



**TimeWatch** - *For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and [is] a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Hebrews 4:12*

## **THE LEARNING FORUM: Contending for the Faith**

**Cameron A. Bowen**

**Jude 1:3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort [you] that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.**

**Jude 1:4 For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Jude was written about 67-70 A.D.** The book of Jude is a book that many preachers avoid. Jude pictures apostasy in the last days. It is very important therefore to find the characteristics of these apostates, so we as the remnant can well guard as they creep into the body of Christ.

It was Jude's original intention to write a general pastoral letter, but it appears that disturbing news reached him concerning the disruptive activities of "ungodly men" and led him to abandon his original design in favor of a vigorous attack on the troublemakers and an earnest exhortation to the believers. *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, Volume 7. P. 704*

***It was needful.*** Literally, "I had necessity," implying a sudden urgency that led Jude to change his plan and prevented him from preparing his intended epistle in a leisurely manner. *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, Volume 7. P. 704*

***Contend for The faith.*** That is, the complete body of Christian teaching. *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, Volume 7. P. 704*

***Once delivered.*** Rather, "once and for all delivered." *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, Volume 7. P. 704*

**Apparently to Jude, this was an extremely serious matter:**

- 1. First comes a warning regarding the unbelief of the children of Israel: Jude 1:5** I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not.
- 2. Next he warned regarding the fallen angels: Jude 1:6** And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.
- 3. Then he warns regarding the Sodomites: Jude 1:7** Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

This faith, once delivered, Jude says, God expects to be held fast.

- 4. Next he describes at length the characteristics of these teachers who have crept in among us: Jude 1:8 - 13** Likewise also these [filthy] dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities. Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee. But these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves. Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core. These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds [they are] without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots; Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever.
- 5. Jude does not stop there he continues to describe the prophecy of Enoch regarding the doom of ungodly men: Jude 1:14 -16** And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard [speeches] which ungodly sinners have spoken against him. These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling [words], having men's persons in admiration because of advantage.
- 6. Then he speaks of the apostles words about those who misuse the faith or mock the faith in the last days: Jude 1:17 – 19** But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts. These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit.
- 7. Then he admonishes us to: Jude 1:20** But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,
- 8. And to Jude 1:21** Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

**9. Then what is our responsibility according to Jude 1:22, 23** And of some have compassion, making a difference: And others save with fear, pulling [them] out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh. (soul winning)

**10. His benediction is now very relevant: Jude 1:24, 25** Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present [you] faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise God our Savior, [be] glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen.

All this was in the time of Jude.

(Rev. 7:2, 3) describes the Sealing. –

**Revelation 7:2** And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea,

**Revelation 7:3** Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.

### With regard to the shaking

Just as soon as the people of God are sealed in their foreheads--it is not any seal or mark that can be seen, but a settling into the truth, both intellectually and spiritually, so they cannot be moved--just as soon as God's people are sealed and prepared for the shaking, it will come. Indeed, it has begun already; the judgments of God are now upon the land, to give us warning, that we may know what is coming (*MS 173, 1902*). {*4BC 1161.6*}

### The test to come

The members of the church will individually be tested and proved. They will be placed in circumstances where they will be forced to bear witness for the truth. Many will be called to speak before councils and in courts of justice, perhaps separately and alone. The experience which would have helped them in this emergency they have neglected to obtain, and their souls are burdened with remorse for wasted opportunities and neglected privileges.--*Testimonies, vol. 5, p. 463. {ChS 158.1}*

**Jude 1:3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort [you] that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.**

*Once delivered.* Rather, “once and for all delivered.” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, Volume 7. P. 704*

### A little company

The Protestant world today see in the little company keeping the Sabbath a Mordecai in the gate. His character and conduct, expressing reverence for the law of God, are a constant rebuke to those who have cast off the fear of the Lord, and are trampling upon His Sabbath;

the unwelcome intruder must by some means be put out of the way. --*Testimonies, vol. 5, p. 450.*  
*{ChS 158.2}*

### **Calebs come to the front**

It is whole-hearted, thoroughly decided men and women who will stand now. Christ sifted His followers again and again, until, at one time, there remained only eleven and a few faithful women, to lay the foundation of the Christian church. There are those who will stand back when burdens are to be borne, but when the church is all aglow, they catch the enthusiasm, sing and shout, and become rapturous; but watch them. When the fervor is gone, only a few faithful Calebs will come to the front and display unwavering principle. These are salt that retains the savor. It is when the work moves hard that the churches develop the true helpers.--*Testimonies, vol. 5, p. 130.* *{ChS 236.2}*

Satan will excite indignation against the humble minority who conscientiously refuse to accept popular customs and traditions. Men of position and reputation will join with the lawless and the vile to take counsel against the people of God. Wealth, genius, education, will combine to cover them with contempt. Persecuting rulers, ministers, and church members will conspire against them. With voice and pen, by boasts, threats, and ridicule, they will seek to overthrow their faith. By false representations and angry appeals, they will stir up the passions of the people. Not having a "Thus saith the Scriptures" to bring against the advocates of the Bible Sabbath, they will resort to oppressive enactments to supply the lack. To secure popularity and patronage, legislators will yield to the demand for a Sunday law. . . . On this battlefield comes the last great conflict of the controversy between truth and error.--  
*Testimonies, vol. 5, pp. 450, 451.* *{ChS 158.3}*

**Hebrews 10:22** Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

**Hebrews 10:23** Let us hold fast the profession of [our] faith without wavering; (for he [is] faithful that promised;)

### **The Creation**

So, even though it will not be possible for us at this time to go through all of the truths that we embrace, this morning, let us take a look at the beginning as we re-establish the clarity of the creation from the scriptures. We are all acquainted with Genesis 1 starting at verse 1. Each day of creation is clearly marked with the words "and the evening and the morning was the---- day." The narrative ends with God resting on the seventh day and hallowing it.

The question has now arisen in some quarters of our church regarding the literal nature of the six day creation. We do not here have time to detail all of the argument, however I assure you that God's Word stand secure.

**The first time** the words "six days" are mentioned in scripture is with regard to the feeding of Israel after their departure from Egypt. The provisions that they brought from Egypt, were spent

by the middle of the second month, and they murmured. God gave instruction regard their food supple which would now come from heaven.

**Exodus 16:26** Six days ye shall gather it; but on the seventh day, [which is] the sabbath, in it there shall be none.

**Exodus 16:27** And it came to pass, [that] there went out [some] of the people on the seventh day for to gather, and they found none.

**Exodus 16:28** And the LORD said unto Moses, How long refuse ye to keep my commandments and my laws?

**Exodus 16:29** See, for that the LORD hath given you the sabbath, therefore he giveth you on the sixth day the bread of two days; abide ye every man in his place, let no man go out of his place on the seventh day.

**Exodus 16:30** So the people rested on the seventh day.

### **The Matthew Henry Commentary says the following:**

Here is mention of a seventh-day sabbath. It was known, not only before the giving of the law upon mount Sinai, but before the bringing of Israel out of Egypt, even from the beginning,

**Genesis 2:3. The setting apart one day in seven for holy work**, and, for holy rest, was ever since God created man upon the earth, and is the most ancient of the Divine laws. Appointing them to rest on the seventh day, he took care that they should be no losers by it; and none ever will be losers by serving God. *Matthew Henry's Commentary on Exodus 16*

Works of necessity are to be done on that day; but it is desirable to have as little as may be to do, that we may apply ourselves the more closely to prepare for the life that is to come. When they kept manna against a command, it stank; when they kept it by a command, it was sweet and good; every thing is sanctified by the word of God and prayer. On the seventh day God did not send the manna, therefore they must not expect it, nor go out to gather. This showed that it was produced by miracle. *Matthew Henry's Commentary on Exodus 16*

**Who was this Matthew Henry who wrote this commentary?** Matthew Henry (18 October 1662 – 22 June 1714) was an English commentator on the Bible and Presbyterian minister. His father, Philip Henry, had just been ejected under the Act of Uniformity 1662. This act of uniformity was a law that forced everyone to adhere to a common prayer book and obey a uniform belief system. An immediate result of this Act was that, nearly 2,000 clergymen chose to leave the established church in what became known as the Great Ejection of 1662. Unlike most of his fellow-sufferers, Philip possessed some private means, and was thus able to give his son a good education. Matthew went first to a school at Islington, and then to Gray's Inn. He soon gave up his legal studies for theology, and in 1687 became minister of a Presbyterian congregation at Chester.

**It is clear therefore at least to Matthew Henry, a Presbyterian Minister that the introduction of the Sabbath on earth rests upon the Genesis account of the creation.**

## **There is a prerequisite for those who will contend for the faith**

**Jeremiah 31:32** Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day [that] I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD:

**Jeremiah 31:33** But this [shall be] the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

### **How does this writing upon the heart take place?**

Where there is not only a belief in God's Word, but a submission of the will to Him; where the heart is yielded to Him, the affections fixed upon Him, there is faith--faith that works by love, and purifies the soul. Through this faith the heart is renewed in the image of God. *{Amazing Grace 137.5}*

**Romans 10:17** - So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing, by the word of God:

*NOTE: Hearing is not memorization. Rather hearing is obedience. When we with faith and surrender, read God's Word, The Spirit writes it upon our hearts. We read, he writes.*

God's law is not to be simply an external standard of righteousness. It is to be a spring of action to guide and control human conduct. When this is accomplished, their witness will become so strong that as they teach and be a living example the testimony of Jeremiah 31 and verse 34 will come true.

**Jeremiah 31:34** And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

The failure of God's servants in large part to instruct the people in the real knowledge of God, under the old covenant, was to be corrected by the intimate acquaintance and fellowship believers would have with their Lord through faith stimulated by the new covenant. For us it will be the same. When we are transformed from a mere outward performance of the things of God, and have written upon our hearts and upon our characters the will of God, then we will draw to Christ those who come in contact with us. *Cameron A. Bowen, "Contending for the Faith," June 26, 2010.*

**When we allow Christ to do this work in us, then we shall stand and be able to contend for the faith, regardless of what might occur.**

**Jeremiah 32:40** And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me.

**Remember we said that The first time** the words “six days” are mentioned in scripture is with regard to the feeding of Israel after their departure from Egypt.

**The second time that we find the phrase “Six Days” is in the fourth commandment. Exodus 20: 8-11.**

**The third time is when the same command is reaffirmed in Exodus 23:12 – “Six days thou shalt do thy work, and on the seventh day thou shalt rest: that thine ox and thine ass may rest, and the son of thy handmaid, and the stranger, may be refreshed.”**

**The fourth mention** of six days in the scriptures is when Moses goes up to Mount Sinai.

**Exodus 24:15** And Moses went up into the mount, and a cloud covered the mount.

**Exodus 24:16** And the glory of the LORD abode upon mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days: and the seventh day he called unto Moses out of the midst of the cloud.

#### **The fifth mention of six days is another re-affirmation in:**

**Exodus 31:15** Six days may work be done; but in the seventh [is] the sabbath of rest, holy to the LORD: whosoever doeth [any] work in the sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death.

**Exodus 31:16** Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the sabbath, to observe the sabbath throughout their generations, [for] a perpetual covenant.

**Exodus 31:17** It [is] a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever: for [in] six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed.

**Notice in Exodus 31: 16 – The Sabbath is referred to as a perpetual covenant. And in V 17 it is described as a sign between the Lord and us for ever.**

Notice all this is based upon the literal six day creation account of Genesis.

Tirelessly, God repeats over and over again the “six day” command coupled with the resting upon the seventh.

**The Sixth time, in Exodus 34: 21**

**The seventh time in Exodus 35: 2**

**The eighth time in Leviticus 23: 3**

I could go on, but I think you’ve got the picture by now.

**It is so important that we review and reestablish in our hearts and minds the fundamental truths of our faith, we have been seriously warned of the necessity of this.**

The first six days of each week are given to man for labor, because God employed the same period of the first week in the work of creation. On the seventh day man is to refrain from labor, in commemoration of the Creator's rest. {PP 111.2}

If the literal six day creation is replaced by an inserted theistic evolution, then a number of truths are immediately undermined.

If the six literal day creation is not accurate then

1. The authority of the command power of God's word is undermined
2. The Sabbath as the seventh day becomes unimportant
3. The concept of a Garden of Eden with a sinless man and woman cannot be real.
4. Then the concept of life eternal without death which only came after sin is wrong.
5. The conversation between Eve and the Serpent becomes nothing more than a Disneyland production.
6. The 120 years of Noah's probationary preaching is irrelevant. Since evolved man would have had the right to do as he pleased.
7. The flood as a judgment for sin no longer holds relevance.

What is the intent of this assault upon the six literal days of creation?

The assumption that the events of the first week required thousands upon thousands of years, strikes directly at the foundation of the fourth commandment. It represents the Creator as commanding men to observe the week of literal days in commemoration of vast, indefinite periods. This is unlike His method of dealing with His creatures. It makes indefinite and obscure that which He has made very plain. It is infidelity in its most insidious and hence most dangerous form; its real character is so disguised that it is held and taught by many who profess to believe the Bible. {PP 111.3- Written in - 1890}

#### Note ISM 205.1

The enemy of souls has sought to bring in the supposition that a great reformation was to take place among Seventh-day Adventists, and that this reformation would consist in giving up the doctrines which stand as the pillars of our faith, and engaging in a process of reorganization. Were this reformation to take place, what would result? The principles of truth that God in His wisdom has given to the remnant church, would be discarded. Our religion would be changed. The fundamental principles that have sustained the work for the last fifty years would be accounted as error. A new organization would be established. Books of a new order would be written. A system of intellectual philosophy would be introduced. The founders of this system would go into the cities, and do a wonderful work. {ISM 205.1}

But her warnings are not general warnings, but become extremely specific:

They estimate as nothing the light that Christ came from heaven to give John to give to His people. They teach that the scenes just before us are not of sufficient importance to be given

**special attention.** They make of no effect the truth of heavenly origin, and rob the people of God of their past experience, giving them instead a false science. {1SM 203.4}

**Who has authority to begin such a movement? We have our Bibles.** We have our experience, attested to by the miraculous working of the Holy Spirit. We have a truth that admits of no compromise. Shall we not repudiate everything that is not in harmony with this truth? {ISM 205.1}

**But let me warn you, if this course is allowed to continue by those in authority, then 1SM page 204 foretells an ominous result.**

The Sabbath of course, would be lightly regarded, as also the God who created it. Nothing would be allowed to stand in the way of the new movement. The leaders would teach that virtue is better than vice, but God being removed, they would place their dependence on human power, which, without God, is worthless. Their foundation would be built on the sand, and storm and tempest would sweep away the structure. {ISM 204.2}

Recently, I have begun to pay very close attention to the actual words used by the prophet. As a youth, I listened to my father as he read the great themes of her writings. I was deeply impressed with the thoughts and ideas expressed, and wondered at how closely her writings mirrored the word of God. As I have grown older I have begun to pay more attention to the actual expressions, the way that the sentence is structured. I am beginning to see a far more specific message emerging from each communication. Notice the last sentence of that quote in (ISM 204)—“Their foundation would be built on the sand, and storm and tempest would sweep away the structure. {ISM 204.2}” - Cameron A. Bowen, “Contending for the Faith,” June 26, 2010.

**What is this structure?**

**{CG 164.3} lets us look at the first structure under threat.**

To a great extent everyone is the architect of his own character. Every day the structure more nearly approaches completion. The Word of God warns us to take heed how we build, to see that our building is founded upon the Eternal Rock. The time is coming when our work will stand revealed just as it is. Now is the time for all to cultivate the powers that God has given them, that they may form characters for usefulness here and for a higher life hereafter. {CG 164.3}

**But there are two other structures that are threatened**

**The Upward Look 163.4 says that Satan seeks to destroy the church by destroying the family.**

Well does Satan know what heaven is, and what the influence of the angels is. His work is to bring into every family the cruel elements of self-will, harshness, selfishness. Thus he seeks

to destroy the happiness of the family. He knows that the spirit governing in the home will be brought into the church. {*The Upward Look* 163.4}

It is the family structure and the church structure that satan seeks to destroy. It is each one of us he is after, individually and then collectively. This is why Jude warned:

**Jude 1:3** it is needful for me to write unto you, and exhort [you] that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

**Satan undermines faith in the church, while at the same time he undermines love at home.**

Let the father and mother always be guarded in their words and actions. The husband is to treat his wife, the mother of his children, with due respect, and the wife is to love and reverence her husband. How can she do this if he treats her like a servant, to be dictated to, ordered about, scolded, found fault with before the children? He is forcing her to dislike him and even to hate him. {*Upward Look* 163.5}

Fathers and mothers, bring sweetness and brightness and hopefulness into the lives of your children. Kindness and love will work wonders. Never punish a child in anger. When you do this, you are acting like grown-up children, who have not left behind them the unreasonableness of childhood. Will you strive earnestly to be able to say, "When I became a man, I put away childish things"? {*UL* 163.7}

Be sure, before correcting your child, to talk with your heavenly Father. When your own heart is so softened by sympathy, talk with the erring one. If the matter can be adjusted without the use of the rod, so much the better.--*Manuscript 71, May 29, 1902, "Words to Parents."* {*UL* 163.8}

Whenever we deal with end time issues, we usually deal with the actions of Rome and her healing and her influence and her actions both religious and political. We always show the loss of freedom in the United States of America and the world. We raise the issue of a disappearing religious freedom, and the pressure that will come from protestant churches. But there is something that we often overlook. In *LDE 156.2* we see the following:

We have far more to fear from within than from without. The hindrances to strength and success are far greater from the church itself than from the world. The unbelief indulged, the doubts expressed, the darkness cherished, encourage the presence of evil angels, and open the way for the accomplishment of Satan's devices.--*ISM 122 (1887).* {*LDE 156.2*}

**Philippians 2:12** Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

**Jude 1:4 For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.**

### **Creeping in unawares**

False theories will be mingled with every phase of experience, and advocated with satanic earnestness in order to captivate the mind of every soul who is not rooted and grounded in a full knowledge of the sacred principles of the Word. **In the very midst of us will arise false teachers, giving heed to seducing spirits whose doctrines are of satanic origin.** These teachers will draw away disciples after themselves. **Creeping in unawares, they will use flattering words, and make skillful misrepresentations with seductive tact.** {RH, January 7, 1904 par. 4}

### **If at first they don't succeed they shift their approach**

If they do not succeed, because their way becomes hedged by warnings from God, **they will change somewhat the features of their work**, and the representations they have made, **and bring out their plans again under a false showing.** They **refuse to confess, repent, and believe.** Confessions may be made, **but no real reformation takes place**, and **erroneous theories bring ruin upon unsuspecting souls** because **these souls believe and rely upon the men advocating these theories.** {RH, January 7, 1904 par. 5}

In explaining - Jude 1:4 For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

### **She talks about false teachers in the time of Jude:**

These teachers are represented **not as coming openly, but creeping in unawares, with the gliding motion of a serpent.** They followed their own pernicious ways, but were not satisfied without drawing away others with them. **They had no connected chain of truth, but taught a disjointed medley of ideas, supported by a passage of Scripture here and another there.** These disconnected scriptures were **woven together into a tissue of falsehood that would strike the fancy, and would deceive those who had not, by searching the Scriptures for themselves, become established in the truth for that time.** {ST, March 27, 1884 par. 1}

### **Satan's teachers in the time of Jude are further described this way:**

Satan worked through these false teachers. **Under a profession of regard for the truth, they concealed base purposes, for their hearts were corrupt. Had they come disclaiming faith in Christ, they would have been rejected at once; but professing to believe in him, they gained the confidence of some, and without shame or conscience perverted the truth to suit their**

own unsanctified hearts. And when once these deluded souls had departed from the old landmarks of faith, they had let go their anchor, and were tossed about like the waves of the sea. These lying prophets are described in the word of God; their deeds are recorded in the register of Heaven. Their hearts and their deceptive, wicked works were not understood by men; but the Lord saw them; he read their hearts as an open book, and knew that their very thoughts and purposes were corrupt. {ST, March 27, 1884 par. 2}

### **There are false teachers today**

False teachers are just as active in our day as they were in the days of the apostles. Satan has many agents, and they are ready to present any and every kind of theory to deceive souls,--heresies prepared to suit the varied tastes and capacities of those whom he would ruin. There are cheap fallacies for those who are easily led into error, and who desire something new, odd, or fanciful, which they cannot explain intelligently, or even understand themselves. {ST, March 27, 1884 par. 3}

### **A warning concerning the seriousness of the deception**

If the angels were deceived by Lucifer's ingenious methods of misrepresenting God, if Adam and Eve were deceived by his declaration that God was withholding from them the higher education that would make them as gods, is there not danger that men today will be deceived? {10MR 162.4}

### **We are advised not to listen to these lies**

Just as long as men consent to listen to these sophistries, a subtle influence will weave the fine threads of these seductive theories into their minds, and men who should turn away from the first sound of such teaching will learn to love it. As loyal subjects we must refuse even to listen to these sophistries. Their influence is something like a deadly viper, poisoning the minds of all who listen. It is a branch of hypnotism, deadening the sensibilities of the soul. {10MR 163.2}

### **Do not listen to them.**

I have not strength to dwell upon this, for I feel so strong an indignation against Satan and those who, with the Word of God in their possession, listen to the teaching of human agencies; who are intent upon declaring theories which they present as more wonderful, higher, grander than the teachings of Christ, the One who gave His life to save the world from Satan's higher education. We cannot afford to exchange Christ's teachings for the devil's lies. {10MR 163.3}

### **Do not be intimidated by these people!**

**The Lord is guarding his people against a repetition of the errors and mistakes of the past.** There have always abounded false teachers who, advocating erroneous doctrines and unholy practices, and working upon false principles in a most specious, covered, deceptive manner, have endeavored to deceive, if possible, the very elect. {RH, January 7, 1904 par. 5}

### **Do not be intimidated by them**

God has said, "Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm." **Men have borne false witness against God's chosen ones.** They have bruised their limbs with fetters, and burned them at the stake. **The Lord will avenge his children. In proportion as men have carried out the spirit and purposes of Satan in causing pain to human beings, so will they suffer.** Thus will they perish who have done all in their power *to compel men to transgress the law that God has commanded all to obey.* {RH, June 19, 1900 par. 6}

### **In the time of the apostles intimidation was also tried:**

**The Pharisees were daily plotting to stop the spread of the gospel of Christ,** and were **misinterpreting God's word,** by **threatening the people,** and **seeking to intimidate them,** and they **deepened the darkness that enveloped the souls of men,** and **bound more firmly the chains of superstition and error** that Jesus was breaking from those who believed in him. The Pharisees and rulers and rabbis **sought to controvert the truth** by their assertions, and manifested great zeal in pursuing their evil course. **They hesitated at nothing** that would carry out their hatred of Christ. The seventy were sent out with the warning, "Behold, I send you forth as lambs among wolves." But though sent out to meet opposition, they were not to be spiritless, powerless, and feeble. **They were to exercise every proper means that was consistent with the commission they were given,** and spend and be spent in seeking to win souls to the kingdom of Jesus Christ. **A new and mighty movement was to be inaugurated, a new epoch was to be ushered in,** advancing the truth to the world. {ST, December 10, 1894 par. 4}

### **The Great Controversy page 596 presents a startling revelation**

Christ foresaw that the **undue assumption of authority indulged by the scribes and Pharisees** would not cease with the dispersion of the Jews. He had a prophetic view of **the work of exalting human authority to rule the conscience,** which has been **so terrible a curse to the church in all ages.** And his fearful denunciations of the scribes and Pharisees, and **his warnings to the people not to follow these blind leaders,** were placed on record as an admonition to future generations. {GC88 596.1}

### **We have some homework to do**

The people, who profess to believe in the soon coming of Christ to judge the earth, should be thoroughly aroused to the situation. They should examine their own hearts and lives, to see if they stand in the position to which Jude, the servant of Christ, calls them. Physicians and ministers should be assured that they are themselves keeping the commandments of God; for this they must do if they would be saved in his kingdom. If we lose heaven, we lose everything. Then let us, in this time of proving, weed out from our characters everything that would exclude us from the city of God. Let us remember that our hearts and minds are to be purified by obedience to the truth. {RH, March 26, 1908 par. 11}

It is easy to see why the Spirit of Prophecy is so strongly opposed by some of those who hold authority in God's remnant church. It is easy to understand why some and note I say some, by no means all, and thank God, I think they are at the present time in the visible minority, it is easy to see why this as yet visible influential minority would prefer to have the rank and file not read or study the counsels given by the inspired child of God. The reason is simple. Some of our human, or should I say corporate plans conflict with the direct instruction of the word of God sent through His prophet. *Cameron A. Bowen, "Contending for the Faith," June 26, 2010.*

**A strong example of this is found in the following quotation. Under the heading "A Message to Church Members"**

**The only hope of our churches is to keep wide awake. Those who are well grounded in the truth of the Word, those who test everything by a "Thus saith the Lord" are safe. The Holy Spirit will guide those who prize the wisdom of God above the deceptive sophistries of satanic agencies. Let there be much praying, not in human lines but under the inspiration of love of the truth and it is in Jesus Christ.** The families who believe the truth are to speak words of wisdom and intelligence,--words that will come to them as the result of searching the scriptures. Now is our time of test and trial. Now is the time when the members of every believing family must close their lips against speaking words of accusation concerning their brethren. Let them speak words that impart courage, and strengthen the faith which works by love and purifies the soul. **Christian fathers and mothers are now called upon to fulfill their duties in the home. They must try to save their children unto eternal life. Let them not advise their children to connect with the Sanitarium at Battle Creek, or with the schools that shall be set in operation at Battle Creek. There is tenfold more danger now in our youth going there, than there has been in any period in the past.** {Southern Union Worker October 30, 1913 }

That last quote was written just two years before she died. I wonder what she would be writing now if she was still with us! It is obvious that reaction to her strong messages from God had begun to cause some in the church to rebel against her counsel at that early stage of the church of God, because her next statement in that same document is this. Under the heading: "Word of Caution" she says:

**I am instructed to charge parents to take heed to keep their children guarded.** Let all take heed how they hear. **Many things are reported in regard to Sister White. Some say one thing and some say another.** To those who know the messages from the Lord, I would say, **Hold fast; for soon all will be fulfilled. Hold fast to the Bible. "Search the Scriptures,"** Christ said, **"for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me."** {*Southern Union Worker October 30, 1913*}

## No need to be afraid

**Brethren, it is no time now for mourning and despair, no time to yield to doubt and unbelief. Christ is not now a Saviour in Joseph's new tomb,** closed with a great stone and sealed with the Roman seal; **we have a risen Saviour. He is the King,** the Lord of hosts; **He sitteth between the cherubim;** and **amid the strife and tumult of nations He guards His people still. He who ruleth in the heavens is our Saviour. He measures every trial. He watches the furnace fire that must test every soul.** When the strongholds of kings shall be overthrown, when the arrows of God's wrath shall strike through the hearts of His enemies, **His people will be safe in His hands.** {*5T 754.3*}

## This is not just physical protection, but intellectual protection also!

Those who are **earnestly seeking a knowledge of the truth,** and are **striving to purify their souls** through **obedience,** thus **doing what they can to prepare for the conflict,** **will find, in the God of truth, a sure defense.** "Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee," [REV. 3:10.] is the Saviour's promise. **He would sooner send every angel out of Heaven to protect his people, than leave one soul that trusts in him to be overcome by Satan.** {*GC88 560.2*}

In the time of trial just before us, **God's pledge of security will be placed upon those that have kept the word of his patience. If you have complied with the conditions of God's word, Christ will be to you a refuge from the storm.** He will say to his faithful ones, "Come, my people, **enter thou into thy chambers,** and shut thy doors about thee; hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast." The Lion of Judah, whose wrath will be so terrible to the rejecters of his grace, will be the Lamb of God to the obedient and faithful. The pillar of cloud will speak terror and wrath to the transgressor of God's law, but light and mercy and deliverance to those who have kept his commandments. **The Arm strong to smite the rebellious, will be strong to deliver the loyal. Every faithful one will surely be gathered.** "He shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other." {*RH, January 11, 1887 par. 22*}

## We have such a magnificent opportunity to stand with Christ, to contend for the Faith.

**It is by close, testing trials that God disciplines His servants.** He sees that some have powers which may be used in the advancement of His work, and He puts these persons upon trial; in His providence He brings them into positions that test their character and reveal defects and weaknesses that have been hidden from their own knowledge. He gives them opportunity to correct these defects and to fit themselves for His service. He shows them their own weakness, and teaches them to lean upon Him; for He is their only help and safeguard. Thus His object is attained. They are educated, trained, and disciplined, prepared to fulfill the grand purpose for which their powers were given them. . . . {CC 46.2}

### **The promise of protection is real!**

Thus God's people, exposed to the deceptive power and unsleeping malice of the prince of darkness, and in conflict with all the forces of evil, are assured of the unceasing guardianship of heavenly angels. Nor is such assurance given without need. If God has granted to his children promise of grace and protection, it is because there are mighty agencies of evil to be met,--agencies numerous, determined, and untiring, of whose malignity and power none can safely be ignorant or unheeding. {GC88 513.1}

### **There is guaranteed protection for God's people**

I have seen the tender love that God has for His people, and it is very great. I saw angels over the saints with their wings spread about them. Each saint had an attending angel. If the saints wept through discouragement, or were in danger, the angels that ever attended them would fly quickly upward to carry the tidings, and the angels in the city would cease to sing. . . . They would bear the tidings upward, and all the angels in the city would weep, and then with a loud voice say, "Amen." But if the saints fixed their eyes upon the prize before them, and glorified God by praising Him, then the angels would bear the glad tidings to the city, and the angels in the city would touch their golden harps and sing with a loud voice, "Alleluia!" and the heavenly arches would ring with their lovely songs. {ML 302.3}

### **He will watch over you!**

His angels are appointed to watch over us, and if we put ourselves under their guardianship, then in every time of danger they will be at our right hand. When unconsciously we are in danger of exerting a wrong influence, the angels will be by our side, prompting us to a better course, choosing words for us, and influencing our actions. Thus our influence may be a silent, unconscious, but mighty power in drawing others to Christ and the heavenly world. {ML 302.4}

**Let us not be intimidated by apostates who seek only to destroy what God has made! Let us contend for that faith which was once delivered to the saints.**

As more and more experienced leaders, elders and lay workers who have had a part in building God's church pass from the scene, many of us feel a sense of emptiness – almost as if we have been left stranded – alone with few Godly leaders. It would appear that few new leaders can be compared to these pioneers of our faith. But God has promised to stand by his faithful children, never letting them be swept away with the flood of error that is sweeping across the family of God. You need not despair for even for a moment. though for a while, the shadow of evil lurks ominously over the remnant, Soon and very soon the standard will be taken up. By those who are described as the hidden ones.

**{5T 81.2} says:**

When trees without fruit are cut down as cumberers of the ground, when multitudes of false brethren are distinguished from the true, then the hidden ones will be revealed to view, and with hosannas range under the banner of Christ. Those who have been timid and self-distrustful will declare themselves openly for Christ and His truth. The most weak and hesitating in the church will be as David--willing to do and dare. The deeper the night for God's people, the more brilliant the stars. Satan will sorely harass the faithful; but, in the name of Jesus, they will come off more than conquerors. Then will the church of Christ appear "fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners." *{5T 81.2}*

**As troubling as our present condition might appear, as we sigh and cry because of the abominations that abound, we are assured that there will be victory.**

In vision I saw two armies in terrible conflict. One army was led by banners bearing the world's insignia; the other was led by the blood-stained banner of Prince Emmanuel. Standard after standard was left to trail in the dust, as company after company from the Lord's army joined the foe, and tribe after tribe from the ranks of the enemy united with the commandment-keeping people of God. An angel flying in the midst of heaven put the standard of Emmanuel into many hands, while a mighty general cried out with a loud voice: "Come into line. Let those who are loyal to the commandments of God and the testimony of Christ now take their position. Come out from among them, and be ye separate, and touch not the unclean, and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be My sons and daughters. Let all who will, come up to the help of the Lord, to the help of the Lord against the mighty." *{Christian Experience and Teaching - 228.1}*

**You and I must hold on! In our contending for the faith we must hold fast! Help is coming! And while that time delays, we must do that which we must! We must not be intimidated by those whose letters behind their names, exceed the letters in their name. For we stand with him whose who has but one name. That name is GOD.**

**8T 41 (1904) Says:**

**The broken ranks will be filled up by those represented by Christ as coming in at the eleventh hour. There are many with whom the Spirit of God is striving. The time of God's destructive judgments is the time of mercy for those who [now] have no opportunity to learn what is truth.** 8T 41 - (1904). {LDE 182.3}

I have often wondered about what that statement means. Why would they have had no opportunity to learn the truth? Have not we been preaching and witnessing and working and spreading the word throughout the length and breath of this world?

**Notice this comment from the book, "That I May Know Him" page 113:**

**Conversion has become a matter of perplexity to many because of the confusing doctrines that are taught in regard to what is religion. Coming to Christ means something more than belonging to the church. There are many whose names are registered on the leaves of the church record but whose names are not written in the Lamb's book of life. Coming to Christ does not require a severe mental effort and agony. It is simply accepting the terms of salvation that God has made plain in His Word.** {TMK 113.3}

**Take a look at this statement in {RH, August 10, 1886 par. 1}**

**Many of the professed people of God are so conformed to the world that their peculiar character is not discerned, and it is difficult to distinguish "between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not." God would do great things for his people if they would come out from the world and be separate. He would make them a praise in all the earth, if they would submit to be led by him.** {RH, August 10, 1886 par. 1}

So why is it that so many now have no opportunity to learn what is truth? 8T 41 - (1904).

**The answer is found in RH, March 7, 1893 par. 8**

There are many who are ordained ministers, who have never yet exercised a shepherd's care over the flock of God, who have never yet watched for souls as they that must give an account. Were the kind of labor of which it stands in need bestowed upon the church, many who are doing nothing would be educated to become diligent laborers in the harvest-field. An education should be given to the people of God that would develop men for positions of trust and influence, and great good would be accomplished for the Master. But instead of thus developing, the church is left to be a weak, dependent, inefficient body. The members of the church are trained to rely upon preaching, and they do little for Christ. They bear no fruit, but rather increase in

**selfishness and unfaithfulness.** They put their hope in the preacher, and depend on his efforts to keep alive their weak faith. Because of the lack of proper instruction among the church-members by those whom God has placed as overseers, there is not one merely, but scores who are slothful, and who are hiding their talents in the earth, and still complaining of the Lord's dealings toward them. They need to be tended as do sick children. {RH, March 7, 1893 par. 8}

It is important that you become acquainted with the reasons for the problems we face. God has anticipated these problems before they even began to occur. He has allowed all this to take place so that he might identify those who are truly sincere in their desire to follow him and those who are not. He has begun the initial sifting and shaking. We must not panic! Sigh and cry yes! But never panic for God is indeed in total and absolute control! And he will be victorious. **Cameron A. Bowen, "Contending for the Faith," June 26, 2010.**

Until then we must contend for the faith, and stand fast. We must admit our errors and our failings and come to Christ for forgiveness and correction. In matters of the work of the church, where we have failed to fulfill our obligations, we must redeem to time and bind up that which has been broken. For we have not been as careful in our evangelism and in our shepherding as we ought to have been. **Cameron A. Bowen, "Contending for the Faith," June 26, 2010.**

**Malachi 4:5** Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:

**The Elijah message includes an important question, found in 1 kings 18:21**

**1 kings 18:21** And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD [be] God, follow him: but if Baal, [then] follow him. And the people answered him not a word.

**We cannot afford to be silent! We must answer quickly. We must choose now!**

**Joshua 24:15** And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that [were] on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

**Revelation 2:25** But that which ye have [already] hold fast till I come.

**Revelation 2:26** And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:

I was shown that the enemy would come in every way possible to dishearten the people of God, and perplex and trouble them, and that they should move understandingly and prepare themselves for the attacks of Satan. It is Satan's time to work, and a stormy future is before

us, and the church should be awake to make an advance move that they may stand securely against Satan's plans. It is time that something was done. God is not pleased to have his people leave the matters of the church at loose ends, and suffer the enemy to have the whole advantage, and control affairs as best pleases him. {*Spiritual Gifts, Volume 4b, page - 45.3*}

**2 Timothy 1:13 Hold fast the form of sound words**, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.

**2 Timothy 1:14 That good thing which was committed unto thee keep** by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us.

**Satan is at war with the remnant who are endeavoring to keep the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus.** Evil angels are commissioned to employ men as their agents upon the earth. These can the most successfully exert an influence to make Satan's attacks effective against the remnant whom God calls "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 marvelous light." While Jesus is purifying His people unto Himself, redeeming them from all iniquity, Satan will employ his forces to hinder the work and prevent the perfection of the saints. {*2T 105.1*}

**2 Timothy 4:1** I charge [thee] therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;

**2 Timothy 4:2** Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

**2 Timothy 4:3** For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

### **Counsels on Stewardship 104.3 says:**

A laborer should never leave some portion of the work undone because it is not agreeable to perform, thinking that the minister coming next will do it for him. When this is the case, if a second minister follows the first, and presents the claims that God has upon His people, some draw back, saying, "The minister who brought us the truth did not mention these things." And they become offended because of the word. Some refuse to accept the tithing system; they turn away, and no longer walk with those who believe and love the truth. When other lines are opened before them, they answer, "It was not so taught us," and they hesitate to move forward. How much better it would have been if the first messenger of truth had faithfully and thoroughly educated these converts in regard to all essential matters, even if fewer had been added to the church under his labors. God would be better pleased to have six thoroughly converted to the truth than to have sixty make a profession and yet not be truly converted. {*Counsels on Stewardship 104.3*}

**Hebrews 10:23** Let us hold fast the profession of [our] faith without wavering; for he [is] faithful that promised;

## **So God's plan is simple.**

1. He will sift his church to see who are true and who are not
2. He will use the beginnings of his judgments as a last hour call to the faithful in other churches to come out and join the faithful few. Remember that quote I read for you earlier? Let me read it again. "The broken ranks will be filled up by those represented by Christ as coming in at the eleventh hour. There are many with whom the Spirit of God is striving. The time of God's destructive judgments is the time of mercy for those who [now] have no opportunity to learn what is truth. 8T 41 - (1904). {LDE 182.3}

Now I need for you pay very close attention to what I am going to say next. Satan understands that that there are God's people in other churches who have not yet come into the faith and to the front. These God will call out to join with his faithful ones, taking up the standards left trailing by those who have departed. These are some of the hidden ones. And so, as he works within our church, to undermine the truth, satan seeks also to weaken the growing faith of those who are serving God to the best of their ability in the other churches. Like king Herod who slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men, satan seeks to pollute the stream from which the eleventh hour workers will come. *Cameron A. Bowen, "Thoughts on His Coming," June 12, 2010.*

## **Listen to the following headlines:**



### **INTERNAL STRESSES WITHIN THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**Sep 28, 2008**

Church conflicts have arisen in the past between those who support traditional interpretations of the Bible, and human rights activists. The topic under consideration changes. Past crises have been over the right of women to seek ordination. The main present conflict is whether gays and lesbians may attain equal treatment in the church. Gays and lesbians in committed relationships seek ordination and recognition of their civil unions.



### **LIBERAL - CONSERVATIVE DIVISIONS WITHIN THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

**Sep 24, 2000**

*Today, there are two religions in the Episcopal Church. One remains faithful to the biblical truth and received teachings of the Church, while the other rejects them...Radical activists seek to replace biblical truth and godly morality with secular humanism and moral relativism. We have*

*become a church which contradicts our own teaching.*" **Concerned Clergy and Laity of the Episcopal Church:**

**Most have involved rapid change in sexual matters:**

- Whether women should be considered for ordination as priests.
- Whether women should be considered for consecration as bishops.
- Whether women should have access to abortion services.
- Whether non-celestial gays and lesbians should be permitted as clergy.
- Whether the unions of homosexual couples should be recognized.
- Whether unions of unmarried, heterosexual couples should be recognized

## **The New York Times**

### **Conservative Group Amplifies Voice of Protestant Orthodoxy**

By LAURIE GOODSTEIN and DAVID D. KIRKPATRICK

Published: May 22, 2004

As Presbyterians prepare to gather for their General Assembly in Richmond, Va., next month, a band of determined conservatives is advancing a plan to split the church along liberal and orthodox lines. Another divorce proposal shook the United Methodist convention in Pittsburgh earlier this month, while conservative Episcopalians have already broken away to form a dissident network of their own. **In each denomination, the flashpoint is homosexuality.**

**2000-MAY-18: The Southern Baptist Convention** released a document that states: "While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of pastor is limited to men as qualified by Scripture."

### **Why is all this happening now, everywhere? What is going on?**

Satan knows that God is getting ready to do something special. To call out his people to stand with him. Like Herod, satan is trying to kill the child of God. If the church can be embroiled in controversy, satan understands that many will leave their firm position and faith and engage in a confrontational battle. The simple instruction of the word of God will be abandoned for the counsel of personal opinion.

#### **Notice the matters being debated are not:**

1. Repentance for sin
2. Surrender to God's will
3. Living according to the word of God
4. Obedience to all of his commandments
5. The cessation of all adultery and fornication in God's church and among God's people.
6. It is not about overcoming covetousness and greed
7. It is not about the aggressive cut throat attitudes that have been renamed ambition and type A personality.

8. It is not about the abandoning of our children to baby sitters and day care individuals that shape their personalities so that they become teenagers that we no longer recognize.
9. It is not about the hatred that exists between members of the same congregation, who at the same time, and every week present fake smiles instead of clean hearts.

*Cameron A. Bowen, "The Pillars of Our Faith," June 26, 2010.*

I am not suggesting that the matters of ordination or homosexuality are not important or relevant. They are, and our position on these issues must fall in line with the counsel of God's word. I must however warn you that satan seeks to focus only upon these issues, so that we might be so distracted and distressed, that we forget that there are personal issues to confront. For just as we clearly articulate God's word with regard to these corporate issues, we must just as clearly confess our weaknesses of character and seek forgiveness for those things which we have allowed to take control of our lives. *Cameron A. Bowen, "The Pillars of Our Faith," June 26, 2010.*

#### **The warning to us is explicit:**

**Jude 1:3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort [you] that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.**

**Jude 1:4 For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.**

#### **We need to heed the warning.**

#### **We must be prepared – so that we can contend for the faith**

#### **Not One in Twenty Prepared**

It is a solemn statement that I make to the church, that not one in twenty whose names are registered upon the church books are prepared to close their earthly history, and would be as verily without God and without hope in the world as the common sinner. They are professedly serving God, but they are more earnestly serving mammon. This half-and-half work is a constant denying of Christ, rather than a confessing of Christ. So many have brought into the church their own unsubdued spirit, unrefined; their spiritual taste is perverted by their own immoral, debasing corruptions, symbolizing the world in spirit, in heart, in purpose, confirming themselves in lustful practices, and are full of deception through and through in their professed Christian life. Living as sinners, claiming to be Christians! Those who claim to be Christians and will confess Christ should come out from among them and touch not the unclean thing, and be separate. . . . {Christian Service p 41.1}

## **How is this problem solved?**

Christians should be preparing for what is soon to break upon the world as an overwhelming surprise, and this preparation they should make by diligently studying the word of God, and striving to conform their lives to its precepts. . . . God calls for a revival and a reformation.--*Prophets and Kings*, p. 626. {ChS 41.3}

**2 Timothy 2:15 says: Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.**

Christ did not merely give us directions as to the path in which we must travel, but He came to be our teacher. He did not merely tell us how we ought to obey, but in His own life He gave us a practical example of how we should obey. Thus He is the true Helper. Going before us, He beats down the obstructions, and tells us to walk in His footsteps. Our blessed Saviour says, Follow Me; I will lead you; I am the way, the truth, and the life. He that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness. [See Matt. 4:19; John 14:6; 8:12.] {20MR 61.4}

## **We must use the opportunities that we have**

Those who have had opportunities to hear and receive of the truth and who have united with the Seventh-day Adventist church, calling themselves the commandment-keeping people of God, and yet possess no more vitality and consecration to God than do the nominal churches, will receive the plagues of God just as verily as the churches who oppose the law of God.--19MR 176 (1898)

## **Belief is not enough. Actions must follow.**

**James 2:19** Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

**James 2:20** But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

## **The early church**

In the time of the beginnings of the remnant church, Harvey Kellogg, perhaps the greatest Physician in the world, after having served God for many years at the Battle Creek Sanitarium, in his later years, wrote a book called "The Living Temple." This book was filled with heresy. He postulated that the God dwells in all of us and that we are all God. Oftimes I am amazed at how easily men of wisdom, and great knowledge, are turned so decidedly from the God they once served so faithfully. Sis White, in responding to this book that Kellogg wrote, said the following:  
*Cameron A. Bowen, "The Pillars of Our Faith," June 26, 2010.*

“Whatever your associates may say concerning this book, I take the position now and forever that it is a snare. No union will be formed by our people as a whole upon the theories that you have begun to present in that book. You may regard this forever decided.” {4MR 59.5}

**Then she continued:**

As a people we shall stand firm on the platform that has withstood test and trial. We shall hold to the sure pillars of our faith. The principles of truth that God has revealed to us are our only foundation. They have made us what we are. {4MR 59.5}

**The battle we are engaged in is serious.**

Upon this battle we are now entering--a battle not between rival churches contending for the supremacy, but between the religion of the Bible and the religions of fable and tradition. The agencies which have united against truth are now actively at work. God's Holy Word, which has been handed down to us at so great a cost of suffering and bloodshed, is little valued. There are few who really accept it as the rule of life. Infidelity prevails to an alarming extent, not in the world only, but in the church. Many have come to deny doctrines which are the very pillars of the Christian faith. {PK 625.2}

This ought not to be surprising to us, for we have been warned many years ago that this would take place. In 1904 the servant of the lord wrote the following warning: *Cameron A. Bowen, “The Pillars of Our Faith,” June 26, 2010.*

We will indeed be tested as Job was tested. What God allows, he controls. We must be like Job. *Job 27:6 My righteousness I hold fast, and will not let it go: my heart shall not reproach [me] so long as I live.*

**What motive then does she apply to these individuals who allow nothing to stand in the way of the new movement?**

Those who seek to remove the old landmarks are not holding fast; they are not remembering how they have received and heard. Those who try to bring in theories that would remove the pillars of our faith concerning the sanctuary or concerning the personality of God or of Christ, are working as blind men. They are seeking to bring in uncertainties and to set the people of God adrift without an anchor.  
{Manuscript Release - 760 - Page9.5}

What is indeed reassuring is the rock upon which our faith is built. The tapestry of truth that has been woven though the power the Holy Spirit Himself cannot be done away with by those who

think more highly of themselves than they ought. - *Cameron A. Bowen, "The Pillars of Our Faith," June 26, 2010.*

**In Manuscript Release Volume 3, pages 412 and 413 is recorded the following:**

The leading points of our faith as we hold them today were firmly established. Point after point was clearly defined, and all the brethren came into harmony. {3MR 412.4}  
The whole company of believers were united in the truth. There were those who came in with strange doctrines, but we were never afraid to meet them. Our experience was wonderfully established by the revelation of the Holy Spirit. {3MR 413.1}

**So what kind of counsel does she give regarding this new theology?**

But we must firmly refuse to be drawn away from the platform of eternal truth, which since 1844 has stood the test. {1SM 199.5}

We should not for a moment allow ourselves to be disturbed by the controversies that surround us today. For those who do not have an experiential knowledge of this truth, but who have been taught by others to critically analyze and dissect the word of God instead of accepting by faith that which God has revealed will ultimately drown in their error. - *Cameron A. Bowen, "The Pillars of Our Faith," June 26, 2010.*

**Is was God who gave the truth to his people**

After the passing of the time, God entrusted to His faithful followers the precious principles of present truth. These principles were not given to those who had had no part in the giving of the first and second angels' messages. They were given to the workers who had had a part in the cause from the beginning. {2SM 389.3}

**Here is an amazing quote that provides warm counsel to us in these times.**

Those who passed through these experiences are to be as firm as a rock to the principles that have made us Seventh-day Adventists. They are to be workers together with God, binding up the testimony and sealing the law among His disciples. Those who took part in the establishment of our work upon a foundation of Bible truth, those who know the waymarks that have pointed out the right path, are to be regarded as workers of the highest value. They can speak from personal experience, regarding the truths entrusted to them. These men are not to permit their faith to be changed to infidelity; they are not to permit the banner of the third angel to be taken from their hands. They are to hold the beginning of their confidence firm unto the end. {2SM 389.4}

**2 Timothy 1:13 Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.**

**Truth is, the assault upon God's church is a powerful deception, for the truth upon which this church is built cannot be destroyed. Listen to this:**

We must let the great principles of the third angel's message stand out clear and distinct.  
**The great pillars of our faith will hold all the weight that can be placed upon them.**  
*Letter 207, 1899, p. 2. (To Elder S. N. Haskell and Elder G. A. Irwin, December 15, 1899.) {IMR 53.3}*

I like that statement. It is warm and reassuring. The great pillars of our faith will hold all the weight that can be placed upon them. Oh what weight is being placed upon them now! But thanks be to God that this truth that we have embraced can and will stand all pressures.

*Cameron A. Bowen, "The Pillars of Our Faith," June 26, 2010.*

You either believe that God has led his church, or you don't. There can be no vacillation. The structure of truth, teaching by teaching, hangs together. The creation, the Sabbath, the sacrifice outside the gate of Eden, the Sanctuary service, the investigative judgment, the role of the high priest, the Day of Atonement, the work of Christ in the Holy and the Most Holy Place, the sacrifice for sin, Christ's example of sinlessness, his requirement that we overcome sin, it all hangs together. You either accept it or reject it. Tinkering with it will always lead to rejection of the whole. As it is with God's law, so is it with God's system of doctrine. *Cameron A. Bowen, "The Pillars of Our Faith," June 26, 2010.*

**Matthew 5:18** For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

**Matthew 5:19** Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach [them], the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

### **The truth was established point by point:**

In the early days of the message, when our numbers were few, we studied diligently to understand the meaning of many Scriptures. At times it seemed as if no explanation could be given. My mind seemed to be locked to an understanding of the Word; but when our brethren who had assembled for study came to a point where they could go no farther, and had recourse to earnest prayer, the Spirit of God would rest upon me, and I would be taken off in vision, and be instructed in regard to the relation of Scripture to Scripture. These experiences were repeated over and over again. Thus many truths of the third angel's message were established, point by point. *{3SM 38.2}*

## **So the question must be, how are we to respond when someone seeks to shift the solid ground upon which we stand?**

I saw a company who stood well guarded and firm, giving no countenance to those who would unsettle the established faith of the body. God looked upon them with approbation. I was shown three steps,--the first, second, and third angels' messages. Said my accompanying angel, "Woe to him who shall move a block or stir a pin of these messages. The true understanding of these messages is of vital importance. The destiny of souls hangs upon the manner in which they are received." I was again brought down through these messages, and saw how dearly the people of God had purchased their experience. It had been obtained through much suffering and severe conflict. God had led them along step by step, until He had placed them upon a solid, immovable platform. --*Early Writings, pp. 258, 259. (1858.) {CW 53.1}*

**Revelation 3:14** And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

**Revelation 3:15** I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

**Revelation 3:16** So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

**Revelation 3:17** Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

**Revelation 3:18** 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, and [that] the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

## **Time for the straight testimony**

I asked the meaning of the shaking I had seen, and was shown that it would be caused by the straight testimony called forth by the counsel of the True Witness to the Laodiceans. This will have its effect upon the heart of the receiver, and will lead him to exalt the standard and pour forth the straight truth. Some will not bear this straight testimony. They will rise up against it, and this will cause a shaking among God's people.--*1T 181 (1857). {LDE 175.3}*

## **The question would therefore be: Who is the faithful and true witness?**

**Revelation 3:14** And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

**The Lord calls for a renewal of the straight testimony borne in years past.** He calls for a renewal of spiritual life. The spiritual energies of His people have long been torpid, but there is to be a resurrection from apparent death. By prayer and confession of sin we must clear the King's highway.--*8T 297 (1904). {LDE 176.1}*

**Today people prefer smooth things.**

Tempted souls, whose hearts have ever been at war with the faithful reproving of sin, would cry, Speak unto us smooth things. What disposition will these make of the message of the True Witness to the Laodiceans? There can be no deception here. This message must be borne to a lukewarm church by God's servants. This message must arouse the people of God from their security and dangerous deception in regard to their real standing before God. This testimony, if received, will arouse to action, and lead to self-abasement, and confessions of sins. {RH, September 16, 1873 par. 23}

**Divisions will come in the church.** Two parties will be developed. The wheat and tares grow up together for the harvest.--2SM 114 (1896). {LDE 172.3}

**There will be a shaking of the sieve.** The chaff must in time be separated from the wheat. Because iniquity abounds, the love of many waxes cold. It is the very time when the genuine will be the strongest.--Letter 46, 1887. {LDE 173.1}

The Lord is soon to come. There must be a refining, winnowing process in every church, for there are among us wicked men who do not love the truth or honor God.--RH March 19, 1895. {LDE 173.3}

One thing is certain: Those Seventh-day Adventists who take their stand under Satan's banner will first give up their faith in the warnings and reproofs contained in the Testimonies of God's Spirit.--3SM 84 (1903). {LDE 177.4}

The very last deception of Satan will be to make of none effect the testimony of the Spirit of God. "Where there is no vision, the people perish" (Prov. 29:18). Satan will work ingeniously, in different ways and through different agencies, to unsettle the confidence of God's remnant people in the true testimony.--1SM 48 (1890). {LDE 177.5}

**It is Satan's plan to weaken the faith of God's people in the Testimonies.** Next follows skepticism in regard to the vital points of our faith, the pillars of our position, then doubt as to the Holy Scriptures, and then the downward march to perdition. When the Testimonies, which were once believed, are doubted and given up, Satan knows the deceived ones will not stop at this; and he redoubles his efforts till he launches them into open rebellion, which becomes incurable and ends in destruction.-- 4T 211. {LDE 178.2}

**When the religion of Christ is most held in contempt, when His law is most despised,** then should our zeal be the warmest and our courage and firmness the most unflinching. To stand in defense of truth and righteousness when the majority forsake us, to fight the battles of the Lord when champions are few--this will be our test. At this time we must

gather warmth from the coldness of others, courage from their cowardice, and loyalty from their treason.--*5T 136 (1882). {LDE 180.4}*

**Revelation 12:17** And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

**Perilous times are before us. Every one who has a knowledge of the truth should awake, and place himself, body, soul, and spirit, under the discipline of God. The enemy is on our track. We must be wide awake, on our guard against him. We must put on the whole armor of God. We must follow the directions given through the Spirit of prophecy. We must love and obey the truth for this time. This will save us from accepting strong delusions.** God has spoken to us through His word. He has spoken to us through the testimonies to the church, and through the books that have helped to make plain our present duty and the position we should now occupy. The warnings that have been given, line upon line, precept upon precept, should be heeded. If we disregard them, what excuse can we offer? *{GW 308.1}*

### **Not the first time there was an assault upon the Prophecies of Ellen White**

August 29, 1854, another responsibility was added to our family in the birth of Willie. He took my mind somewhat from the troubles around me. About this time the first number of the paper falsely called the Messenger of Truth was received. Those who slandered us through that paper had been reproved for their faults and errors. They would not bear reproof, and in a secret manner at first, afterward more openly, used their influence against us. *{Christian Experience and Teacher 149.2}*

[THE PUBLISHERS OF THIS PERIODICAL, the Messenger of Truth, HAVING BECOME OFFENDED BY THE STRAIGHT TESTIMONY BORNE BY MRS. WHITE, AND DISAGREEING WITH THE LEADING WRITERS IN THE REVIEW AND HERALD ON POINTS OF DOCTRINE AND CHURCH POLICY, BEGAN A CRUEL WARFARE AGAINST THEIR FORMER BRETHREN, IN WHICH THEY BOASTFULLY PREDICTED THAT THEIR WORK WOULD SUPERSEDE THAT OF THE PUBLISHERS OF THE REVIEW. AFTER ABOUT TWO YEARS, THEY DISAGREED AMONG THEMSELVES, AND THE PERIODICAL DIED FOR LACK OF SUPPORT.]

The Lord had shown me the character and final come-out of that party; that His frown was upon those connected with that paper, and His hand was against them, and although they might appear to prosper for a time, and some honest ones be deceived, yet truth would eventually triumph, and every honest soul would break away from the deception which had held them, and come out clear from the influence of these wicked men; as God's hand was against them, they must go down. *{Christian Experience and Teacher 150.1}*

**2 Thessalonians 3:1** Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have [free] course, and be glorified, even as [it is] with you:

**2 Thessalonians 3:2** And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all [men] have not faith.

**2 Thessalonians 3:3** But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep [you] from evil.

**I came upon some quotes that deal with health reform, and even though this study is not devoted to that subject, it is nevertheless an important part of the straight testimony.**

**Stand Firmly on Health Reform**--Let those who are teachers and leaders in our cause take their stand firmly on Bible ground in regard to health reform, and give a straight testimony to those who believe we are living in the last days of this earth's history. **A line of distinction must be drawn between those who serve God and those who serve themselves.** {*Christian Leadership 75.1*}

**I have been shown that the principles that were given us in the early days** of the message **are as important and should be regarded just as conscientiously today** as they were then. **There are some who have never followed the light given on the question of diet.** It is now time to **take the light from under the bushel and let it shine forth in clear, bright rays.**--*Testimonies, Vol. 9, p. 158. {Christian Leadership 75.2}*

**There are some professed believers who accept certain portions of the Testimonies as the message of God,** while they **reject those portions that condemn their favorite indulgences.** **Such persons are working contrary to their own welfare and the welfare of the church.** It is essential that we **walk in the light while we have the light.** Those who claim to believe in health reform, and yet work counter to its principles in the daily life practice, are **hurting their own souls and are leaving wrong impressions upon the minds of believers and unbelievers.**--*Testimonies, Vol. 9, p. 154. {Christian Leadership 75.3}*

**Persecution will soon be here, and will definitely sift the church.**

**In the absence of the persecution** there have drifted into our ranks men who appear sound and their Christianity unquestionable, but who, **if persecution should arise,** would go out from us.--*Ev 360 (1890). {LDE 174.1}*

When the law of God is made void the church will be sifted by fiery trials, and **a larger proportion** than we now anticipate will give heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils.--*2SM 368 (1891). {LDE 174.2}*

**Now at the present time God designs a new and fresh impetus shall be given to His work. Satan sees this, and he is determined it shall be hindered. He knows that if he can deceive the people who claim to believe present truth, [and make them believe]**

**that the work the Lord designs to do for His people is a removing of the old landmarks, something which they should, with most determined zeal, resist**, then he exults over the deception he has led them to believe. {1888 518.2}{*Counsel to Writers and Editors 30.2*}

- 1 Thessalonians 5:19 Quench not the Spirit.  
1 Thessalonians 5:20 Despise not prophesying.  
1 Thessalonians 5:21 Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.  
1 Thessalonians 5:22 Abstain from all appearance of evil.  
1 Thessalonians 5:23 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and [I pray God] your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### **We need to prepare**

Christians should be preparing for what is soon to break upon the world as an overwhelming surprise, and **this preparation they should make by diligently studying the word of God** and striving to conform their lives to its precepts. **The tremendous issues of eternity demand of us something besides an imaginary religion**, a religion of words and forms, where truth is kept in the outer court. **God calls for a revival and a reformation. The words of the Bible and the Bible alone, should be heard from the pulpit**. But the Bible has been robbed of its power, and the result is seen in a lowering of the tone of spiritual life. **In many sermons of today there is not that divine manifestation which awakens the conscience and brings life to the soul**. The hearers cannot say, "Did not our heart burn within us, while He talked with us by the way, and while He opened to us the Scriptures?" Luke 24:32. **There are many who are crying out for the living God, longing for the divine presence. Let the word of God speak to the heart**. Let those who have heard only tradition and human theories and maxims, hear the voice of Him who can renew the soul unto eternal life. {PK 626.1}

### **The truth in its entirety must be accepted.**

**In rejecting the truth, men reject its Author**. In trampling upon the law of God, they deny the authority of the Law-giver. **It is as easy to make an idol of false doctrines and theories as to fashion an idol of wood or stone**. By misrepresenting the attributes of God, **Satan leads men to conceive of Him in a false character**. With many, **a philosophical idol is enthroned in the place of Jehovah; while the living God**, as He is revealed in His word, in Christ, and in the works of creation, **is worshiped by but few. Thousands deify nature while they deny the God of nature**. **Though in a different form, idolatry exists in the Christian world today as verily as it existed among ancient Israel in the days of Elijah. 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.** {GC 583.1}

## **The waymarks are to be preserved**

We are God's commandment-keeping people. For the past fifty years every phase of heresy has been brought to bear upon us, to becloud our minds regarding the teaching of the Word-- especially concerning the ministration of Christ in the heavenly sanctuary, and the message of Heaven for these last days, as given by the angels of the fourteenth chapter of Revelation. Messages of every order and kind have been urged upon Seventh-day Adventists, to take the place of the truth which, point by point, has been sought out by prayerful study, and testified to by the miracle-working power of the Lord. But the waymarks which have made us what we are, are to be preserved, and they will be preserved, as God has signified through His Word and the testimony of His Spirit. He calls upon us to hold firmly, with the grip of faith, to the fundamental principles that are based upon unquestionable authority. *{ISM 208.2}*

We need to search the Scriptures daily, that we may know the way of the Lord, and that we be not deceived by religious fallacies. The world is full of false theories and seductive spiritualistic ideas, which tend to destroy clear spiritual perception, and to lead away from truth and holiness. Especially at this time do we need to heed the warning, "Let no man deceive you with vain words" (Eph. 5:6). *{ISM 170.1}*

We must be careful lest we misinterpret the Scriptures. The plain teachings of the Word of God are not to be so spiritualized that the reality is lost sight of. Do not overstrain the meaning of sentences in the Bible in an effort to bring forth something odd in order to please the fancy. Take the Scriptures as they read. Avoid idle speculation concerning what will be in the kingdom of heaven.-- *Manuscript 30, 1904.* *{ISM 170.2}*

Men should let God take care of His own Book, His living oracles, as He has done for ages. They begin to question some parts of revelation, and pick flaws in the apparent inconsistencies of this statement and that statement. Beginning at Genesis, they give up that which they deem questionable, and their minds lead on, for Satan will lead to any length they may follow in their criticism, and they see something to doubt in the whole Scriptures. Their faculties of criticism become sharpened by exercise, and they can rest on nothing with a certainty. You try to reason with these men, but your time is lost. They will exercise their power of ridicule even upon the Bible. They even become mockers, and they would be astonished if you put it to them in that light. *{ISM 17.5}*

Brethren, cling to your Bible, as it reads, and stop your criticisms in regard to its validity, and obey the Word, and not one of you will be lost. The ingenuity of men has been exercised for ages to measure the Word of God by their finite minds and limited comprehension. If the Lord, the Author of the living oracles, would throw back the curtain and reveal His wisdom and His glory before them, they would shrink into nothingness and exclaim as did Isaiah, "I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of people of unclean lips" (Isa. 6:5). *{ISM 18.1}*

## **That which God has given to us must be properly used**

**The use which men have made of their capabilities**, by misusing and abusing their God-given talents, **has brought confusion into the world**. **They have left the guardianship of Christ for** the guardianship of the great rebel, **the prince of darkness**. Man alone is accountable for the **strange fire which has been mingled with the sacred**. **The accumulation of many things** which minister to lust and ambition **has brought upon the world the judgment of God**. When in difficulty, **philosophers and the great men of earth desire to satisfy their minds without appealing to God**. **They ventilate their philosophy in regard to the heavens and the earth**, accounting for **plagues, pestilences, epidemics, earthquakes, and famines**, by **their supposed science**. Hundreds of questions relating to creation and providence, they will attempt to solve by saying. This is a law of nature. {FE 409.1}

**Human Philosophy declares that an indefinite period of time was taken in the creation of the world. Does God state the matter thus?** No; He says, "It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever: for in six days [not six indefinite periods of time; for then there would be no possible way for man to observe the day specified in the fourth commandment] the Lord made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day **He rested, and was refreshed.**" Please read carefully the fifth chapter of Deuteronomy. God says again, "Remember [do not forget] the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. . . . For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it." {TM 135.2}

Yet with the living oracles before them, **those who claim to preach the word present the suppositions of human minds, the maxims and commandments of men**. They make void the law of God by their traditions. **The sophistry in regard to the world's being created in an indefinite period** of time **is one of Satan's falsehoods**. **God speaks to the human family in language they can comprehend**. He does not leave the matter so indefinite that human beings can handle it according to their theories. When the Lord declares that He made the world in six days and rested on the seventh day, He means the day of twenty-four hours, which He has marked off by the rising and setting of the sun. {TM 135.3}

The most profound intellects of the world, **when not enlightened by God's Word**, become bewildered and lost while trying to investigate the matters of science and revelation. **The Creator and His works are beyond finite comprehension**, and men conclude that because they cannot explain the works and ways of God from natural causes, the Bible history is not reliable. **Many are so intent upon excluding God from the exercise of sovereign will and power in the established order of the universe, that they demean man, the noblest of His creatures.** The theories and speculations of philosophy would make us believe that man has come by slow degrees, not merely from a savage state, but from the very lowest form of the brute creation. **They destroy man's dignity because they will not admit God's miraculous power.** {7BC 906.12}

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. {Ed 128.2}

The Bible is within the reach of all, but there are few who really accept it as the guide of life. Infidelity prevails to an alarming extent, not in the world merely, but in the church. Many have come to deny doctrines which are the very pillars of the Christian faith. The great facts of creation as presented by the inspired writers, the fall of man, the atonement, and the perpetuity of the law of God, are practically rejected, either wholly or in part, by a large share of the professedly Christian world. Thousands who pride themselves upon their wisdom and independence regard it as an evidence of weakness to place implicit confidence in the Bible; they think it a proof of superior talent and learning to cavil at the Scriptures and to spiritualize and explain away their most important truths. Many ministers are teaching their people, and many professors and teachers are instructing their students, that the law of God has been changed or abrogated; and those who regard its requirements as still valid, to be literally obeyed, are thought to be deserving only of ridicule or contempt. {CC 210.4}

**Ancient Infidelity.**--The dwellers on the plain of Shinar disbelieved God's covenant that he would not again bring a flood upon the earth. Many of them denied the existence of God, and attributed the flood to the operation of natural causes. Others believed in a supreme being, and that it was he who had destroyed the antediluvian world; and their hearts, like that of Cain, rose up in rebellion against him. One object before them in the erection of the tower of Babel was to secure their own safety in case of another deluge. By carrying the structure to a much greater height than was reached by the waters of the flood, they thought to place themselves beyond all possibility of danger. And as they would be able to ascend to the region of the clouds, they hoped to ascertain the cause of the flood. The whole undertaking was designed to exalt still further the pride of its projectors, and to turn the minds of future generations away from God, and lead them into idolatry. --"Patriarchs and Prophets," p. 119.

The world today takes much satisfaction in talking of the progress of the age. But in this God does not delight. It may be said of the men of this time, as of those before the flood, They have sought out many inventions. In the antediluvian world there were many wonderful works of art and science. These descendants of Adam, fresh from the hand of God, possessed capabilities and powers that we never now look upon. {CC 34.4}

To the long-lived, antediluvian race, only a step from paradise, God gave rich gifts, and they possessed a strength of body and mind of which men now have but a faint idea; but they used His bounties, and the strength and skill He gave them, for selfish purposes, to minister to unlawful appetites, and to gratify pride. They expelled God from their thoughts; they despised

His law; trampled His standard of character in the dust. They reveled in sinful pleasure, corrupting their ways before God, and corrupting one another. Violence and crime filled the earth. Neither the marriage relation nor the rights of property were respected; and the cries of the oppressed entered into the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. By beholding evil, men became changed into its image, until God could bear with their wickedness no longer, and they were swept away by the flood. *{FE 421.3}*

**Contest Over Distinguishing Truth.**--The time is near when the deceptive powers of satanic agencies will be fully developed. On one side is Christ, who has been given all power in heaven and earth. On the other side is Satan, continually exercising his power to allure, to deceive with strong, spiritualistic sophistries, to remove God out of the places that He should occupy in the minds of men. *{Ev 224.4}*

### **The Sanctuary Doctrine:**

**The Foundation of Our Faith.**--The correct understanding of the ministration in the heavenly sanctuary is the foundation of our faith.--*Letter 208, 1906.* *{Ev 221.2}*

**The Center of Christ's Atoning Work.**--The subject of the sanctuary and the investigative judgment should be clearly understood by the people of God. All need a knowledge for themselves of the position and work of their great High Priest. Otherwise, it will be impossible for them to exercise the faith which is essential at this time, or to occupy the position which God designs them to fill. Every individual has a soul to save or to lose. Each has a case pending at the bar of God. Each must meet the great Judge face to face. How important, then, that every mind contemplate often the solemn scene when the judgment shall sit and the books shall be opened, when, with Daniel, every individual must stand in his lot, at the end of the days. *{Ev 221.3}*

**The Key to a Complete System of Truth.**--The subject of the sanctuary was the key which unlocked the mystery of the disappointment of 1844. It opened to view a complete system of truth, connected and harmonious, showing that God's hand had directed the great advent movement, and revealing present duty as it brought to light the position and work of His people.-*-The Great Controversy, p. 423, (1888)* *{Ev 222.2}*

**The Central Truth in a Simple Theology.**--In every school established the most simple theory of theology should be taught. In this theory, the atonement of Christ should be the great substance, the central truth. The wonderful theme of redemption should be presented to the students.--*Manuscript 156, 1898.* *{Ev 223.2}*

**Eyes Fixed on Sanctuary.**--As a people, we should be earnest students of prophecy; we should not rest until we become intelligent in regard to the subject of the sanctuary, which is brought out in the visions of Daniel and John. This subject sheds great light on our present position and work, and gives us unmistakable proof that God has led us in our past experience. It explains our disappointment in 1844, showing us that the sanctuary to be cleansed was not the

earth, as we had supposed, but that Christ then entered into the most holy apartment of the heavenly sanctuary, and is there performing the closing work of His priestly office, in fulfillment of the words of the angel to the prophet Daniel, "Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed." *{Ev 222.3}*

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

### **Satan works against the Sanctuary**

Satan is striving continually to bring in fanciful suppositions in regard to the sanctuary, degrading the wonderful representations of God and the ministry of Christ for our salvation into something that suits the carnal mind. He removes its presiding power from the hearts of believers, and supplies its place with fantastic theories invented to make void the truths of the atonement, and destroy our confidence in the doctrines which we have held sacred since the third angel's message was first given. Thus he would rob us of our faith in the very message that has made us a separate people, and has given character and power to our work.--*Special Testimonies, Series B, No. 7, p. 17. (1905) {Ev 225.1}*

**False Theories Regarding the Sanctuary.**--In the future, deception of every kind is to arise, and we want solid ground for our feet. We want solid pillars for the building. Not one pin is to be removed from that which the Lord has established. The enemy will bring in false theories, such as the doctrine that there is no sanctuary. This is one of the points on which there will be a departing from the faith. Where shall we find safety unless it be in the truths that the Lord has been giving for the last fifty years?--*Review and Herald, May 25, 1905. {Ev 224.3}*