



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: This business of Readiness – p2

1 Corinthians 1:26 For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, [are called]:

1 Corinthians 1:27 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;

1 Corinthians 1:28 And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, [yea], and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:

1 Corinthians 1:29 That no flesh should glory in his presence.

1 Corinthians 1:30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

1 Corinthians 1:31 That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.

1 Corinthians 1:26 For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, [are called]:

Why Lack of Success.--In the pride of worldly wisdom and worldly ambition, may be found the reason that the work of the gospel, notwithstanding its boundless resources, meets with so little success comparatively. Our Saviour rejoiced in spirit and offered thanks to God as He thought of how the value of truth, though hidden from the wise and prudent, is revealed to babes--those who realize their weakness and feel their dependence on Him.--*Manuscript 118, 1902.* {Ev 333.2}

It is the absence of the Holy Spirit and of the grace of God that makes the gospel ministry so powerless to convict and convert. {4T 378.1}

This blunt assessment of the apparent lack of power demonstrated by those who carry the gospel causes one to shudder. The many methods and techniques developed and implemented over the years have often brought an increase in numbers, but have failed to **convict and to convert**. The modern, insipid, and useless concept of **church growth**, has replaced the biblical concept of **discipleship**, satisfying **a production type quota system**, rather than enlarging **the citizenship of heaven**. *Cameron A. Bowen, "Thoughts on His Coming," June 12, 2010.*

John 8:31 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, **If ye continue in my word, [then] are ye my disciples indeed;**



Professing without implementing

Very many follow on in their own ways and indulge their sinful desires and yet **profess to be disciples of Christ**. They have **never submitted their hearts to God**. Like the foolish virgins they have neglected to obtain the oil of grace in their vessels with their lamps. I tell you, my brethren, that **a large number who profess to believe and even to teach the truth are under the bondage of sin**. Base passions defile the mind and corrupt the soul. **Some who are in the vilest iniquity have borrowed the livery of heaven, that they may serve Satan more effectively**. {5T 219.4}

There are some of you who might be unacquainted with the word ‘livery.’ Those of you who live in metropolitan areas might be acquainted with ‘livery cabs.’ This, however, would not be the correct application.

Note the definition found in Free Dictionary.com:

Liv·er·y

1. A **distinctive uniform worn** by the servants of a household.

2. The **distinctive dress worn** by the members of a particular group; uniform:

What therefore the servant of the lord is saying is that; some who are in the vilest iniquity have dressed up in the external; uniform of heaven that they might be more effectively be the servants of satan. Let me hasten to say that this is not my evaluation of the situation, but rather it is the evaluation of the servant of the lord. Let me therefore quote here again: *Cameron A. Bowen, "Thoughts on His Coming," June 12, 2010*

Some who are in the vilest iniquity have borrowed the livery of heaven, that they may serve Satan more effectively. {5T 219.4}

1 Corinthians 1: 26 is extremely explicit:

1 Corinthians 1:26 For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, [are called]:

After the ascension of Jesus, **doctors, lawyers, priests, rulers, scribes, and theologians listened with astonishment** to words of wisdom and power from **unlearned and humble men**. These wise men marveled at **the success of the lowly disciples**, and **finally accounted for it to their own satisfaction from the fact that they had been with Jesus and learned of Him**. Their character and the simplicity of their teachings were similar to the character and teachings of Christ. {4T 378.1}

The amazing thing about some of these doctors, lawyers, priests, rulers, scribes and theologians is that, **even though they were astonished and impressed**, even though some of them admitted that indeed the wisdom demonstrated by these humble men came from Jesus, **their pride and prestige would not allow them the humility necessary to become followers of Jesus themselves**. The very character that they admired because of its simplicity, they were apparently incapable of accepting as a reasonable alternative to the one that they had spent so much time and, no doubt, money developing. **So instead of turning to Christ, they worked against Him**. It would almost seem reasonable to believe that the wisdom and learning of the world becomes a



barrier to the simple truths of the word of God. *Cameron A. Bowen, "Thoughts on His Coming," June 12, 2010*

In fact DA 354 says: Man's inventions often counterwork God's plans! Here is the quote.

Continuing His instruction to His disciples, Jesus said, "Beware of men." They were not to put implicit confidence in those who knew not God, and open to them their counsels; for this would give Satan's agents an advantage. **Man's inventions often counterwork God's plans.** Those who build the temple of the Lord are to build according to the pattern shown in the mount,--the divine similitude. **God is dishonored and the gospel is betrayed when His servants depend on the counsel of men** who are not under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. **Worldly wisdom is foolishness with God. Those who rely upon it will surely err.** {DA 354.1}

That sentence that I just read for you brings to mind a quotation on the matter of man's inventions. Here it is:

The greater the length of time the earth has lain under the curse, the more difficult has it been for man to cultivate it, and make it productive. As the soil has become more barren, and double labor has had to be expended upon it, God has raised up men with inventive faculties to construct implements to lighten labor on the land groaning under the curse. **But God has not been in all man's inventions. Satan has controlled the minds of men to a great extent, and has hurried men to new inventions which has led them to forget God.** (4Spiritual Gifts 154-156). {IBC 1089.7}

I am by no means suggesting that you abandon the use of those things that assist you with your daily tasks. I am merely pointing out to you the danger of trusting the so-called genius of invention to the ignoring of the controlling power of Him who rules the universe. *Cameron A. Bowen, "Thoughts on His Coming," June 12, 2010*

False science would have you believe that we are evolving from the hunter gatherers of some prehistoric times to some sort of ultra intelligent being who has found or will find the answers to just about everything. The fact is, **we have no answers without Christ.** In fact **we do not even know what the questions are except we know Christ.** *Cameron A. Bowen, "Thoughts on His Coming," June 12, 2010.*

The truth is exactly the opposite regarding where we are today.

In strength of intellect, men who now live can bear no comparison to the ancients. There have been more ancient arts lost than the present generation now possess. For skill and art those living in this degenerate age will not compare with the knowledge possessed by strong men who lived near one thousand years. (4SG 154-156).{IBC 1089.8}



In the schools

In the study of science, as generally pursued, there are dangers equally great. Evolution and its kindred errors are taught in schools of every grade, from the kindergarten to the college. **Thus the study of science, which should impart a knowledge of God, is so mingled with the speculations and theories of men that it tends to infidelity.** {Ed 227.3}

In the seminaries

Even Bible study, as too often conducted in the schools, is robbing the world of the priceless treasure of the word of God. The work of "**higher criticism**," in **dissecting, conjecturing, reconstructing**, is destroying faith in the Bible as a divine revelation; it is robbing God's word of power to control, uplift, and inspire human lives. {Ed 227.4}

Listen to how worldly wisdom is described.

Many accept the reasoning of these **would-be wise men as truth**, when in fact it undermines the very foundations which God has laid. Such teachers are the ones described by inspiration, **who must become fools in their own estimation, that they may be wise**. God has chosen the foolish things of this world to confound the wise. **By those who are guided only by human wisdom, the simplicity of His mighty workings is called foolishness. They think themselves wiser than their Creator, when in fact they are victims of finite ignorance and childish conceit.** It is this that holds them in the darkness of unbelief, so that they do not discern the power of God, and tremble before Him (ST Jan. 19, 1882). {2BC 1011.6}

This is why not many mighty, not many noble are called.

The truth is to go forth as a lamp that burneth. The Lord will call men of high and low degree to do His bidding. The prophet Daniel was a man of royal birth and noble heritage. **Not many mighty, not many noble, are called. Yet we know that the Lord has chosen men from the highest ranks.** On them the light of heaven has shone, and they have adorned by their practice the truth of Jehovah. **Isaiah and Daniel were of royal birth. David was called from the sheepfold to the throne of Israel; Amos was a herdsman; Zechariah, a captive from Babylon; Elisha, a plowman.** So the Lord calls men from all ranks to enter His service. --Letter 96, 1901 {MR311 45.1}

Power from on high is needed

Those who teach unpopular truth today must have power from on high to combine with their doctrine, or their efforts will be of little account. **The precious grace of humility is sadly wanting in the ministry and the church. Men who preach the truth think too highly of their own abilities. True humility will lead a man to exalt Christ and the truth, and to realize his utter dependence upon the God of truth. It is painful to**



learn lessons of humility, yet nothing is more beneficial in the end. The pain attendant upon learning lessons of humility is in consequence of our being elated by a false estimate of ourselves, so that we are unable to see our great need. Vanity and pride fill the hearts of men. God's grace alone can work a reformation. {4T 378.2}

Hearts are not humble

The Lord would do great things for the workers, but their hearts are not humble. Should the Lord work in them, they would become lifted up, filled with self-esteem, and would demerit their brethren.--*Review and Herald, July 12, 1887. {Ev 333.1}*

We flatter ourselves

We may flatter ourselves, as did Nicodemus, that our moral character has been correct and we need not humble ourselves before God like the common sinner. But we must be content to enter into life in the very same way as the chief of sinners. We must renounce our own righteousness and plead for the righteousness of Christ to be imputed to us. We must depend wholly upon Christ for our strength. Self must die. We must acknowledge that all we have is from the exceeding riches of divine grace. Let this be the language of our hearts: "Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto Thy name give glory, for Thy mercy, and for Thy truth's sake." {5T 219.3}

Warnings despised

The reproofs, the cautions, the corrections of the Lord, have been given to His church in all ages of the world. These warnings were despised and rejected in Christ's day by the self-righteous Pharisees, who claimed that they needed no such reproof and were unjustly dealt with. They would not receive the word of the Lord through His servants because it did not please their inclinations. Should the Lord give a vision right before this class of people in our day, pointing out their mistakes, rebuking their self-righteousness and condemning their sins, they would rise up in rebellion, like the inhabitants of Nazareth when Christ showed them their true condition. {5T 689.1}

Listen to this!!

If these persons do not humble their hearts before God, if they harbor the suggestions of Satan, doubt and infidelity will take possession of the soul, and they will see everything in a false light. **Let the seeds of doubt once be sown in their hearts and they will have an abundant harvest to reap. They will come to mistrust and disbelieve truths which are plain and full of beauty to others who have not educated themselves in unbelief. Those who train the mind to seize upon everything which they can use as a peg to hang a doubt upon, and suggest these thoughts to other minds, will always find occasion to doubt. They will question and criticize everything that arises in the unfolding of truth, criticize the work and position of others, criticize every branch of the work in which they have not themselves a part. They will feed upon the errors and mistakes and faults of others, "until,"**



said the angel, the Lord Jesus shall rise up from His mediatorial work in the heavenly sanctuary and shall clothe Himself with the garments of vengeance and surprise them at their unholy feast, and they will find themselves unprepared for the marriage supper of the Lamb." Their taste has been so perverted that they would be inclined to criticize even the table of the Lord in His kingdom. {5T 689.2}

The hidden ones

God's people will be composed mostly of persons from the common walks of life. Through our large cities there are many in lowly circumstances who are serving the Lord in singleness of heart, according to the best light which shines upon their pathway. They are hidden ones, for their life is hid with Christ in God. They have an humble opinion of their merits, and yet they love Jesus according to the knowledge they have of him, and put their trust in him as their personal Savior. They have had no opportunity to understand the philosophy of theology, and are not wise in worldly wisdom; yet they know enough to love Jesus, and Jesus loves them. {ST, August 7, 1893 par. 2}

I love that description of the hidden ones. Hidden, first and foremost, from the enemy of souls, who would love to identify them so that he might direct all of his energies against them to derail their faith and to bankrupt their salvation. Those hidden ones are also hidden from the rest who think so highly of themselves that they look might just look down upon those very souls who are so highly regarded in heaven. *Cameron A. Bowen, "Thoughts on His Coming," June 12, 2010*

Psalms 139:23 Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:

Psalms 139:24 And see if [there be any] wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

2 Chronicles 7:14 says:- If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

But who ARE God's people? Ezekiel 36: 27-29 explains.

Ezekiel 36:27 and I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do [them].

Ezekiel 36:28 and ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.

Ezekiel 36:29 I will also save you from all your uncleannesses: and I will call for the corn, and will increase it, and lay no famine upon you.

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.

This act of cleansing referred to in Ezekiel 36: 27-29 is the act of making ready.



State of Readiness

The state of readiness is a state of complete preparedness; Prepared to meet Christ when he comes; prepared to deal with any and all circumstances that you may encounter in life; prepared to be a citizen of heaven. This preparation is done by Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. That level of preparation requires a complete transformation of character.

Transformation of character is achieved through the climbing of that ladder we talked about as found in **2 Peter 1: 5-8**.

2 Peter 1:5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

2 Peter 1:6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

2 Peter 1:7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

2 Peter 1:8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make [you, that ye shall] neither [be] barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The quote found in AA 530 describes the ladder.

“The apostle presents before the believers the ladder of Christian progress, every step of which represents advancement in the knowledge of God, and in the climbing of which there is to be no standstill. **Faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity are the rounds of the ladder.** We are saved by climbing round after round, mounting step after step, to the height of Christ's ideal for us. Thus He is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption.” {AA 530.1}

Notice that the end of that quotation is itself a quote taken from **1 Corinthians 1:30**

1 Corinthians 1:30 says: - But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

Four words used in that text are important.

Wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption

1. **Wisdom:** When the Spirit of God controls the mind and heart, it turns the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just. {RH, June 21, 1892 par. 6}
2. **Righteousness:** “When you take the righteousness of Christ as a free gift you are justified freely through the redemption of Christ. Faith is rendering to God the intellectual powers, abandonment of the mind and will to God, and making Christ the only door to enter into the kingdom of heaven. {Faith and Works 25.2}
3. **Sanctification:** Day by day, and hour by hour, there must be a vigorous process of self-denial and of sanctification going on within; and then the outward works will testify that Jesus is abiding in the heart by faith. Sanctification does not close the avenues of the soul



to knowledge, but it expands the mind, to inspire it to search for truth, as for hidden treasure; and the knowledge of God's will advances the work of sanctification. *{Christian Education 114.1}*

4. **Redemption: All the redeemed saints** will see and appreciate as never before the love of the Father and the Son, and **songs of praise will burst forth from immortal tongues**. He loved us, He gave His life for us. **With glorified bodies**, with enlarged capacities, with hearts made pure, with lips undefiled, we shall sing the riches of redeeming love. *{Mar 318.3}*

In order for a complete transformation to take place, we must be **completely surrendered**. *Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*

Then, and only then, will that complete transformation of character be accomplished.

Psalm 127:1 says:- Except the LORD build the house, they labor in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.

All this however, depends upon one fundamental quality. If that quality is missing, the entire project is impossible. That quality is **HUMILITY**.

James 4:10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

This is why God has stated over and over again through his servant that **the humble are his hidden ones**.

He who lives nearest to Jesus shines the brightest. And **let us thank God that the Master has His hidden ones**, who are not recognized by the world, but whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life. The luster of **the tiniest gem** in God's casket will glorify Him. There are many . . . who during this life do not seem to be particularly honored. But the Lord sees those who serve Him [Mal. 3:17 quoted] (*Letter 94, 1903*).

Malachi 3:17 and they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.

How does God describe these tiny gems? Who are these hidden ones?

In humble ways they have done according to their ability what they could to bless others, and they will be surprised when the heavenly benediction is spoken upon them by the Heavenly Master: "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat; I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink; I was a stranger, and ye took me in; naked, and ye clothed me; I was sick, and ye visited me; I was in prison, and ye came unto me." *{ST, August 7, 1893 par. 2}*



Forgive me as I continue for a moment the theme of **'the hidden ones,'** for I am struck by the power of its revelation. Listen to this quote as found in *{5T 81.2}*

The hidden ones

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}*

Why will these trees referred to be cut down?

Psalms 1:3 and he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

This is God's intention and expectation having given to us so many great privileges. Having sustained us, and protected us. In His mercy he has allowed challenges and trials to come so that we might develop strong spiritual muscles. But instead some will squander the blessings that God has provided, choosing rather to pillage from the garbage of the world. Twice he repeats the same desire of his heart. In Jeremiah 17: 8 he sends the same message.

Jeremiah 17:8 For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and [that] spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.

Christ Object Lessons, page 285 in dealing with the matter of says:

The husbandman chooses a piece of land from the wilderness; he fences, clears, and tills it, and plants it with choice vines, expecting a rich harvest. So God had chosen a people from the world to be trained and educated by Christ. The prophet says, "The vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah His pleasant plant." Isa. 5:7. Upon this people God had bestowed great privileges, blessing them richly from His abundant goodness. He looked for them to honor Him by yielding fruit. *{COL 285.1}*



Mark 11: 13-14 describes what happened with Israel

Mark 11:13 And seeing a fig tree afar off having leaves, he came, if haply he might find any thing thereon: and when he came to it, he found nothing but leaves; for the time of figs was not [yet].

Mark 11:14 And Jesus answered and said unto it, No man eat fruit of thee hereafter for ever. And his disciples heard [it].

Luke 13:7 describes the final sentence of the barren fig tree:

Luke 13:7 *“Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground?”*

Trees that grow no fruit will be cut down. God will not permit that they cumber the ground. Especially those trees that receive constant nourishment, yet without result.

Matthew 23:12 And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.

Those who are now first, who have been untrue to the cause of God, will soon be last, unless they repent. Unless they speedily fall upon the Rock and be broken, and be born again, the spirit that has been cherished will continue to be cherished. Mercy's sweet voice will not be recognized by them. Bible religion, in private and in public, is with them a thing of the past. They have been zealously declaiming against enthusiasm and fanaticism. Faith that calls upon God to relieve human suffering, faith that God has enjoined upon His people to exercise, is called fanaticism. But if there is anything upon the earth that should inspire men with sanctified zeal, it is the truth as it is in Jesus. It is the grand, great work of redemption. It is Christ, made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption. {TM 80.1}

Who then will be **these hidden ones**? Not just those of us who speak, but those of you who just listen. You are also the hidden ones who hold no office or have never stood before your congregation. You love your lord as much or more than all of those who speak and sing. But in your heart you feel unsure of what to say and what to do. You pray and study in the quiet moments of your life. You lift your brethren up in prayer, and intercede for those in need, for family and friends. **You** weep with those who mourn and laugh with those who laugh. You share the little that you have and never have complained. And God has always come through for you in sunshine and in rain. **You** are the hidden ones described. God calls you, “the hidden ones” to submit, prepare and be made ready for that day when the unfruitful trees will be cut down, and you will be brought to the forefront. *Cameron A. Bowen, "Thoughts on His Coming," June 12, 2010*

Romans 8:28 says: - and we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to [his] purpose.



I know a man who should have known better, who stood in the desk one Sabbath morning and actually tried to explain that Romans 8:28 does not literally mean that **“all things work together for good.”** That man is now in a position of authority, and still stands behind the desk. I can only pray that he no longer believes that. Whether he still doubts God’s word or not, Romans 8: 28 is clear. Those who are called by God are allowed to pass through challenges that they might be purged, cleansed and readied. *Cameron A. Bowen, "Thoughts on His Coming," June 12, 2010*

1 Peter 4:12 says: - beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

The trials that we encounter each day are by no means accidental. **Romans 5: 3-5 says:**

Romans 5:3 And not only [so], but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;

Romans 5:4 and patience, experience; and experience, hope:

Romans 5:5 and hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

Those trials we face, and overcome, will produce patience. Patience; that is, the ability to wait on God, to wait on God because of our unshakable faith in Him. That patience will produce experience; and because we have developed experience our hope is strengthened, and becomes unshakable. *Cameron A. Bowen, "Thoughts on His Coming," June 12, 2010*

The time is fast approaching when God will need His hidden ones.

This is the work that is before us. We are to have the faith that works by love, and purifies the soul. Through faith our lives are to be hid with Christ in God. **We shall then be God's hidden ones;** for the value of Christian character is not discerned by the world. **The living stones that shine in the spiritual temple of the Lord are a great annoyance to satan,** and he ever seeks to cut off the light, and eclipse the Sun of Righteousness, by interposing his shadow between the soul and God. *{ST, May 2, 1892 par. 10}*

So how will God work I these last days?

Let me tell you that the Lord will work in this last work in a manner very much out of the **common** order of things, and in a way that will be contrary to any human planning. There will be those among us who will always want to control the work of God, to dictate even what movements shall be made when the work goes forward under the direction of the angel who joins the third angel in the message to be given to the world. **God will use ways and means by which it will be seen that He is taking the reins in His own hands.** The workers will be surprised by the simple means that He will use to bring about and perfect His work of righteousness.--*TM 300 (1885). {LDE 203.3}*



What God has done before, he will do again.

He will raise up from among the common people men and women to do His work, even as of old. He called fishermen to be His disciples. There will soon be an awakening that will surprise many. Those who do not realize the necessity of what is to be done will be passed by, and the heavenly messengers will work with those who are called the common people, fitting them to carry the truth to many places.--*15MR 312 (1905).*

The life of Abraham is a strong example.

God designed that Abraham should be a channel of light and blessing, that he should have a gathering influence, and that God should have a people on the earth. Abraham was to be in the world, reflecting in his life the character of Jesus. When he received the divine call, Abraham was not a man of renown, neither a lawgiver, nor a conqueror. He was a simple herdsman, dwelling in tents, but employing a large number of workmen to carry on his humble employment. And the honor which he received was because of his faithfulness to God, his strict integrity and just dealing. *{YI, March 4, 1897 par. 6}*

God will teach

In the last solemn work few great men will be engaged. . . . God will work a work in our day that but few anticipate. He will raise up and exalt among us those who are taught rather by the unction of His Spirit than by the outward training of scientific institutions. These facilities are not to be despised or condemned; they are ordained of God, but they can furnish only the exterior qualifications. God will manifest that He is not dependent on learned, self-important mortals.--*5T 80, 82 (1882).* *{LDE 204.3}*

1 Corinthians 1:27 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;

Many of the greatest scholars and statesmen, the world's most eminent men, will in these last days turn from the light because the world by wisdom knows not God. Yet God's servants are to improve every opportunity to communicate the truth to these men. Some will acknowledge their ignorance of the things of God and will take their place as humble learners at the feet of Jesus, the Master Teacher. *{AA 241.3}*

The laborers will be qualified rather by the unction of His Spirit than by the training of literary institutions. Men of faith and prayer will be constrained to go forth with holy zeal, declaring the words which God gives them.--*GC 606 (1911).* *{LDE 205.3}*

Those who receive Christ as a personal Savior will stand the test and trial of these last days. Strengthened by unquestioning faith in Christ, even the illiterate disciple will be



able to withstand the doubts and questions that infidelity can produce, and put to blush the sophistries of scorners. {LDE 205.4}

God's workers will be taught by him.

The Lord Jesus will give the disciples a tongue and wisdom that their adversaries can neither gainsay nor resist. Those who could not, by reasoning, overcome satanic delusions will bear an affirmative testimony that will baffle supposedly learned men. Words will come from the lips of the unlearned with such convincing power and wisdom that conversions will be made to the truth. Thousands will be converted under their testimony. {LDE 205.5}

Why should the illiterate man have this power, which the learned man has not? The illiterate one, through faith in Christ, has come into the atmosphere of pure, clear truth, while the learned man has turned away from the truth. The poor man is Christ's witness. He cannot appeal to histories or to so-called high science, but he gathers from the Word of God powerful evidence. The truth that he speaks under the inspiration of the Spirit is so pure and remarkable and carries with it a power so indisputable that his testimony cannot be gainsaid.--8MR 187, 188 (1905). {LDE 206.1}

The angels of heaven are moving upon human minds to arouse investigation in the themes of the Bible. A far greater work will be done than has yet been done and none of the glory of it will flow to men, for angels that minister to those who shall be heirs of salvation are working night and day.--CW 140 (1875). {LDE 207.1}

When divine power is combined with human effort, the work will spread like fire in the stubble. God will employ agencies whose origin man will be unable to discern. Angels will do a work which men might have had the blessing of accomplishing had they not neglected to answer the claims of God.--ISM 118 (1885). {LDE 207.3}

One of the most amazing quotations I have ever read!

Time is short, and there are but few workers in the vineyard of the Lord. Several have been sent from this part of the world to be educated at Battle Creek, in order that they may become laborers together with God. It was hoped that the Holy Spirit would work with them for the salvation of those who are in the shadow of death. **These students have been supported by the sacrifices of men and women who, to my certain knowledge, have hired money to pay the tuition and to cover the expenses.** The world is to be warned; **and yet you have thought it necessary to consume time and money in making an unnecessarily large preparation for the work that these students may be called upon to do.** {FE 353.1}

Continuing that quotation:

Those who are directing in the work of education are placing too large an amount of study before those who have come to Battle Creek to fit up for the work of the Master. They have supposed that it was necessary for them to go deeper and deeper into educational lines; and while they are pursuing various courses of study, year after year of precious time is passing away, and golden opportunities are flitting by never to return. There is procrastination in setting these men



to work; and **students are losing their burden for souls, and are depending more and more upon an education in book-knowledge, rather than upon the efficiency of the Holy Spirit, and upon that which the Lord has promised to do for them.** {FE 353.2}

I have often wondered why so many of those who should be the ones to give counsel to the youth, seem unwilling to direct these young minds in the direction that God requires when dealing with this matter of higher education for workers. It would appear that this particular counsel does not fit their personal view, and because of this they prefer to neglect their duty rather than fulfill their obligation. *Cameron A. Bowen, "Thoughts on His Coming," June 12, 2010*

Listen to this:

Do not encourage students, who come to you burdened for the work of saving their fellow men, to enter upon course after course of study. Do not lengthen out the time for obtaining an education to many years. By this course they suppose that there is time enough, and this very plan proves a snare to their souls. **Many are better prepared, have more spiritual discrimination and knowledge of God, and know more of His requirements,** when they enter upon a course of study **than when they graduate.** They become inspired with an ambition to become learned men, **and are encouraged to add to their studies until they become infatuated.** {FE 355.1}

They make their books their idol, and are willing to sacrifice health and spirituality in order to obtain an education. They limit the time which they should devote to prayer, and fail to improve the opportunities which they have had to do good, and do not communicate light and knowledge. They **fail to put to use the knowledge which they have already obtained,** and **do not advance in the science of winning souls.** Missionary work becomes less and less desirable, while the passion to excel in book-knowledge increases abnormally. In pursuing their studies, **they separate from the God of wisdom. Some congratulate them on their advance, and encourage them to take degree after degree, even though they are less qualified to do the work of God after Christ's manner of instruction than they were before they entered the school at Battle Creek.** {FE 355.1}

If you see that students are in danger of becoming engrossed in their studies to such an extent as to neglect the study of that Book which gives them information as to how to secure the future welfare of their souls, then do not present the temptation of going deeper, of protracting the time for educational discipline. In this way all that will make the student's education of value to the world will be sunk out of sight. Christ Jesus is to be loved more and more; **but some have gone to Battle Creek in the pursuit of education, when, had they remained away, they would have been far better prepared for the work of God.** They would have carried it forward in simplicity, in the manner in which Christ labored. **They would have depended more upon God and upon the power of the Holy Spirit, and far less upon their education. Long periods of continual study are injurious to physical, mental, and moral well-being.** {FE 357.2}

Students that exalt the sciences above the God of science, will be ignorant when they think themselves very wise. **If you cannot afford time to pray, cannot give time for communion with God, for self-examination, and do not appreciate that wisdom which comes alone from**



God all your learning will be deficient, and your schools and colleges will be found wanting.
{FE 358.1}

The Holy Spirit of God has been striving with many youth, and has been urging them to give themselves to the cause and work of God. When they offer themselves to the Conference, they are advised to take a course of study at Battle Creek before they shall enter the work. This is all very well if the student is evenly balanced with principle; but it is not consistent that the worker should be long delayed in preparation. **They cannot afford to wait until their education is considered complete.** This can never be attained; **for there will be a constant course of education carried on throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity.** *{FE 358.2}*

Mark the features of Christ's work. He moved in the greatest simplicity. Although His followers were fishermen, **He did not advise them to go first into the school of the rabbis before entering upon the work.** He called His disciples from their fishers' nets, and said: "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." He called Matthew from the receipt of customs, and said, "Follow Me." All that they were required to do was to follow Jesus, to do as He commanded them, and thus enter into His school, where God could be their teacher. **As long as time shall last, we shall have need of schools.** There will always be need for education; **but we must be careful lest education shall absorb every spiritual interest.** *{FE 359.2}*

There is positive peril in advising students to pursue one line of education after another, and to leave them to think that by so doing they will attain perfection. **The education that will be obtained will only be deficient in every way.** The Lord says: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?" *{FE 359.3}*

Instead of sending them forth as laborers after they have put in months and years at the College, they are advised to take other studies, and to make progress along additional lines. **They are counseled to spend months and years in institutions where the truth is denied and controverted, and where error of a most specious, unscriptural character is insidiously introduced.** These doctrines become mingled with their studies. *{FE 361.2}*

This advanced preparation which keeps talent out of the field gives no chance for the Lord to work with His workers. **Many are led to occupy time, talent, and means selfishly in obtaining an advanced education, and at the same time the world is perishing for the knowledge which they could impart.** Christ called the unlearned fishermen, and gave these men knowledge and wisdom to such a degree that their adversaries could not gainsay or resist their words. Their testimony has gone to the uttermost parts of the earth. *{FE 362.1}*

Those quotations speak for themselves. There is really nothing left to say. It is not surprising that those who will be called to finish this work are described as **humble instruments.**



Through Humble Instruments.--As the time comes for the message of the third angel to be given with greatest power, the Lord will work through humble instruments, leading the minds of those who consecrate themselves to His service. *The Great Controversy, p. 606. (1888)*

But I speak not my own words when I say that God's Spirit will pass by those who have had their day of test and opportunity, but who have not distinguished the voice of God or appreciated the movings of His Spirit. Then thousands in the eleventh hour will see and acknowledge the truth. *{2SM 16.1}*

The eleventh hour workers

At the eleventh hour, when the work grows harder and the people are more hardened, there will be a variety of talent brought in. These workers will prove faithful and receive their penny. Sacrificing men will step into the places made vacant by those who would not be fitted for a place in the heavenly temple. These resources will continue to come in. The Lord will provide openings and facilities. He will call upon the youth to fill up the places made vacant by deaths and apostasies. *{10MR 170.3}*

He will give young men and women, as well as those who are older, the cooperation of the heavenly intelligences. They will have converted characters, converted minds, converted hands, converted feet, and converted tongues. Their lips will be touched with a living coal from the divine altar. If they will learn the lesson of walking humbly before God, if they will not seek to invent new plans, but will do that which the Lord has appointed them to do, they will be enabled to carry God's plan onward and upward without narrowing it. . . *{10MR 170.3}*

God is calling for volunteers, for men who will not turn away from the truth they have strenuously advocated for years to advocate erroneous doctrines. Because some have not been diligent students, because they do not understand the true reasons of the genuine faith, there will be no less power or fewer laborers. Others will take the places made vacant in the ranks, who will be receptive and who will appreciate the sacred character of truth. *{10MR 170.2}*

When the crisis comes, many will be prepared to make right decisions, even in the face of the formidable difficulties that will be brought about through the deceptive miracles of Satan. Although these will confess the truth and become workers with Christ at the eleventh hour, they will receive equal wages with those who have wrought through the whole day. There will be an army of steadfast believers who will stand as firm as a rock through the last test. . . . *{3SM 390.3}*

Where are those whose voices have sounded in proclaiming the truth to the sinning? Some of them are not there. We look for them, but in the time of shaking they have been unable to stand, and have passed over to the enemy's ranks. *{RH, December 24, 1889 par. 12}*

