that Christ gave to His disciples before He was parted from them and taken up into heaven was a message to carry the gospel to all the world, and was accompanied by the promise of the Holy Spirit. The Lord said, 'Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.'" T. M. p. 198 para. 1.

"I have given them Thy Word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that Thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that Thou shouldest keep them from the evil.' God's people are to shine as lights in the world, in contrast with the moral darkness. Those who belong to the kingdom of Christ have nothing in common with those who follow the maxims, customs, and practises of the world. The Lord designs

His people to be a peculiar people; for the church is His fortress in a revolted world. Those who follow Christ will walk, as He did, in heaven's light. They will not be of the earth, earthy. Altho in the world, they will not be of the world. Uplifted to heaven, the soul will breathe a pure atmosphere. These appreciate their Heaven-bought privileges. They may necessarily be associated with the world, but they are united to Christ. Wherever they go, they take Him with them, and He is ever at their right hand to help them". S. T., March 3, 1898 par. 7.

"In like manner the Lord means that Seventh-day Adventists shall witness for him. They are not to be hidden away from the world. They are to be in the world, but not of the world. They are to stand distinct from the world in their manner of dealing. They are to show that they have purity of character, that the world may see that the truth which they conscientiously believe makes them honest in their dealings; that those with whom they are connected may see that believers of truth are sanctified through the truth, and that the truth received and obeyed makes the receivers as sons and daughters of God, children of the heavenly king, members of the royal family, faithful, true, honest, and upright, in the small as well as the great acts of life."

"The Lord means that his people shall perfect a Christian character. If they have any connection with the world, it is that they may leaven the world by correct principles, not be leavened by the evil in the world. God does not require us as a people to seclude ourselves from the world.'

"In all business transactions, we are to let the light shine decidedly. There is to be no sharp practice. Everything is to be done with the strictest integrity. Better consent to lose something financially than to gain by sharp practice. We shall lose nothing in the end by fair dealing. We are to live the law of God in the world, and perfect a character after the divine similitude. All business, with those in the faith and those not in the faith, is to be transacted on square, righteous principles. Everything is to be seen in the light of God's law, everything done without fraud, without duplicity, without one tinge of guile. A great work is to be done in our world, and every talent is to be used in accordance with righteous principles."

"The Lord would have the office stand as a living witness for the truth; this is why the commercial work should not be cut away. It would be a mistake for the office to build up a barrier to exclude all work from the outside; for this would close the door against the rays of light and knowledge that should be given to the world."

G. C. B., April 2, 1901 par. 5 - 8.

"The children of Israel, after they were brought out of Egypt, were commanded to have a simple ribbon of blue in the border of their garments, to distinguish them from the nations around them, and to signify that they were God's peculiar people. The people of God are not now required to have a special mark placed upon their garments. But in the New Testament we are often referred to ancient Israel as examples. If God gave such definite directions to his ancient people in regard to their dress, will not the dress of his people in this age come under his notice? Should there not be in their dress a distinction from that of the world? Should not the people of God, who are his peculiar treasure, seek even in their dress to glorify God? And should they not be examples in point of dress, and by their simple style rebuke the pride, vanity and extravagance of worldly, pleasure-loving professors? God requires this of his people. Pride is rebuked in his word." 2 S. M. p. 473 para. 3.

"Our danger, then, is in separating from God, and in mingling with the spirit and influence of the world. If you think that you are to bring the world to see and sense the claims that high heaven has upon them; if you think that by letting the standard down you can convert sinners, you are most deluded. Christ was in the world, yet he was not of the world. He kept the standard exalted; and that is how every minister, every Christian, and every man that feels any responsibility in the cause of God is to show whether he is connected with God. All are to represent Heaven." R. H., January 4, 1887 par. 16.

"The alliances made by the Israelites with their heathen neighbors resulted in the loss of their identity as God's peculiar people. They became leavened by the evil practises of those with whom they formed forbidden alliances. Affiliation with worldlings caused them to lose their first love, and

their zeal for God's service. The advantages they sold themselves to gain, brought only disappointment, and caused the loss of many souls."

"The experience of Israel will be the experience of all who go to the world for strength, turning away from the living God. Those who forsake the mighty One, the source of all strength, and affiliate with worldlings, placing on them their dependence, become weak in moral power, as are those in whom they trust." 4 B. C. p. 1155 para. 8 & 9.

"The great reason why the church has not more efficiency and power is that its members love the world. They reject the Spirit of God, and fill their hearts with idols. They love the world, and the things of the world, and of all such the words of inspiration declare, 'If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.' They are not, as was Christ, in the world but not of the world. The Lord can not manifest Himself to professed Christians who love the world; for spiritual things are spiritually discerned." S. T., January 20, 1898 par. 10.

"My heart burns within me as I see, as the Lord has shown me, what even one person may do who has given himself to God to be molded, to be fashioned, and to have the superscription of Christ upon him. Come out from the world and be separate and stand as God's peculiar people, in the world, but not of the world, pilgrims and strangers, seeking a better country, even an heavenly." 18 M. R. p. 156 para. 2.

"Our only safety is to stand as God's peculiar people. We must not yield one inch to the customs and fashions of this degenerate age, but stand in moral independence, making no compromise with its corrupt and idolatrous practices." C. G. p. 449 para. 3.

"As God's peculiar people, we must stand free from every fraudulent transaction. Let not one thread of selfishness be drawn into the pattern. No cheap or unwholesome articles are to be placed before the public. Nothing should be represented as being pure and first-class when it is really of inferior quality." The Health Food Ministry p. 74 para. 3.

Personal application.

1. How is it with you?
2. Are you of the world?
3. Or are you just in the world as a true Christian?
4. Have you taken on board some worldly ways either consciously or unconsciously?
5. Do you need to make changes in your thinking and believing?
6. Take God at His Word that He will help you to rectify your life if it is not in accordance to His revealed will.

For Further Study

- Read the following articles:-
In the World, but Not of the World. R. H., July 23, 1901;
In the World, but not of the World. S. T., December 17, 1896;
and *Love Not the World*, Y. I., October 18, 1900.

8b - CREATION/EVOLUTION

Does it really matter if we do not believe that God created this world in 6 literal days? Does it really matter if we believe that it took millions of years for this world to evolve? Does it really matter?

The answer quite simply is yes!! If you are a Christian you are supposed to believe the Bible. If you don't believe what the Bible says about Creation, then you can justify not believing the Bible on other topics also. You see if you believe in tens of thousands of years or millions of years you would have to believe that there was death and bloodshed before Adam. Yet, the Bible clearly states that death, sickness, and suffering came as a consequence of Adam's sin. If death and bloodshed was not because of Adam's sin, then why did Jesus have to come and die on the cross?

In reality instead of making more sense, not believing in a literal 6 days of Creation actually complicates one's beliefs to the extent that many people give up their belief in God altogether. Well if the first part of the Bible is not true, then what part is - Right!

Although most people do not know it, Evolution is a religion which has the simple belief basis of trying to interpret how all planets and life as we know it today, came into being without God. It is supposedly based on science which is the observation, identification, description, experimental investigation, and theoretical explanation of an occurrence or fact that is perceptible by the senses. However, when we look closely at all sciences of today they all rely heavily upon suppositions for their basis. What do I mean? Well they were not there when God created the world so they suppose that it could have come about in many different ways. They look at fossils, coal, and other geological materials and suppose that these things took millions of years to become this way. They did not observe it happening. They were not there. However, God who is eternal was there and He has inspired men to write down what really did happen so that anyone who truly wants to know can find out.

I am sure that most people have heard of the children's story of the frog who was kissed by a princess and became a beautiful prince. Nobody believes this story is true, it is simply made up. Yet, evolutionist believe that life started off as slime and ended up with the vast diversity, complexity, and complimentary life forms that we have on our planet today. If nobody believes the first story to be true, how can any thinking person believe the second?

If the big bang theory was true, and somewhere way back in the past an explosion happened and from that explosion life, order, and complexity occurred then we should be able to see the same thing happening today. So if we have an explosion in a brick factory we end up with a house, right? Or if we have an explosion in a watch factory we end up with a whole lot of working watches, right? No. All we end up with is destruction.

If evolution was true there should be millions of examples of living things gaining more information and becoming better. Why, because to get order and complexity out, you need information, and to get more order and complexity you need more information. This statement continues till you end up with needing infinite information or God. For example if you buy a standard car then change you mind and want the top of the range the same people who made the standard car with the standard plans can upgrade it right? No. You need the additional information and expertise of those who were used to create the top of the range to modify it. In all the examples that scientists can come up with that they say proves evolution is true, there is never an increase of information, only a loss. For example birds that no longer fly or have lost the ability to fly, leopards that have lost their spots to become panthers, etc.

One major problem for scientists is that they are always finding new information. Over the years their books have had to be changed, updated, and totally revised. Theories which were once

considered foundational to science have been proved incorrect. A scientist can never positively say that what he believes, teaches, writes about, etc., is exactly true because he never knows when new information will come out showing that what he believes, teaches, writes about, etc., is not actually correct. If they were 100% honest, which most scientists really are, they would have to admit that they cannot say with 100% accuracy that Creation is not true because they don't know what evidence will come to light in the future which may prove even to the most skeptical that it is true!

An example of this is the use of alcohol. For many years doctors have said that a glass or two of alcohol a day is good for your health. However, just the other night on the news they reported on a study that showed if you drink even one glass of alcohol a day it increases your risk of getting cancer. Yet, if they studied and accepted Scripture they would know that alcohol was not good for humans.

It is also interesting to know what we need for operational science to work. Well, for one thing we need assumptions. Some of these assumptions are:-

- That the universe is real. There are some people who don't believe this world is real. Some say that only part of it is real. For operational science - science which can be repeated and tested - this assumption is necessary. Some people make the statement, that there is no truth, which simply discredits itself. How? Because if there is no truth then this statement itself is a lie.
- That the universe is orderly. It means that you can repeat an experiment using the same conditions, and get the same result. If this was not true water might boil at 50 degrees in America, 160 degrees in Europe, and 100 degrees in Australia. Nor does it boil at 100 degrees on Monday, and 200 degrees on Tuesday.

If evolution was true would we expect such an orderly universe? No. Because you cannot get order and complexity from chaos or a big explosion like the big bang. Test it. Make a big explosion and see if it starts life! What if the Greek gods were in control, would it be orderly then? No. So it shows that something or someone in control is orderly and not the author of confusion (1 Cor. 14:33). Therefore we have the laws of science and nature.

Historically it was this belief in a God of order and that made the universe, that brought about modern science. Science was still born in countries like Greece and China, and they did develop a few things, but real science was born in countries with Christian beliefs. The reason why the others did not is because they had no concept of an orderly universe, therefore they did not believe you could repeat an experiment which is crucial to operational science. Most of the founding fathers of science had Christian beliefs.

- That man may investigate the universe. In some religions you have to pray to the spirit of the tree before you can cut it down, and the like. In Christianity this is not the case, so many are at liberty to investigate and explore nature.
- That science is built on faith. Dr. Loren Elseley said, "The philosophy of experimental science ... began [with the] sheer act of faith that the universe possessed order and could be interpreted by rational minds. ... It is surely one of the curious paradoxes of history that science, which professionally has little to do with faith, owes its origins to an act of faith that the universe can be rationally interpreted, and that science today is sustained by that assumption."

If there was not a God of order in control, there would be no reason whatsoever for the order and complexity that we have today. Therefore if atheists try to use science to undercut Christianity they are actually undercutting their own foundation. Without the Christian faith

there is no basis for science at all. Therefore there is no basis for the atheists attack on the Christian faith, which is what scientists do a lot.

- That our own thoughts are rational. Why should our thoughts be rational, if like the evolutionists say that our brains are just made of meat? Our thoughts are rational because God made us in His own image. God is a rational, thinking being and therefore we are rational, thinking beings. If atheism is true and our brain is just rearranged pond scum over millions of years, why would our thoughts be rational? Our thoughts would only be result of atoms in the brain obeying the laws of chemistry.

C. S. Lewis said, " If ... The whole evolution of Man was an accident ... Then all our present thoughts are mere accidents - the accidental by-products of the movement of atoms. And this holds for the thoughts of the materialists and astronomers as well as for anyone else's. But if their thoughts - i.e. Of materialism and astronomy - are merely accidental by-products, why should we believe them to be true? I see no reason that one accident should be able to give me a correct account of all the other accidents."

So if evolution or atheism was correct our thoughts would be pure accidental chemical reactions, nobody would be able to control what they think or say, and nobody would be wrong because one accident cannot explain another accident. On this grounds alone - that of rational science - evolution and atheism falls flat on their faces.

Let us now read some of what Inspiration has to say about evolution:-

"The warnings of the word of God regarding the perils surrounding the Christian church belong to us today. As in the days of the apostles men tried by tradition and philosophy to destroy faith in the Scriptures, so today, by the pleasing sentiments of higher criticism, evolution, spiritualism, theosophy, and pantheism, the enemy of righteousness is seeking to lead souls into forbidden paths. To many the Bible is as a lamp without oil, because they have turned their minds into channels of speculative belief that bring misunderstanding and confusion. The work of higher criticism, in dissecting, conjecturing, reconstructing, is destroying faith in the Bible as a divine revelation. It is robbing God's word of power to control, uplift, and inspire human lives. By spiritualism, multitudes are taught to believe that desire is the highest law, that license is liberty, and that man is accountable only to himself." A. A. p. 474 para. 1.

"Since the book of nature and the book of revelation bear the impress of the same master mind, they cannot but speak in harmony. By different methods, and in different languages, they witness to the same great truths. Science is ever discovering new wonders; but she brings from her research nothing that, rightly understood, conflicts with divine revelation. The book of nature and the written word shed light upon each other. They make us acquainted with God by teaching us something of the laws through which He works."

"Inferences erroneously drawn from facts observed in nature have, however, led to supposed conflict between science and revelation; and in the effort to restore harmony, interpretations of Scripture have been adopted that undermine and destroy the force of the word of God. Geology has been thought to contradict the literal interpretation of the Mosaic record of the creation. Millions of years, it is claimed, were required for the evolution of the earth from chaos; and in order to accommodate the Bible to this supposed revelation of science, the days of creation are assumed to have been vast, indefinite periods, covering thousands or even millions of years."

"Such a conclusion is wholly uncalled for. The Bible record is in harmony with itself and with the teaching of nature. Of the first day employed in the work of creation is given the record, "The evening and the morning were the first day." Genesis 1:5. And the same in substance is said of each of the first six days of creation week. Each of these periods Inspiration declares to have been a day consisting of evening and morning, like every other day since that time. In regard to the work

of creation itself the divine testimony is, 'He spake, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.' Psalm 33:9. With Him who could thus call into existence unnumbered worlds, how long a time would be required for the evolution of the earth from chaos? In order to account for His works, must we do violence to His word?" Ed. p. 128 para. 1 - p. 129 para. 1.

"So through the creation we are to become acquainted with the Creator. The book of nature is a great lesson book, which in connection with the Scriptures we are to use in teaching others of His character, and guiding lost sheep back to the fold of God. As the works of God are studied, the Holy Spirit flashes conviction into the mind. It is not the conviction that logical reasoning produces; but unless the mind has become too dark to know God, the eye too dim to see Him, the ear too dull to hear His voice, a deeper meaning is grasped, and the sublime, spiritual truths of the written word are impressed on the heart."

"In these lessons direct from nature, there is a simplicity and purity that makes them of the highest value. All need the teaching to be derived from this source. In itself the beauty of nature leads the soul away from sin and worldly attractions, and toward purity, peace, and God. Too often the minds of students are occupied with men's theories and speculations, falsely called science and philosophy. They need to be brought into close contact with nature. Let them learn that creation and Christianity have one God. Let them be taught to see the harmony of the natural with the spiritual. Let everything which their eyes see or their hands handle be made a lesson in character building. Thus the mental powers will be strengthened, the character developed, the whole life ennobled." C. O. L. p. 24 para. 1 & 2.

Personal application.

Question all information from all educated professionals to see if it is in agreement with the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy. If it is not then the information is wrong and should be discarded. This includes information from doctors, teachers, lecturers, archaeologists, geologists, biologists, scientist of all kinds, etc.

For Further Study

Read Ed. p. 128 - 134 *Science and the Bible*.

8c - EDUCATION

Because evolution is taught as a fact instead of a theory in nearly every institution today, all their curriculum is based on evolution in place of the Bible. You will find threads of evolution in English, Art, Home Economics, History, Cultural Studies, etc., and all Science.

Some may ask how? Well here are just a few examples. In English we are taught how language evolves or changes as time goes by, just like life has. In Art we are taught that the earliest form of it can be found on cave walls drawn by our primitive ancestors or cavemen who could not write. In Home Economics we are taught that men were originally hunter/gatherers making out our original diet contained meat, and that certain races are more highly evolved than others. In History we are told about civilisations that supposedly predate Noah's flood, and the remains are still with us today. In Cultural Studies we are taught that mankind have evolved, and that some practices are primitive while others are supposed to be more cultivated showing the evolutionary process.

"In the system of education used in the common schools the most essential part of the education is neglected; it is as follows; viz., religion of the Bible." PH081 (Special Testimonies of Church Schools) p. 13 para. 1.

God has a plan for education and this plan does not include secular institutions:-

"The system of education established in Eden centered in the family. Adam was 'the son of God' (Luke 3:38), and it was from their Father that the children of the Highest received instruction. Theirs, in the truest sense, was a family school."

"In the divine plan of education as adapted to man's condition after the fall, Christ stands as the representative of the Father, the connecting link between God and man; He is the great teacher of mankind. And He ordained that men and women should be His representatives. The family was the school, and the parents were the teachers."

"The education centering in the family was that which prevailed in the days of the patriarchs. For the schools thus established, God provided the conditions most favorable for the development of character. The people who were under His direction still pursued the plan of life that He had appointed in the beginning. Those who departed from God built for themselves cities, and, congregating in them, gloried in the splendor, the luxury, and the vice that make the cities of today the world's pride and its curse. But the men who held fast God's principles of life dwelt among the fields and hills. They were tillers of the soil and keepers of flocks and herds; and in this free, independent life, with its opportunities for labor and study and meditation, they learned of God and taught their children of His works and ways. This was the method of education that God desired to establish in Israel."

"In ordinary life the family was both a school and a church, the parents being the instructors in secular and in religious lines."

A. H. p. 181 para. 1 - p. 182 para. 1.

"There is a time for training children and a time for educating youth, and it is essential that in school both of these be combined in a great degree. Children may be trained for the service of sin or for the service of righteousness. The early education of youth shapes their characters both in their secular and in their religious life. Solomon says, "Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it." This language is positive. The training which Solomon enjoins is to direct, educate, and develop."

"In order for parents and teachers to do this work, they must themselves understand "the way" the child should go. This embraces more than merely having a knowledge of books. It takes in everything that is good, virtuous, righteous, and holy. It comprehends the practice of temperance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love to God and to one another. In order to attain this object, the

physical, mental, moral, and religious education of children must have attention." C. G. p. 297 para. 1 & 2.

"It would be perfectly safe for our youth to enter the colleges of our land if they were converted every day; but if they feel at liberty to be off guard one day, that very day Satan is ready with his snares, and they are overcome and led to walk in false paths--forbidden paths, paths that the Lord has not cast up."

"Now, shall professed Christians refuse to associate with the unconverted, and seek to have no communication with them? No, they are to be with them, in the world and not of the world, but not to partake of their ways, not to be impressed by them, not to have a heart open to their customs and practices. Their associations are to be for the purpose of drawing others to Christ." 3 S. M. p. 231 para. 1 & 2.

"The term 'higher education' is to be considered in a different light from what it has been viewed by the students of the sciences. The prayer of Christ to his Father is full of eternal truth. 'These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son may also glorify thee; as thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.' 'For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God; for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him. The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand. He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life; and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.' The power and soul of true education is a knowledge of God, and of Jesus Christ whom he hath sent. 'The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.'" R. H., February 25, 1896 par. 1.

"If the mind is set to the task of studying the Bible for information, the reasoning faculties will be improved. Under study of the Scriptures the mind expands, and becomes more evenly balanced than if occupied in obtaining general information from the books that are used which have no connection with the Bible. No knowledge is so firm, so consistent and far-reaching, as that obtained from a study of the word of God. It is the foundation of all true knowledge. The Bible is like a fountain. The more you look into it, the deeper it appears. The grand truths of sacred history possess amazing strength and beauty, and are as far-reaching as eternity. No science is equal to the science that reveals the character of God. Moses was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, yet he said, 'Behold, I have taught you statutes and judgments, even as the Lord my God commanded me, that ye should do so in the land whither ye go to possess it. Keep therefore and do them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these statutes, and say, Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people. For what nation is there so great, who hath God so nigh unto them, as the Lord our God is in all things that we call upon him for? And what nation is there so great, that hath statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day? Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons.'" R. H., February 25, 1896 par. 3.

"It is a sad fact, almost universally admitted and deplored, that the home education and training of the youth of today have been neglected."

There is no more important field of effort than that committed to the founders and guardians of the home. No work entrusted to human beings involves greater or more far-reaching results than does the work of fathers and mothers."

"It is by the youth and children of today that the future of society is to be determined, and what these youth and children shall be depends upon the home. To the lack of right home training may be traced the larger share of the disease and misery and crime that curse humanity. If the home life were pure and true, if the children who went forth from its care were prepared to meet life's responsibilities and dangers, what a change would be seen in the world!" A. H. p. 182 para. 4 - 6.

"In the study of science, as generally pursued, there are dangers equally great. Evolution and its kindred errors are taught in schools of every grade, from the kindergarten to the college. Thus the

study of science, which should impart a knowledge of God, is so mingled with the speculations and theories of men that it tends to infidelity.”

"Even Bible study, as too often conducted in the schools, is robbing the world of the priceless treasure of the word of God. The work of "higher criticism," in dissecting, conjecturing, reconstructing, is destroying faith in the Bible as a divine revelation; it is robbing God's word of power to control, uplift, and inspire human lives." Ed. p. 227 para. 3 & 4.

"To many of our youth there is great danger in listening to the discourses that are given by those who in the world are called great men. These discourses are often of a highly intellectual nature, and prevailing errors of science falsely so-called and of popular religious doctrine are mingled with wise sayings and observations, but they undermine the statements of the Bible and give the impression that there is reason for questioning the truth of the inspired Word. In this way the seeds of skepticism are sown by great and professedly wise men, but their names are registered in the books of record in heaven as fools, and they are an offense to God. They repeat the falsehoods that Satan put into the mouth of the serpent, and educate the youth in delusions.”

"This is the kind of education the enemy delights in. It is sorcery. The great apostle inquired, 'Who hath bewitched you that ye should not obey the truth?' Those who receive and admire the sentiments of these so-called great men are in danger, for through the subtlety of the enemy the sophistical reasoning of these false teachers takes root in the heart of our youth, and almost imperceptibly they are converted from truth to error. But the conversion should be just the other way. Our young men who have seen the evidences of the verity of truth should be firmly established and able to win souls to Christ from the darkness of error." 3 S. M. p. 232 para. 3 & 4.

"Many Losing the Way in Worldly Institutions.-- It is a terrible fact, and one that should make the hearts of parents tremble, that in so many schools and colleges to which the youth are sent for mental culture and discipline, influences prevail which misshape the character, divert the mind from life's true aims, and debase the morals. Through contact with the irreligious, the pleasure loving, and the corrupt, many, many youth lose the simplicity and purity, the faith in God, and the spirit of self-sacrifice that Christian fathers and mothers have cherished and guarded by careful instruction and earnest prayer.”

"Many who enter school with the purpose of fitting themselves for some line of unselfish ministry become absorbed in secular studies. An ambition is aroused to win distinction in scholarship and to gain position and honor in the world. The purpose for which they entered school is lost sight of, and the life is given up to selfish and worldly pursuits. And often habits are formed that ruin the life both for this world and for the world to come." C. G. p. 328 para. 1 & 2.

"Let no inducement of high wages or of apparently great educational advantages lead you to send your children away from your influence, to places where they will be exposed to great temptations. 'What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?' Mark 8:36, 37." C. G. p. 328 para. 4.

"Many parents keep their children at school nearly the year round. These children go through the routine of study mechanically, but do not retain that which they learn. Many of these constant students seem almost destitute of intellectual life. The monotony of continual study wearies the mind, and they take but little interest in their lessons; and to many the application to books becomes painful. They have not an inward love of thought and an ambition to acquire knowledge. They do not encourage in themselves habits of reflection and investigation. . . . “

"Close reasoners and logical thinkers are few, for the reason that false influences have checked the development of the intellect. The supposition of parents and teachers that continued study would strengthen the intellect has proved erroneous, for in many cases it has had the opposite effect." C. G. p. 333 para. 1 & 2.

Personal application.

- Are you in the school of true higher education, that is the study of the Bible?
- Do you make the Bible the foundation upon which all your study is understood, and not evolution or other religions?
- If you have children are you educating them correctly?
- Do you need to start home schooling to reduce the inroads of Satan?

For Further Study

Read:-

- 3SM 231 - 234;
- RH, February 25, 1896 *Higher Education*;
- Special Testimonies on Education *The True Higher Education* p. 21 - 31.

8d - POLITICS

"Of the zealous, self-sacrificing disciples of Christ, it is written that Jesus was not ashamed to call them brethren, so fully did they manifest His Spirit, and bear His likeness. By their works they constantly testified that this world was not their home; their citizenship was above; they were seeking a better country, even a heavenly. Their conversation and affections were on heavenly things. They were in the world, but not of the world; in spirit and practice they were separate from its maxims and customs. Their daily example testified that they were living for the glory of God. Their great interest, like that of their Master, was for the salvation of souls. For this they toiled and sacrificed, counting not their lives dear unto themselves. By their life and character they made a bright track heavenward. Upon such disciples, Jesus can look with satisfaction as His representatives. His character will not be misrepresented through them." S. T., December 22, 1890 par. 2.

"Heaven is our home. Our citizenship is above, and our lives must not be devoted to a world that is soon to be destroyed...." C. T. p. 455 para. 3.

"He who has become a partaker of the divine nature knows that his citizenship is above. He catches the inspiration from the Spirit of Christ. His soul is hid with Christ in God." M. L. p. 277 para. 3.

If heaven is truly our home, then our citizenship is up there not down here. If we are not citizens of this world then we have no right to participate in the politics of this world. This may seem odd to some, but consider the life of Jesus. Do we read of Him participating in the politics of His time, or debating with or criticising the Roman government? No. He simply left it alone. His kingdom was not of this world (John 18:36).

Ellen White enlightens us further as to our political duty:-

"In regard to the world, Christians will say, We will not dabble in politics. They will say decidedly, We are pilgrims and strangers; our citizenship is above." T. M. p. 131 para. 1.

"Those who are Christians indeed will be branches of the true vine, and will bear the same fruit as the vine. They will act in harmony, in Christian fellowship. They will not wear political badges, but the badge of Christ." F. E. p. 475 para. 3.

"The Lord would have His people bury political questions. On these themes silence is eloquence. Christ calls upon His followers to come into unity on the pure gospel principles which are plainly revealed in the word of God. We cannot with safety vote for political parties; for we do not know whom we are voting for. We cannot with safety take part in any political schemes. We cannot labor to please men who will use their influence to repress religious liberty, and to set in operation oppressive measures to lead or compel their fellow men to keep Sunday as the Sabbath. The first day of the week is not a day to be revered. It is a spurious sabbath, and the members of the Lord's family cannot participate with the men who exalt this day, and violate the law of God by trampling upon His Sabbath. The people of God are not to vote to place such men in office; for when they do this, they are partakers with them of the sins which they commit while in office." F. E. p. 475 para. 2.

"Men of intemperance have been in the office today in a flattering manner expressing their approbation of the course of the Sabbathkeepers not voting and expressed hopes that they will stick to their course and, like the Quakers, not cast their vote." 2 S. M. p. 337 para. 3.

"Let political questions alone. 'Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? and what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?' What can there be in common between these parties? There can be no fellowship, no communion. The word fellowship means participation, partnership." F. E. p. 476 para. 1.

"There is a large vineyard to be cultivated; but while Christians are to work among unbelievers, they are not to appear like worldlings. They are not to spend their time talking politics or acting politics; for by so doing they give the enemy opportunity to come in and cause variance and discord. Those in the ministry who desire to stand as politicians, should have their credentials taken from them; for this work God has not given to high or low among His people." G. W. p. 395 para. 1.

"Avoid politics; shun contention. Keep clear of every office which would encourage those traits in your character that need to be battled down and overcome." T. 5 p. 339 para. 2.

"When the speaker shall, in a haphazard way, strike in anywhere, as the fancy takes him, when he talks politics to the people, he is mingling the common fire with the sacred. He dishonors God." T. M. p. 337 para. 1.

"God has warned his people not to become absorbed in politics. We cannot bear the sign of God as his commandment-keeping people, if we mingle with the strife of the world. We are not to give our minds to political issues. God's people are walking contrary to his will when they mix up with politics, and those who commence this work in the Southern States reveal that they are not taught and led by God, but by that spirit which creates contention and strife and every evil work. We are subjects of the Lord's kingdom, and we are to establish that kingdom in righteousness. 1 Peter 1: 13-28." G.H., August 1, 1899 par. 6.

"The question may be asked, Are we to have no union whatever with the world? The word of the Lord is to be our guide. Any connection with infidels and unbelievers that would identify us with them, is forbidden by the Word. We are to come out from among them, and be separate. In no case are we to link ourselves with them in their plans of work. But we are not to live reclusive lives. We are to do worldlings all the good we possibly can." G. W. p. 394 para. 1.

"The god of many professedly wise men, of philosophers, poets, politicians, journalists--the god of polished fashionable circles, of many colleges and universities, even of some theological institutions--is little better than Baal, the sun-god of Phoenicia." C. C. p. 210 para. 2.

"A profession of religion has become popular with the world. Rulers, politicians, lawyers, doctors, merchants, join the church as a means of securing the respect and confidence of society, and advancing their own worldly interests. Thus they seek to cover all their unrighteous transactions under a profession of Christianity." G. C. p. 386 para. 1.

"While we are in no wise to become involved in political questions, yet it is our privilege to take our stand decidedly on all questions relating to temperance reform. Concerning this I have often borne a plain testimony." R. H., October 15, 1914 par. 16.

Personal application.

Are you a citizen of this world or of heaven? You can only be one or the other. Do you participate in politics, expressing your views, helping particular parties, or vote? All of these things are contrary to God's Word and you should cease them immediately.

Some people may tell you that it is compulsory to vote in some countries, but this is not entirely true. There are exceptions and one of these is because of religious convictions. Simply do not vote, and when you receive a letter asking you to explain why you did not vote tell them, "I do not participate in politics because of religious convictions." This should be sufficient to avoid a fine.

For Further Study

Read F. E. p. 475 - 484; and 21 M. R. p. 20 - 26 "Stay Away From Political Strife; The Fruit of True Conversion."

8e - ECUMENISM

Ecumenism is the movement seeking unity of or better relations among Christian Churches, and today the Christian catch cry is, "Christian unity!", "Let's be ecumenical!", or "Let us be one!"

Some may ask, What is wrong with ecumenism? Did not Christ pray for unity or oneness among His disciples? Don't we all worship the same God anyway?

We will answer these questions one at a time starting with the last and working backwards.

1. Don't we all worship the same God anyway?

"For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him." 2 Cor. 11:4.

"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; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;" 1 Tim. 4:1, 2.

"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away." 2 Tim. 3:1 - 5.

"And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works." 2 Cor. 11:14, 15.

"Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." Matt. 15:7 - 9.

"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." Matt. 7:21 - 23.

It is very obvious from these Scriptures that not everyone who claims to be a Christian or a minister of Christ is what they claim to be, especially in the last days. Christ tells us in Matt. 6:24, "No man can serve two masters."

So who are the people worshipping who claim to be Christians but are not?

"There I beheld Jesus, a great High Priest, standing before the Father. On the hem of His garment was a bell and a pomegranate, a bell and a pomegranate. Those who rose up with Jesus would send up their faith to Him in the holiest, and pray, 'My Father, give us Thy

Spirit.' Then Jesus would breathe upon them the Holy Ghost. In that breath was light, power, and much love, joy, and peace."

"I turned to look at the company who were still bowed before the throne; they did not know that Jesus had left it. Satan appeared to be by the throne, trying to carry on the work of God. I saw them look up to the throne, and pray, 'Father, give us Thy Spirit.' Satan would then breathe upon them an unholy influence; in it there was light and much power, but no sweet love, joy, and peace. Satan's object was to keep them deceived and to draw back and deceive God's children." E. W. p. 55 para. 1 & p. 56 para. 1.

"Double-minded men and women are Satan's best allies." R. H. April 19, 1898 para. 8.

"I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan." Rev. 2:9.

"Know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God." James 4:4.

Sadly these people are worshipping Satan, the prince of this world (John 12:31; 16:11).

2. Did not Christ pray for unity or oneness among His disciples?

"That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me." John 17:21 - 23.

Yes, Christ did pray for unity or oneness between His disciples. The problem is, as we have already found out, not everyone who claims to be a Christian really is one.

3. What is wrong with ecumenism?

"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you," 2 Cor. 6:14 - 17.

"And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her [Babylon], my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues." Rev. 18:4.

"All who are loyal to God and the truth must stand firmly for the right because it is right. To yoke up with those who are unconsecrated, and yet be loyal to the truth, is simply impossible. We cannot unite with those who are serving themselves, who are working on worldly plans, and not lose our connection with the heavenly Counselor. We may recover ourselves from the snare of the enemy, but we are bruised and wounded, and our experience is dwarfed." R. H. April 19, 1898 para. 8.

"After a long and severe conflict, the faithful few decided to dissolve all union with the apostate church if she still refused to free herself from falsehood and idolatry. They saw that separation was an absolute necessity if they would obey the word of God. They dared not tolerate errors fatal to their own souls, and set an example which would imperil the faith of their children and children's children. To secure peace and unity they were ready to make any concession consistent with fidelity to God; but they felt that even peace would be too dearly purchased at the sacrifice of principle. If unity could be secured only by the compromise of truth and righteousness, then let there be difference, and even war." G. C. p. 45 par. 3.

As we know from the Bible Studies that you have already completed, Babylon is not just the Roman Catholic Church, but all world loving Protestant church which have apostatised by acknowledging the Roman Catholic Church's authority by adopting her false doctrines. Some of these false doctrines are the natural immortality of the soul, eternal torment of the wicked, denial of the pre-existence of Jesus prior to his birth at Bethlehem, the Eucharist, and Sunday Sacredness (P. P. p. 124 para. 1; R. H. Sept. 12, 1893; G. C. p. 59 para. 2.).

God calls for complete separation from Babylon and those who preach error who are really worshipping Satan and not God. Therefore ecumenism between Churches of different doctrinal beliefs in contrary to what God wants.

Unfortunately, most denominations today are part of the World Council of Churches and assist in their work of ecumenism. Although some churches freely admit this, many others do not. However, there is a simple way of telling. Those churches which are part of the World Council of Churches and have adopted the *B.E.M. (Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry) Faith and Order Paper* have all adopted the symbol designed for this - three wavy lines. You will see this symbol in many company, council, and church logos and it all stands for the same thing - these organisations at their highest level support this paper. Without saying a word they are telling everyone who know this information.

Let us read a bit more of what Ellen White has to say about separation:-

"I was shown the necessity of those who believe that we are having the last message of mercy, being separate from those who are daily imbibing new errors. I saw that neither young nor old should attend their meetings; for it is wrong to thus encourage them while they teach error that is a deadly poison to the soul and teach for doctrines the commandments of men. The influence of such gatherings is not good. If God has delivered us from such darkness and error, we should stand fast in the liberty wherewith He has set us free and rejoice in the truth. God is displeased with us when we go to listen to error, without being obliged to go; for unless He sends us to those meetings where error is forced home to the people by the power of the will, He will not keep us. The angels cease their watchful care over us, and we are left to the buffetings of the enemy, to be darkened and weakened by him and the power of his evil angels; and the light around us becomes contaminated with the darkness." E. W. p. 124 para. 3.

"Some who profess to be loyal to God's law have departed from the faith and have humiliated His people in the dust, representing them to be one with worldlings. God has seen and marked this. The time has come when, at any cost, we are to take the position that God has assigned to us."

"Seventh-day Adventists are now to stand forth separate and distinct, a people denominated by the Lord as His own. Until they do this, He cannot be glorified in them. Truth and error cannot stand in copartnership. Let us now place ourselves where God has said that we should stand.... We are to strive for unity but not on the low level of conformity to worldly policy and union with the popular churches." 2 M. C. P. p. 559 para. 1 & 2.

"A deep and thorough work of reform is needed in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The world is not to be allowed to corrupt the principles of God's commandment-keeping people. Believers are to exert an influence that bears witness to the power of heavenly principles. Those who unite with the church must give evidence of a change of principle. Unless this is done, unless the line of demarcation between the church and the world is carefully preserved, assimilation to the world will be the result.

"Our message to the church and to our institutions is: 'Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand' (Matthew 3:2). The attributes of Christ's character are to be cherished, and these are to become a power in the lives of God's people." 2 M. C. P. p. 559 para. 3 & 4.

"The truth of God is not in harmony with the traditions of men, nor does it conform to their opinions. Like its divine Author, it is unchangeable, the same yesterday, today, and forever. Those who separate from God will call darkness light, and error truth. But darkness will never prove itself to be light, nor will error become truth." T. 5 p. 62 para. 1.

"The Lord's injunction, 'Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers' (2 Cor. 6:14), refers not only to the marriage of Christians with the ungodly, but to all alliances in which the parties are brought into intimate association, and in which there is need of harmony in spirit and action." 2 S. M. p. 121 para. 2.

"In your connection with worldly societies are you keeping your covenant with God? Do these associations tend to direct your own mind or that of others to God, or are they diverting the interest and attention from Him? Do they strengthen your connection with the divine agencies, or turn your mind to the human in place of the divine?"

"Are you serving, honoring, and magnifying God, or are you dishonoring Him and sinning against Him? Are you gathering with Christ or scattering abroad? All the thought and plan and earnest interest devoted to these organizations has been purchased by the precious blood of Christ; but are you doing service for Him when uniting yourselves with atheists and infidels, men who profane the name of God, tipplers, drunkards, tobacco devotees?" 2 S. M. p. 124 para. 2 & 3.

"Christ will never lead His followers to take upon themselves vows that will unite them with men who have no connection with God, who are not under the controlling influence of His Holy Spirit. The only correct standard of character is the holy law of God, and it is impossible for those who make that law the rule of life to unite in confidence and cordial brotherhood with those who turn the truth of God into a lie, and regard the authority of God as a thing of nought."

"Between the worldly man and the one who is faithfully serving God, there is a great gulf fixed. Upon the most momentous subjects--God and truth and eternity-- their thoughts and sympathies and feelings are not in harmony. One class is ripening as wheat for the garner of God, the other as tares for the fires of destruction. How can there be unity of purpose or action between them?" 2 S. M. p. 127 para. 2 & 3.

"The Lord desires His servants to preserve their holy and peculiar character. ... Never was there a time in earth's history when this warning was more appropriate than at the present time. Many professed Christians think, like Solomon, that they may unite with the ungodly, because their influence over those who are in the wrong will be beneficial; but too often they themselves, entrapped and overcome, yield their sacred faith, sacrifice principle, and separate themselves from God. One false step leads to another, till at last they place themselves where they cannot hope to break the chains that bind them." F. E. p. 499 para. 2 & p. 500 para. 1.

However, God will have a united people in the last days. These people will be united in Spirit and truth, and of feeling, thought and action like the disciples were.

"Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment." 1 Cor. 1:10.

"In these first disciples was presented marked diversity. They were to be the world's teachers, and they represented widely varied types of character. In order successfully to carry forward the work to which they had been called, these men, differing in natural characteristics and in habits of life, needed to come into unity of feeling, thought, and action. This unity it was Christ's object to secure. To this end He sought to bring them into unity with Himself. The burden of His labor for them is expressed in His prayer to His Father, 'That they all may be one; as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be one in Us;' 'that the world may know that Thou has sent Me, and hast loved them, as Thou hast loved Me.' John 17:21, 23. His constant prayer for them was that they might be sanctified through the truth; and He prayed with assurance, knowing that an Almighty decree had been given before the world was made. He knew that the gospel of the kingdom would be preached to all nations for a witness; He knew that truth armed with the omnipotence of the Holy Spirit, would conquer in the battle with evil, and that the bloodstained banner would one day wave triumphantly over His followers." A. A. p. 20 para. 2.

"We are nearing the end of the earth's history, and God calls upon all to lift the standard bearing the inscription, 'Here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.' He calls upon His people to work in perfect harmony. He calls upon those engaged in our medical work to unite with the ministry; He calls upon the ministry to co-operate with the medical missionary workers; and He calls upon the church to take up their appointed duty, holding up the standard of true reform in their own territory, leaving the trained and experienced workers to press on into new fields. No word is to be spoken to discourage any, for this grieves the heart of Christ and greatly pleases the adversary. All need to be baptized with the Holy Spirit; all should refrain from censuring and disparaging remarks and draw near to Christ, that they may appreciate the heavy responsibilities which the co-workers with Him are carrying. 'Press together; press together,' are the words of our divine Instructor. Unity is strength; disunion is weakness and defeat." C. H. p. 517 para. 3.

"We are one in faith in the fundamental truths of God's word. And one object must be kept in view constantly; that is, harmony and co-operation must be maintained without compromising one principle of truth. And while constantly digging for the truth as for hidden treasure, be careful how you open new and conflicting opinions. We have a world-wide message. The commandments of God and the testimonies of Jesus Christ are the burden of our work. To have unity and love for one another is the great [work] now to be carried on. There is danger of our ministers' dwelling too much on doctrines, preaching altogether too many discourses on argumentative subjects when their own soul needs practical godliness." C. W. p. 79 para. 2.

"Workers for Christ are to strive for unity. We are the children of the same family, and have one heavenly Father." T. M. p. 502 para. 3.

"You must ever strive for unity and forbearance and love. Never draw apart, but press together, binding heart to heart and making supplications in the Spirit. Then the power of God will work in your midst and many souls will be brought to the truth through your influence." 2 M. R. p. 127 para. 1.

"We must cultivate a spirit of unity. We must strive for unity in following the gospel pattern-- Christ Jesus. There is nothing, nothing, that we can present to the people, that will be of greater value than to present Christ, and to study what He would do under like circumstances. And if we present Christ, and strive to labor in the bonds of Christian unity, one party will not be set up against another. Thus grave evils will be avoided." L. L. M. p. 296 para. 6.

Personal application.

- Are you serving God in Spirit and in Truth?
- Do you search things out like the noble Berians to know whether they are so or not?
- Do you reject error and call it by its true name?
- Do you uphold truth no matter what the cost?
- Do you see the difference between ecumenism and unity?
- Are you separating yourself from worldliness?
- Are you separating yourself from Babylon and all world loving churches, and those who support the B.E.M. Faith and Order Paper, even if they only show so by their symbols?
- Are you striving for unity in truth with others?

8f - GET READY! GET READY! GET READY!

Christ admonished His disciples many times to be ready, and to watch and pray. Here are just a few:-

"Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." Matt. 24:44.

"Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh." Matt. 25:13.

"Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is." Mark 13:33.

"Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man." Luke 21:36.

On a number of occasions Ellen White was told by an angel to get ready:-

"In a view given June 27, 1850, my accompanying angel said, 'Time is almost finished. Do you reflect the lovely image of Jesus as you should?' Then I was pointed to the earth and saw that there would have to be a getting ready among those who have of late embraced the third angel's message. Said the angel, 'Get ready, get ready, get ready. Ye will have to die a greater death to the world than ye have ever yet died.' I saw that there was a great work to do for them and but little time in which to do it." E. W. p. 64 para. 1.

"The Lord is coming. Time is short. Get ready, get ready, get ready. For Christ's sake call a halt; you have not a moment to lose. Put an end to all unjust, unrighteous criticism, and humble your hearts before God. 'Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.' "

"Do not merely assent to the truth, and fail to be a doer of the words of Christ. The truth must be applied to self; it must bring men and women who receive it to the Rock, that they may fall upon the Rock and be broken. Then Jesus can mold and fashion their characters after his own divine character. If we would listen to his voice, we must let silence reign in the heart. The clamors of self, its pretensions, its lusts, must be rebuked, and we must put on the robe of humility, and take our place as humble learners in the school of Christ. When this is the attitude of our brethren, there will be no more a desire to climb up onto the judgment-seat to judge others; but they will lie low at the foot of the cross. As they behold the matchless loveliness of the character of Christ, their own defects will be made plain, and the delusion of self-righteousness which incased the soul will be swept away, and the arrows of the Lord will find the heart. The truth must be applied to the souls of our people as never before, or many who now feel at ease, will be weighed in the balances and found wanting." R. H., October 31, 1893 para. 8 & 9.

"Some, I saw, have not a realizing sense of the importance of the truth or of its effect, and moving from the impulse of the moment or from excitement, often follow their feelings and disregard church order. Such seem to think that religion consists chiefly in making a noise. Some who have but just received the truth of the third angel's message are ready to reprove and teach those who have been established in the truth for years, and who have suffered for its sake and felt its sanctifying power. Those who are so puffed up by the enemy will have to feel the sanctifying influence of the truth and obtain a realizing sense of how it found them--'wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.' When the truth begins to purify them and purge away their dross

and tin, as it surely will when it is received in the love of it, the one who has this great work done for him will not feel that he is rich and increased in goods and has need of nothing.”

"Those who profess the truth and think they know it all before they have learned its first principles, and who are forward to take the place of teachers and reprove those who for years have stood stiffly for the truth, plainly show that they have no understanding of the truth, and know none of its effects; for if they knew any of the sanctifying power, they should yield the peaceable fruits of righteousness and be humbled under its sweet, powerful influence. They would bear fruit to the glory of God, and understand what the truth has done for them, and esteem others better than themselves. “

"I saw that the remnant were not prepared for what is coming upon the earth. Stupidity, like lethargy, seemed to hang upon the minds of most of those who profess to believe that we are having the last message. My accompanying angel cried out with awful solemnity, 'Get ready! get ready! get ready! for the fierce anger of the Lord is soon to come. His wrath is to be poured out, unmixed with mercy, and ye are not ready. Rend the heart, and not the garment. A great work must be done for the remnant. Many of them are dwelling upon little trials.' Said the angel, 'Legions of evil angels are around you, and are trying to press in their awful darkness, that ye may be ensnared and taken. Ye suffer your minds to be diverted too readily from the work of preparation and the all-important truths for these last days. And ye dwell upon little trials and go into minute particulars of little difficulties to explain them to the satisfaction of this one or that.' Conversation has been protracted for hours between the parties concerned, and not only has their time been wasted, but the servants of God are held to listen to them, when the hearts of both parties are unsubdued by grace. If pride and selfishness were laid aside, five minutes would remove most difficulties. Angels have been grieved and God displeased by the hours which have been spent in justifying self. I saw that God will not bow down and listen to long justifications, and He does not want His servants to do so, and thus precious time be wasted that should be spent in showing transgressors the error of their ways and pulling souls out of the fire.”

"I saw that God's people are on the enchanted ground, and that some have lost nearly all sense of the shortness of time and the worth of the soul. Pride has crept in among Sabbathkeepers-pride of dress and appearance. Said the angel, 'Sabbathkeepers will have to die to self, die to pride and love of approbation.’”

"Truth, saving truth, must be given to the starving people who are in darkness. I saw that many prayed for God to humble them; but if God should answer their prayers, it would be by terrible things in righteousness. It was their duty to humble themselves. I saw that if self-exaltation was suffered to come in, it would surely lead souls astray, and if not overcome would prove their ruin. When one begins to get lifted up in his own eyes and thinks he can do something, the Spirit of God is withdrawn, and he goes on in his own strength until he is overthrown. I saw that one saint, if he were right, could move the arm of God; but a multitude together, if they were wrong, would be weak and could effect nothing.”

"Many have unsubdued, unhumiliated hearts, and think more of their own little grievances and trials than of the souls of sinners. If they had the glory of God in view, they would feel for perishing souls around them; and as they realized their perilous situation, would take hold with energy, exercising faith in God, and hold up the hands of His servants, that they might boldly, yet in love, declare the truth and warn souls to lay hold upon it before the sweet voice of mercy should die away. Said the angel, "Those who profess His name are not ready." I saw that the seven last plagues were coming upon the shelterless heads of the wicked; and then those who have stood in their way will hear the bitter reproaches of sinners, and their hearts will faint within them. “

"Said the angel. 'Ye have been picking at straws- dwelling upon little trials-and sinners must be lost as a consequence.' God is willing to work for us in our meetings, and it is His pleasure to work. But Satan says, 'I will hinder the work.' His agents say, 'Amen.' Professed believers in the truth dwell upon their petty trials and difficulties which Satan has magnified before them. Time is wasted that can never be recalled. The enemies of the truth have seen our weakness, God has been grieved, Christ wounded. Satan's object is accomplished, his plans have succeeded, and he triumphs.”

E. W. p. 118 - 121.

"Our work is to prepare a people for the soon coming of the Lord. We are to be in the world, but not of the world. Let us consider the work before us. Never forget, we are laborers together with God. We are to prepare the way of the Lord. Let us bind ourselves to His sacred work. We have no time to lose in inaction. We must provide facilities for the accomplishment of the missionary work that the Lord has said must be done. We must teach old and young, men and women, to lay up treasure beside the throne of God." 10 M. R. p. 265 para. 1.

Personal application.

How are we to get ready? We are to form our characters into the likeness of Christ's character, daily partaking of the living water - the Holy Spirit, so that when it is time for the latter rain we may be filled and preach the gospel message with power thereby hastening the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. This is our work that we do through the power and assistance of the Holy Spirit. (See R. H. 22 March, 1887 para. 1, and U.L. p. 283 para. 3.)

In closing we would like to leave you with this stirring quote:-

"At times I feel the power of God, even in my flesh, and yet I am not satisfied. I want to plunge deeper and deeper in the ocean of God's love and be wholly swallowed up in Him. Be strong in God. Do not sink. My vision comes up before me and the words of the angel even now seem to ring in my ears, 'Get ready, get ready, get ready. Time is almost finished, almost finished, almost finished. Cry, cry, for the arm of the Lord to be revealed, for the arm of the Lord to be revealed. Time is almost finished. What you do, ye must do quickly!'" 8 M. R. p. 222 para. 4.

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