



**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 matter of the Conscience

*Cameron A. Bowen*

Acts 24:16 - and herein do I exercise myself to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and [toward] men.

**Every emotion and desire must be held in subjection to reason and conscience.**

Every unholy thought must be instantly repelled. To your closet, followers of Christ. Pray in faith and with all the heart. Satan is watching to ensnare your feet. You must have help from above if you would escape his devices. {5T 177.1}

**But where did this conscience come from? And why is it a safe guide to right living?**

Genesis 1:26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

**So what is this “image of God?”**

Sin has marred and well-nigh obliterated the image of God in man. It was to restore this that the plan of salvation was devised, and a life of probation was granted to man. To bring him back to the perfection in which he was first created, is the great object of life,--the object that underlies every other. It is the work of parents and teachers, in the education of the youth, to cooperate with the divine purpose; and in so doing they are "laborers together with God." [1 COR. 3:9.] {Counsels to Education 63.3}

**But what specifically is this “image of God?”**

The feeblest cry of human suffering never reached his ear in vain. And every one who assumes the responsibility of instructing the youth will meet obdurate hearts, perverse dispositions, and his work is to cooperate with God in restoring the MORAL image of God in every child.



Jesus, precious Jesus,--a whole fountain of love was in his soul. Those who instruct the children should be men and women of principle. {CE 149.1}

## **God's mercy is demonstrated in the restoration of His MORAL Image.**

The nations of the world, through following corrupt practices, had lost the knowledge of God. Yet in His mercy God did not blot them out of existence. He purposed to give them opportunity for becoming acquainted with Him through His church. He designed that the principles revealed through His people should be the means of restoring the moral image of God in man. {COL 286.1}

## **Satan's hatred**

Satan's hatred of God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, and by extension mankind is legendary. His jealousy of Christ brought about a rebellion that the universe still witnesses to this day. With a steadfastness that is surpassed, only by the omnipotence of God, he diligently works to undermine the purposes of God, and the plan of redemption. Each step of the Redeemer that Satan is able to identify, he takes a counter step, arrogantly believing that he is truly capable of competing with God, and because of the cooperation of mankind, he boasts that he is indeed God's equal, if not God's superior. But he is wrong; he is desperately wrong. His lies are constantly being revealed to those who love God, and will ultimately be revealed to those who follow him. *Cameron A. Bowen, Thoughts on His Coming, June 14, 2010.*

## **Satan's determination**

Satan is determined to counteract the work of redemption. He seeks to destroy the moral image of God in man, and to unite the human race with himself and his sympathizers who swerved from their allegiance to God and were cast out of heaven. He has sought by every manner of deception to establish his kingdom in the earth, and to conform all men unto his own standing. He is constantly seeking to make men feel the same hatred toward God as he himself feels. {2MR 270.3}

Satan's work in our world today is to destroy the moral image of God in man, by making void the divine law; and our enemies are inspired by his spirit. By casting aside God's great standard of character, he can deprave human nature, and win men and women to his standard; for, "Where no law is, there is no transgression." With what triumph, then, he watches the professedly Christian world, as they earnestly do the very work he is doing. {RH, January 26, 1897 par. 8}

Satan has prepared every kind of temptation to ensnare the youth and not the youth only, but those of all ages. For rich and for poor he has spread his net, that he may ruin God's workmanship. And the church, which should be a living power, is asleep. Men of discernment, of vital piety, are needed. But the great majority give their influence to the destroyer, aiding him by voice and vote to destroy the moral image of God in man. {ST, May 30, 1900 par. 9}



## **Appetites and passion**

The appetites and passions, clamoring for indulgence, trample reason and conscience underfoot. This is the cruel work of Satan, and he is constantly putting forth the most determined efforts to strengthen the chains by which he has bound his victims. Those who have been all their lives indulging wrong habits do not always realize the necessity of a change. . . . Let the conscience be aroused and much is gained. *{God's Amazing Grace 100.3}*

## **There is a pattern to follow**

Jehovah has given a specimen of himself; for man was made in the image of God. It is Satan's determined work **to destroy the moral image of God in man**. He would make the intelligence of man, his highest, noblest gift, the most destructive agent, to pollute with sin everything he touches. *{Paulsen Collection 167.3}*

## **Satan works through some ministers**

Ministers of our time give from their pulpits license to sin, in saying to the sinner, **that the law of God is not binding upon man, and that it is impossible for him to keep it. It was then impossible for Adam to keep God's law, and why should the punishment of transgression have fallen upon him?** The very fact that disobedience to God in one of the smallest requirements brought such woe to our world shows that any disregard of his law will surely be followed by the penalty, which is death. Ministers who make war upon the law of God, are gathering in their garments the blood of souls. **They are working in harmony with the great rebel.** *{ST, January 23, 1879 par. 16}*

**1Timothy 4:1** Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

**1Timothy 4:2** Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their **conscience seared with a hot iron;**

## **The moral image of God is demonstrated in the work of the conscience.**

It is God's design that the truth shall be carried into the sanctuary of the soul, and **work upon the conscience**, and that its presence there shall be revealed by the works done **to restore the moral image of God in man.** *{RH, February 1, 1898 par. 14}*

**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.

Man, **being endowed with reasoning powers and conscience**, **God's moral law is given to control his actions**. Man is not compelled to obey. He may defy God's law, as did Adam, and take the fearful consequences; or by living in harmony with that law he may reap the rewards of obedience. *{ST, January 23, 1879 par. 15}*



## **What a wonderful thing!**

God has placed within us a center of awareness, governed by his power. That center of awareness triggers an alarm, at the approach of the slightest temptation, to warn and to thwart the evil that might overcome us. A built in alarm system, directly connected to the throne room itself. When the alarm sounds, there is an immediately response. Mighty angels are deployed, the fiery darts are quenched, reinforcements immediately repulse the enemy, and our spiritual ramparts are preserved. *Cameron A. Bowen, Thoughts on His Coming, June 14, 2010.*

*Hebrews 8:10* For this [is] the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will **put my laws into their mind**, and **write them in their hearts**; and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:

## **The location of the law of God determines the response.**

**He who has God's law written in the heart will obey God rather than men**, and will sooner **disobey all men than deviate in the least from the commandment of God**. God's people, **taught by the inspiration of truth**, and **led by a good conscience** to live by every word of God, will take His law, written in their hearts, as the only authority which they can acknowledge or consent to obey. The wisdom and authority of the divine law are supreme. *{1T 361.1}*

When the law of God is written in the heart, it will be shown in a pure and holy life. The commandments of God are no dead letter. *{BEcho, October 1, 1889 par. 2}*

## **Listen to this statement regarding the freeing of the conscience.**

The Scriptures teach us to seek for the sanctification to God of body, soul, and spirit. In this work we are to be laborers together with God. **Much may be done to restore the moral image of God in man**, to improve the physical, mental, and moral capabilities. When we surrender ourselves wholly to God, and fully believe, the blood of Christ cleanses from all sin. **The conscience can be freed from condemnation**. Through faith in His blood, all may be made perfect in Christ Jesus. *{2SM 32.3}*

## **Here is a serious warning**

I am deeply grieved in my heart for serious results which have followed unwise dealings, more serious than many are willing to admit to their own conscience or to God. **Self is so large in many, ever striving for the mastery**. There are those who profess to be followers of Jesus Christ who have never died to self. They have never fallen on the rock and been broken. Until this shall be, they will live unto self, and if they die as they are, it is forever too late for their wrongs to be righted. *MS., 1893. {FE 284.1}*



## The cause of God will triumph

"It pains me to say, my brethren, that your sinful neglect to walk in the light, has enshrouded you in darkness. You may now be honest in not recognizing and obeying the light; the doubts you have entertained, your neglect to heed the requirements of God, have blinded your perceptions so that darkness is now to you light, and light is darkness. God has bidden you to go forward to perfection. Christianity is a religion of progress. Light from God is full and ample, waiting our demand upon it. Whatever blessings the Lord may give, he has an infinite supply beyond, an inexhaustible store from which we may draw. Skepticism may treat the sacred claims of the gospel with jests, scoffing, and denial. The spirit of worldliness may contaminate the many and control the few; **the cause of God may hold its ground only by great exertion and continual sacrifice, yet it will triumph finally.** {RH, August 30, 1906 par. 16}

## Sin must be renounced

Whenever one renounces sin, which is the transgression of the law, **his life will be brought into conformity to the law, into perfect obedience.** This is the **work of the Holy Spirit.** The light of **the Word carefully studied, the voice of conscience, the strivings of the Spirit,** produces in the heart **genuine love for Christ,** who gave Himself a whole sacrifice to redeem the whole person, body, soul, and spirit. And love is manifested in obedience.--*Testimonies, vol. 6, pp. 91, 92. (1900) {Ev 308.4}*

## Notice the qualification of an officer of the church as described thus:

**1 Timothy 3:2** A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behavior, given to hospitality, apt to teach;

**1 Timothy 3:3** Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous;

**1 Timothy 3:4** One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity;

**1 Timothy 3:5** (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)

**1 Timothy 3:6** Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.

**1 Timothy 3:7** Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

**1 Timothy 3:8** Likewise [must] the deacons [be] grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre;

**1 Timothy 3:9** Holding the mystery of the faith **in a pure conscience.**

## The requirements of the office of a bishop then, are describe as informed conscience. A conscience taught of God.



If we are obedient children of Christ, we shall show our love to him, and to his children; for **all who seek to imitate the lovely Pattern, will reflect the moral image of God.** **The Bible and its principles must be brought into practical contact with the conscience;** and where divine truths are accepted and loved, they will develop in man whatever is needful to adorn his character, to dignify his nature, and to fit him for a home among the angels. {RH, October 9, 1888 par. 14}

### **Titus describes a defiled conscience.**

**Titus 1:15** Unto the pure all things [are] pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving [is] nothing pure; **but even their mind and conscience is defiled.**

**Titus 1:16** They profess that they know God; but in works they deny [him], being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.

### **But God has promised to restore that purity of conscience so that we might be one with Him.**

His (Christ's) lessons of instruction and his holy life, if followed, would stay the tide of physical and moral wretchedness that has **so defiled the moral image of God in man** that he bears scarcely a resemblance to the noble Adam as he stood in Eden in his holy innocence. Every prohibition of God is for the health and eternal well-being of man. **In obedience to all the requirements of God, there will be peace and happiness unaccompanied with shame or reproaches of conscience.** {2Redemption 73.4}

**Hebrews 9:14** How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, **purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?**

### **Notice this text concerning the Gentiles!!**

*Romans 2:14 for when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves:*

*Romans 2:15 Which show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and [their] thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)*

**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.**

**The Lord requires us to obey the voice of duty,** when there are other voices all around us urging us to pursue an opposite course. It requires earnest attention from us to distinguish the voice which speaks from God. **We must resist and conquer inclination, and obey the voice of conscience without parleying or compromise, lest its promptings cease and will and impulse control.** The word of the Lord comes to us all who have not resisted His Spirit by determining not to hear and obey. This voice is heard in warnings, in counsels, in reproof. It is the Lord's



message of light to His people. If we wait for louder calls or better opportunities, the light may be withdrawn, and we left in darkness. . . . *{God's Amazing Grace 202.4}*

**1 Peter 3:15** But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and [be] ready always to [give] an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

**1 Peter 3:16** Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.

The pleadings of the Spirit, neglected today because pleasure or inclination leads in an opposite direction, may be powerless to convince, or even impress, tomorrow. To improve the opportunities of the present, with prompt and willing hearts, is the only way to grow in grace and the knowledge of the truth. We should ever cherish a sense that, individually, we are standing before the Lord of hosts; no word, no act, no thought, even, should be indulged to offend the eye of the Eternal One. . . . If we would feel that in every place we are the servants of the Most High, we would be more circumspect; our whole life would possess to us a meaning and a sacredness which earthly honors can never give. - *{God's Amazing Grace 202.5}*

## **We must heed the voice of God**

"The word of the Lord comes to us all who have not resisted His Spirit by determining not to hear and obey. This voice is heard in warnings, in counsels, in reproof. It is the Lord's message of light to His people. If we wait for louder calls or better opportunities, the light may be withdrawn, and we left in darkness.... *{ISM 28.1}*

## **Informing the conscious**

Those who are reproved by the Spirit of God should not rise up against the humble instrument. It is God, and not an erring mortal, who has spoken to save them from ruin. Those who despise the warning will be left in blindness to become self-deceived. But those who heed it, and zealously go about the work of separating their sins from them in order to have the needed graces, will be opening the door of their hearts that the dear Savior may come in and dwell with them. This class you will ever find in perfect harmony with the testimony of the Spirit of God. *{3T 257.1}*

It is not pleasing to human nature to receive reproof, nor is it possible for the heart of man, unenlightened by the Spirit of God, to realize the necessity of reproof or the blessing it is designed to bring. As man yields to temptation, and indulges in sin, his mind becomes darkened. The moral sense is perverted. The warnings of conscience are disregarded, and its voice is less clearly heard. He gradually loses the power to distinguish between right and wrong, until he has no true sense or his standing before God. *{5T 682.1}*

As laborers with God we need more fervent piety and less self-exaltation. The more self is exalted, the more will faith in the testimonies of the Spirit of God be lessened. Those who are



**the most closely connected with God are the ones who know His voice when He speaks to them. Those who are spiritual, discern spiritual things.** Such will feel grateful that the Lord has pointed out their errors, while **those who trust wholly in themselves will see less and less of God in the testimonies of His Spirit.** {5T 134.2}

### **Only by Faithfulness**

Only by faithfulness in the little things can the soul be trained to act with fidelity under larger responsibilities. As God called Daniel to witness for Him in Babylon, so He calls us to be His witnesses in the world today. In the smallest as well as the largest affairs of life He desires us to reveal to men the principles of His kingdom. {COL 357.1}

**He may observe the forms of religion and zealously maintain its doctrines, while destitute of its spirit.** His condition is that described by the True Witness: "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." When the Spirit of God, by message of reproof, declares this to be his condition, he cannot see that the message is true. Is he therefore to reject the warning? No. **God has given sufficient evidence, so that all who desire to do so may satisfy themselves as to the character of the Testimonies; and, having acknowledged them to be from God, it is their duty to accept reproof, even though they do not themselves see the sinfulness of their course.** If they fully realized their condition, what would be the need of reproof? Because they know it not, God mercifully sets it before them, so that they may repent and reform before it shall be too late. **Those who are most closely connected with God are the ones who know His voice when He speaks to them.** Those who are spiritual discern spiritual things. Such will feel grateful that the Lord has pointed out their errors." {5T 682.1}

### **Sinful indulgence**

**All the warnings given, all the appeals made, do not seem to alarm those who indulge perverted appetite. They go on in sinful indulgence, and their conscience is seared as with a hot iron.** They will **put their own interpretation on their sinful course,** saying, "**I have done no moral wrong.**" **Clear discernment is needed--the spiritual eyesalve, which we can obtain only by becoming partakers of the divine nature.** {Special Testimonies to Managers and Workers 1898 - PH088 23.1}

### **Christ awakens the conscience**

The living oracles do not teach that the sinner must repent before he can heed the invitation of Christ: "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." **Men must come to Christ because they see him as their Saviour, their only helper, that they may be enabled to repent;** for **if they could repent without coming to Christ, they could also be saved without Christ.** **It is the virtue that goes forth from Christ that leads to genuine repentance.** **We can no more repent without the Spirit of Christ to awaken the conscience,** than we can be pardoned without Christ. Christ draws the sinner by the exhibition of his love upon the cross, and this softens the heart, impresses the mind, and inspires contrition and repentance in the soul. {RH, April 1, 1890 par. 3}



## **Christ does not compel**

No one will be forced against his will; Christ draws, but never compels, service from any man. The Roman power never had any authority for forcing the conscience, and the Protestant world has no license to follow in its track. In not a single instance have they the example of Christ in forcing men to become his followers. He says, "Come unto me [he gives an invitation to draw the soul] all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Man is required to surrender self, to submit to be a child of God, to submit to be saved by his grace, and when this is done, divine agencies co-operate with the human agent, and the character is transformed. {RH, March 24, 1896 par. 10}

## **A sensitive conscience**

The greatest danger of the world is that sin does not appear sinful. This is the greatest evil existing in the church; sin is glossed over with self-complacency. Blessed indeed are they who possess a sensitive conscience; who can weep and mourn over their spiritual poverty and wanderings from God; who are poor in spirit and can receive the reproof God sends them; and who, with confessions and brokenness of heart, will take their places, all penitent, in humiliation at the cross of Christ. God knows it is good for men to tread a hard and humble path, to encounter difficulties, to experience disappointments, and to suffer affliction. Faith strengthens by coming in conflict with doubt, and resisting unbelief through the strength of Jesus. {ST, June 15, 1876 par. 5}

## **The present condition of things**

I know the church is not in a right condition. I know that your plans and ideas have fashioned some of its members not to their spiritual advantage, but to their injury; and the end is not yet. I was in my dream led into the church, into the college, and into your house. I sat at your table and visited your rooms, fitted up for your students, and I was led to see beneath the outward appearance, and I was very sad. I saw the working of things at present and what they would be in the future, which was far from being in God's order or according to his arrangements. I was shown some things in your family; the dangers that threatened your children of receiving a wrong stamp of character, a mould that will not be easily effaced, vanity, pride, love of dress, self-will, and anything but the meek and quiet spirit which is in the sight of God of great price. May the Lord open your eyes to see and your heart to feel the necessity of an entire change. {Testimonies on the Case of Elder E.P Daniels - PH096 3.3}

## **We must become self sufficient**

As religious aggression subverts the liberties of our nation, those who would stand for freedom of conscience will be placed in unfavorable positions. For their own sake, they should, while they have the opportunity, become intelligent in regard to disease, its causes, prevention, and cure. All those who do this will find a field of labor anywhere. There will be suffering ones, plenty of them, who will need help, not only among those of our own faith, but largely among those who know not the truth. The



shortness of time demands an energy that has not been aroused among those who claim to believe the present truth.--*Counsels on Health, p. 506. {CME 11.4}*

## **Protestants will join with Rome**

The time was when Protestants placed a high value upon the liberty of conscience which has been so dearly purchased. They taught their children to abhor popery, and held that to seek harmony with Rome would be disloyalty to God. But how widely different are the sentiments now expressed. *{GC88 563.1}*

The defenders of popery declare that the church has been maligned; and the Protestant world are inclined to accept the statement. Many urge that it is unjust to judge the church of today by the abominations and absurdities that marked her reign during the centuries of ignorance and darkness. They excuse her horrible cruelty as the result of the barbarism of the times, and plead that the influence of modern civilization has changed her sentiments. *{GC88 563.2}*

**The papal church will never relinquish her claim to infallibility. All that she has done in her persecution of those who reject her dogmas, she holds to be right; and would she not repeat the same acts, should the opportunity be presented? Let the restraints now imposed by secular governments be removed, and Rome be re-instated in her former power, and there would speedily be a revival of her tyranny and persecution.** *{GC88 564.1}*

## **True Character a Quality of the Soul**

Mental ability and genius are not character, for these are often possessed by those who have the very opposite of a good character. Reputation is not character. True character is a quality of the soul, revealing itself in the conduct. *{CG 161.2}*

Strength of character consists of two things--power of will and power of self-control. Many youth mistake strong, uncontrolled passion for strength of character; but the truth is that he who is mastered by his passions is a weak man. The real greatness and nobility of the man is measured by his powers to subdue his feelings, not by the power of his feelings to subdue him. The strongest man is he who, while sensitive to abuse, will yet restrain passion and forgive his enemies. *{CG 161.4}*

## **Standing for the truth**

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).

## **Those who have an understanding of the truth must come to the front**

Those who have a knowledge of the truth as it is revealed in God's word must now come to the front. My brethren, God requires this of you. Every jot of your influence is now to be used on the right side. All are now to learn how to stand in defense of truth that is worthy of acceptance. Those who are endeavoring to live the Christ life must call things by the right name, and stand in defense of the truth as it is in Jesus.  
{*Medical Ministry 22.1*}

## **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*}

## **God is sifting His workers**

He who sifts all motives and reads all hearts, is proving, and trying, and sifting His people, especially those who have light and knowledge, and who are engaged in His sacred work. God is a searcher of hearts, and a trier of the reins, and will accept nothing less than entire devotion to the work, and consecration to Himself. All should have a spirit in that office to take up their daily duties as if in the presence of God. They should not be satisfied merely with doing just enough to pass along, and receive their wages; but all should work in any place where they can help the most. {*3T 191.2*}

## **God is sifting his people**

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



these corrupt individuals had remained with us. {1T 99.3}

## **True character will be revealed**

"Every honest one that may be deceived by these disaffected ones, will have the true light in regard to them, if every angel from Heaven has to visit them, and enlighten their minds. We have nothing to fear in this matter. As we near the Judgment all will manifest their true character, and it will be made plain to what company they belong. The sieve is moving. Let us not say, Stay thy hand, O God. The church must be purged, and will be. God reigns; let the people praise him. I have not the most distant thought of sinking down. I mean to be right and do right. The Judgment is to set and the books be opened, and we are to be judged according to our deeds. All the falsehoods that may be framed against me will not make me any worse, nor any better, unless they have a tendency to drive me nearer my Redeemer.' {1T 100.1}

## **A large proportion**

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. Instead of being strengthened when brought into strait places, many prove that they are not living branches of the true Vine, they bear no fruit, and the husbandman taketh them away. --*Letter 3, 1890. {Ev 361.1}*

## **A great proportion**

Were the churches of today sifted by fiery trials they could not bear the proving test of God. His holy law, of ten precepts, the mirror which discloses the defects in the characters of all who consult it, would reveal that a great proportion of that which is thought to be genuine religion is very defective, having only a form of godliness, and no divine power to savor of life. {ST, June 3, 1880 par. 9}

## **Transformation of character needed**

I tell you, in the name of the Lord God of heaven, that some who profess to believe the truth need that transformation of character that will build up and encourage the church, in the place of weakening and destroying it. We have no time to spend in cultivating and cherishing our unlovely traits of character. The hour of grace is fast passing. Christ has borne long with the world, but the cup of long-deferred wrath is fast filling. I would ask you to look back and review the history of your lives. How is it with you in your families? Have your words been true and kind and pure and edifying, or have the words you have spoken been of a repining, complaining character? Have you gathered up the objectionable features and the defects in the characters of others, and made them apparent, while you yourselves were unholy and unsanctified in thought and word and action? There is great weakness where there should be strength.



*{The Home Missionary, November 1, 1897 par. 9}*

## **The character of Christ must be reproduced in us**

The tenderness of Christ is to be brought into the daily life of his followers. His character is to be reproduced in them. The disinterested benevolence shown by him is to be shown by them. His love for souls should be cultivated by practice. Humble, wrestling prayer will soften and subdue hearts. Christ's servants can and should be able to meet and overcome every temptation. They should say, "I am not my own; I have been bought with a price. By the infinite sacrifice Christ has made for me, he has put it out of my power to give him more than he demands. All is his. He has purchased me, body, soul, and spirit. He calls for all my time, all my capabilities." Thus we may show that we are abiding in Christ and that Christ is abiding in us. Christ accepts no divided service. His followers are to shine as lights in the world. "Come out of the world, and be ye separate," is the message which comes sounding down along the line to our time. Love not the world, neither the things of the world. Set your affections on things above, and not on things below. Those who heed this message will find that Christ's yoke is easy and his burden light. *Mrs. E. G. White. {GCB, April 1, 1899 par. 18}*

## **Molded from Christ**

We are to receive our mold from Christ. He is to see himself in the character of his followers. We are to copy his Spirit, to have our lives hid with Christ in God. In every true believer the character of Christ is to be reproduced. The Spirit of Christ is to be made manifest through human efforts. As those who have been transformed by the truth come in contact with others who have had a false education, and have received perverted ideas, they are to represent Christ, in order that the deficiencies of those who have had but little experience may disappear, and the mold of Christ may be seen upon them. The followers of Christ are to represent his tenderness, his courtesy, and his love toward others. His solicitude for human souls is to be reproduced in those who believe in him. They are to lift Christ up in order that he may draw all unto him. The world should see a representative of Christ in each of his believers. *{RH, September 25, 1894 par. 5}*

## **God wants you to come to the front**

Your minds can be brought into captivity to the will of Christ, and He can put upon you His own superscription. By beholding, you will become changed from glory to glory, from character to character. God wants you to come to the front, speaking the words He will give you. He wants you to show that you place a high estimate upon humanity, humanity that has been purchased by the precious blood of the Savior. When you fall upon the Rock and are broken, you will experience the power of Christ, and others will recognize the power of the truth upon your hearts.--Testimonies, vol. 6,



pp. 317, 318. (1900)

## Those who have another Spirit – come to the front

While the doubting ones talk of impossibilities, while they tremble at the thought of high walls and strong giants, let the faithful Calebs, who have "another spirit," come to the front. The truth of God, which bringeth salvation, will go forth to the people if ministers and professed believers will not hedge up its way, as did the unfaithful spies. . . . {*Conflict Courage 107.3*}

## Truth must be defended

It behooves every soul whose life is hid with Christ in God to come to the front now. Something is to be done. We are to contend most earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints. The spirit in which truth is defended and the kingdom of God advanced must be as it would be if Christ were on this earth in person. {*Medical Missionary 22.2*}

## Young Men Called to Front-Line Service.—

Men of gray hairs should walk circumspectly and should give the young men who are seeking to grow, every opportunity to come to the front. The older men should not feel it any dishonor to them for younger men, who must use their capabilities and who must fill their individual places and become men to be relied on, to come to the front. Those who are older should encourage the young to develop their talents. {*Ev 685.2*}

## Youth called to the front

God has a great work to be done in a short time. He has committed to the youth talents of intellect, time, and means, and He holds them responsible for the use they make of these good gifts. He calls upon them to come to the front, to resist the corrupting, bewitching influences of this fast age, and to become qualified to labor in His cause. They cannot become fitted for usefulness without putting heart and energy into the work of preparation. Christian principles must be developed by being cherished and brought into active exercise. Self-control must be gained by earnest effort aided by the grace of God. . . . {*Lift Him Up 127.3*}

## Many who are Not yet in Our Ranks to Come to the Front

There are many souls to come out of the ranks of the world, out of the churches--even the Catholic Church--whose zeal will far exceed that of those who have stood in rank and file to proclaim the truth heretofore. For this reason the eleventh hour laborers will receive their penny. These will see the battle coming and will give the trumpet a certain sound. When the crisis is upon us, when the season of calamity shall come,



**they will come to the front**, gird themselves with the whole armor of God, and exalt His law, adhere to the faith of Jesus, **and maintain the cause of religious liberty which reformers defended with toil and for which they sacrificed their lives.** . . . {3SM 386.4}

## **It Is Time for Us to Work.—**

Now, brethren and sisters, is it not time for us to work? Is it not time for us to arouse our God-given capabilities, to catch holy zeal that we have not had as yet? And is it not time that we should stand as Calebs, **come to the front, raise our voices, and cry out against the reports that are going all around us? Are we not able to possess the land?** We are able in God to do a mighty work upon the point of temperance.--Manuscript 3, 1888. {Temperance 256.3}

## **Come to the front – show your colors**

Shall not this be the time when all who are in connection with God shall **come to the front and show their colors**? Shall it be seen that men and women step back and show no interest, no zeal, no earnest effort when help is needed? **When the car drags heavily**, then is the time for everyone to push, **put shoulders to the wheels**, and **not stand back giving orders**, or **accusing** the ones who are trying to push the load, or **criticizing** everything they do, because it is not done in their way and after their ideas. . . . Let everyone do his level best to move the load with might and strength. . . . {*That I May Know Him* 332.2}

## **Return to Protestant Principles needed**

Had the Reformation, after attaining a degree of success, consented to temporize to secure favor with the world, it would have been untrue to God and to itself, and would thus have insured its own destruction. **The experience of those early reformers contains a lesson for all succeeding ages. Satan's manner of working against God and his word has not changed; he is still as much opposed to the Scriptures being made the guide of life as in the sixteenth century. In our time there is a wide departure from its doctrines and precepts, and there is need of a return to the great Protestant principle,--the Bible and the Bible only** as the rule of faith and duty. Satan is still working through every means which he can control to destroy religious liberty. **The anti-christian power** which the protesters of Spire repudiated, **is now with renewed vigor seeking to reestablish its lost supremacy. The same unswerving adherence to the word of God manifested at that crisis of the Reformation, is the only hope of reform today.** {4SP 163.2}

## **Comparing John and Judas**

**John saw his own deficiencies, and was humbled by the revelation.** Day by day, **in**



**contrast with his own violent spirit, he beheld the tenderness and forbearance of Jesus, and heard His lessons of humility and patience. Day by day his heart was drawn out to Christ, until he lost sight of self in love for his Master.** The power and tenderness, the majesty and meekness, the strength and patience, that he saw in the daily life of the Son of God, filled his soul with admiration. **He yielded his resentful, ambitious temper to the molding power of Christ, and divine love wrought in him a transformation of character.** {AA 557.1}

**In striking contrast to the sanctification worked out in the life of John is the experience of his fellow disciple, Judas.** Like his associate, **Judas professed to be a disciple of Christ,** but **he possessed only a form of godliness. He was not insensible to the beauty of the character of Christ;** and **often, as he listened to the Saviour's words, conviction came to him,** but **he would not humble his heart or confess his sins. By resisting the divine influence he dishonored the Master whom he professed to love. John warred earnestly against his faults;** but **Judas violated his conscience and yielded to temptation, fastening upon himself more securely his habits of evil.** The practice of **the truths that Christ taught was at variance with his desires and purposes,** and **he could not bring himself to yield his ideas in order to receive wisdom from heaven.** Instead of walking in the light, **he chose to walk in darkness.** {AA 557.2}

### **The truthfulness of Christ**

The whole life of Jesus of Nazareth among the Jewish people was a reproof to their selfishness, as revealed in their unwillingness to recognize the just claims of the Owner of the vineyard over which they had been placed as husbandmen. **They hated His example of truthfulness and piety;** and when the final test came, the test which meant obedience unto eternal life or disobedience unto eternal death, they rejected the Holy One of Israel and became responsible for His crucifixion on Calvary's cross. {PK 710.2}

### **There must be truthfulness among God's Workers**

**When the sacred work of God shall be purified from all the rubbish which has been accumulating for years, the name of God will be glorified in your midst. When the Holy Spirit controls human agents, there will be none of the underhand business which has been practiced. Honesty, truthfulness, and a willingness that all should understand the methods of working will be seen. The characters of the workers will be built up with pure, solid timbers. Straightforwardness in deal will be seen in all God's commandment-keeping people.** Every thread of the web will be originated by the Lord, and each worker will draw his thread into the web to help compose the pattern. The pattern will come from the great loom perfect in its design. {Special Instructions Regarding Royalties 1899- PH079 20.1} {Reflecting Christ 273.2}

**The Honest Are His Jewels Forever.--Truthfulness and frankness should be ever cherished by all who claim to be followers of Christ.** God and the right should be the motto. **Deal honestly and righteously in this present evil world. Some will be honest when they see that honesty will not endanger their worldly interests;** but all who act from this principle will



have their names blotted out of the book of life. {3BC 1159.4}

## Honesty vs. Policy

**Strict honesty must be cultivated. We can go through the world but once; we cannot come back to rectify any mistakes; therefore every move made should be with godly fear and careful consideration. Honesty and policy will not harmonize; either policy will be subdued, and truth and honesty hold the lines of control, or policy will take the lines, and honesty cease to direct. BOTH CANNOT ACT TOGETHER; they can never be in agreement.** When God makes up **His jewels, the true, the frank, the honest, will be His chosen ones,** His treasures. **Angels are preparing crowns for such; and light from the throne of God will be reflected in its splendor from these star-gemmed diadems.** (RH Dec. 29, 1896). {3BC 1159.5}

Those who are **unwilling to accept the plain, cutting truths of the Bible** are **continually seeking for pleasing fables that will quiet the conscience.** The **less spiritual, self-denying, and humiliating the doctrines presented, the greater the favor with which they are received.** These **persons degrade the intellectual powers to serve their carnal desires. Too wise in their own conceit to search the Scriptures** with contrition of soul and earnest prayer **for divine guidance, they have no shield from delusion. Satan is ready to supply the heart's desire, and he palms off his deceptions in the place of truth.** It was thus that the papacy gained its power over the minds of men; and by rejection of the truth because it involves a cross, Protestants are following the same path. **All who neglect the word of God to study convenience and policy, that they may not be at variance with the world, will be left to receive damnable heresy for religious truth. Every conceivable form of error will be accepted by those who willfully reject the truth. He who looks with horror upon one deception will readily receive another.** The apostle Paul, speaking of a class who "received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved," declares: **"For this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: that they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness."** 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12. **With such a warning before us it behooves us to be on our guard as to what doctrines we receive.** {GC 523.2}

Brethren, **shall we permit the world to shape the message that God has given us to bear to them?** So then as well might the patient prescribe the remedies that are to be used for his cure. {CW 94.2}

**Shall we for the sake of policy, betray a sacred trust?** If the world is in error and delusion, breaking the law of God, **is it not our duty to show them their sin and danger?** We must proclaim the third angel's message. {CW 95.1}

## Truthfulness an important part of Christ's character

At home and in the school, by precept and example, the children and youth should be



taught to be **truthful, unselfish, industrious**. They should not be allowed to spend their time in idleness; their hands should not be folded in inaction. Parents and teachers should work for the accomplishment of this object--the development of all the powers, and the formation of right character. But when parents realize their responsibilities, there will be far less left for the teachers to do. {CT 148.2}

The Bible presents to our view the unsearchable riches and immortal treasures of heaven. Man's strongest impulse urges him to seek his own happiness, and the Bible recognizes this desire and shows us that all heaven will unite with man in his efforts to gain true happiness. It reveals the condition upon which the peace of Christ is given to men. It describes a home of everlasting happiness and sunshine, where no tears nor want shall ever be known. *{My Life Today 160.2}*

That blessed book will teach you to be honest, temperate in all things, **frugal, industrious, truthful, and upright**. Its counsels heeded will make you a faithful companion of youth, giving you an influence that will ever lead upward, to purity of character; an influence that will lead away from sin, into paths of righteousness. *{ML 160.3}*

## Meeting opposition to the truth

When persons meet together **for the investigation of points of faith concerning which there is a difference of opinion, the spirit which controls them will be manifested. Those who are standing in defense of truth should be calm and self-possessed.** If they have the mind of Christ, they will be kind and courteous. **They will not be betrayed into the use of harsh language.** They will not **regard themselves as infallible**, nor **look with contempt upon those who differ with them.** They will **not regard them as enemies**, nor meet them with ridicule or jesting. *{GW92 389.2}*

## Maintaining respect while disagreeing

It does not please God to have his servants **censure, criticise, and condemn one another.** He has given them a special work, that of standing in defense of truth. They are his workmen; all should respect them, and **they should respect one another.** In the army, **officers are required to respect their fellow-officers,** and **the privates soon learn the lesson.** When the leaders of the people in the Christian warfare are kind and forbearing, and manifest a special love and regard for their co-laborers, they teach others to do the same. *{Historical Sketches of foreign Missions 1886, 120.4}*

While all the hosts of sin are earnest, zealous, sanguine in advancing their cause, and are stirred by a power from beneath, **shall not those who stand in defense of truth manifest earnestness and zeal and enthusiasm? What if the sincere worker for God should be called a fanatic?** This is the name that those who have been truly devoted to God have



ever been called upon to bear. *{RH, March 14, 1893 par. 13}*

A great work is to be accomplished through the instrumentality of man; for **we are to cooperate with God in pressing back the tide of human woe. Through the power of the Holy Spirit** we may be faithful, whole-hearted workers **to stand in defense of truth and righteousness**, and keep the Lord and his honor continually in mind. Let the perception be clear as to what is due to God for his benevolence in giving the gift of his Son to the human family. Let our liberalities flow toward God. Let thank-offerings be presented to Jesus, and as you gain clearer perceptions of your past deficiencies, let it be made manifest that you are seeking to make decided reformation in accordance with your faith. *{RH, November 13, 1894 par. 9}*

## **God takes the matter in hand**

**Noah Ridiculed.**--Before the destruction of the old world by a flood, there were **talented men**, men **who possessed skill and knowledge**. But they became **corrupt in their imagination**, because they **left God out of their plans and councils**. They were **wise to do what God had never told them to do, wise to do evil**. **The Lord saw that this example would be deleterious to those who should afterwards be born**, and **He took the matter in hand**. For one hundred twenty years He sent them warnings through His servant Noah. But **they used the probation so graciously granted them in ridiculing Noah**. **They caricatured him and criticized him**. They **laughed at him for his peculiar earnestness** and **intense feeling in regard to the judgments** which he declared **God would surely fulfill**. **They talked of science** and of the **laws controlling nature**. Then they **held a carnival over the words of Noah, calling him a crazy fanatic**. **God's patience was exhausted**. He said to Noah, "The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them, and, behold, I will destroy them from the earth" *(MS 29, 1890). {IBC 1090.7}*

**Luke 17:26** And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man.

## **Dwell not on the little trials**

**I saw that the remnant were not prepared for what is coming upon the earth. Stupidity, like lethargy, seemed to hang upon the minds of most of those who profess to believe that we are having the last message**. My accompanying angel cried out with awful solemnity, "Get ready! get ready! get ready! for the fierce anger of the Lord is soon to come. His wrath is to be poured out, unmixed with mercy, and ye are not ready. Rend the heart, and not the garment. A great work must be done for the remnant. **Many of them are dwelling upon little trials**." Said the angel, "**Legions of evil angels are around you, and are trying to press in their awful darkness, that ye may be ensnared and taken**. Ye suffer your minds to be diverted too readily from the work of preparation and the all-important truths for these last days. **And ye dwell upon little**



**trials and go into minute particulars of little difficulties to explain them to the satisfaction of this one or that." Conversation has been protracted for hours** between the parties concerned, and **not only has their time been wasted, but the servants of God are held to listen to them, when the hearts of both parties are unsubdued by grace. If pride and selfishness were laid aside, five minutes would remove most difficulties. Angels have been grieved and God displeased by the hours which have been spent in justifying self.** I saw that **God will not bow down and listen to long justifications,** and **He does not want His servants to do so,** and thus precious time be wasted that should be spent in showing transgressors the error of their ways and pulling souls out of the fire. *{EW 119.1}*

The Lord is soon to come, and we must be prepared to meet Him in peace. Let us be determined to do all in our power to impart light to those around us. **We are not to be sad, but cheerful,** and we are to keep the lord Jesus ever before us. He is soon coming, and we must be ready and waiting for His appearing. Oh, how glorious it will be to see Him and be welcomed as His redeemed ones! Long have we waited, but **our hope is not to grow dim.** If we can but see the King in His beauty we shall be forever blessed. I feel as if I must cry aloud: "Homeward bound!" We are nearing the time when Christ will come in power and great glory to take His ransomed ones to their eternal home. . . . *{AG 354.4}*

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