

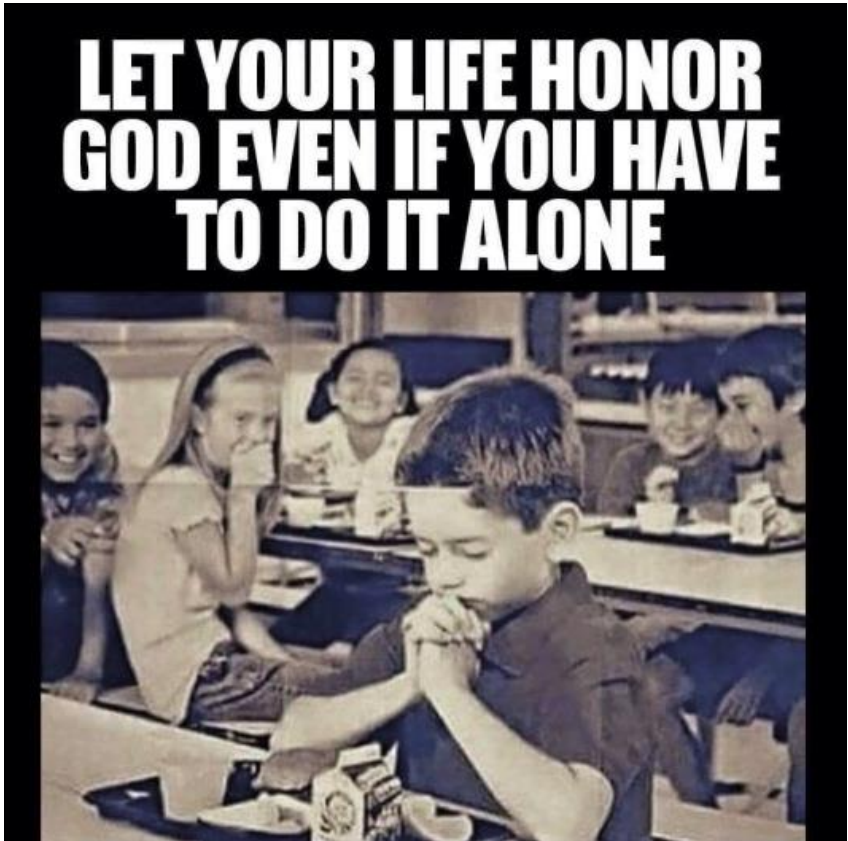
*The Benjamin Bible Study Sabbath School
Companion*

The Final Restoration of Unity

*A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all
our needs. To seek this should be our first work...
{1SM 121.1} ~Ellen White*

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“We Will Not Fail nor Be Discouraged”

—Letter 130, 1897.

Ellen G. White

Selected Messages

...Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper. {2 Chronicles 20:20}

The fact that there is no controversy or agitation among God's people should not be regarded as conclusive evidence that they are holding fast to sound doctrine. There is reason to fear that they may not be clearly discriminating between truth and error. When no new questions are started by investigation of the Scriptures, when no difference of opinion arises which will set men to searching the Bible for themselves to make sure that they have the truth, there will be many now, as in ancient times, who will hold to tradition and worship they know not what. {5T 707.1}

I have been shown that many who profess to have a knowledge of present truth know not what they believe. They do not understand the evidences of their faith. They have no just appreciation of the work for the present time. When the time of trial shall come, there are men now preaching to others who will find, upon examining the positions they hold, that there are many things for which they can give no satisfactory reason. Until thus tested they knew not their great ignorance. And there are many in the church who take it for granted that they understand what they believe; but, until controversy arises, they do not know their own weakness. When separated from those of like faith and compelled to stand singly and alone to explain their belief, they will be surprised to see how confused are their ideas of what they had accepted as truth. Certain it is that there has been among us a departure from the living God and a turning to men, putting human in place of divine wisdom. {5T 707.2}

God will arouse His people; if other means fail, heresies will come in among them, which will sift them, separating the chaff from the wheat. The Lord calls upon all who believe His word to awake out of sleep. Precious light has come, appropriate for this time. It is Bible truth, showing the perils that are right upon us. This light should lead us to a diligent study of the Scriptures and a most critical examination of the positions which we hold. God would have all the bearings and positions of truth thoroughly and perseveringly searched, with prayer and fasting. Believers are not to rest in suppositions and ill-defined ideas of what constitutes truth. Their faith must be firmly founded upon the word of God so that when the testing time shall come and they are brought before councils to answer for their faith they may be able to give a reason for the hope that is in them, with meekness and fear. {5T 707.3}

Agitate, agitate, agitate. The subjects which we present to the world must be to us a living reality. It is important that in defending the doctrines which we consider fundamental articles of faith we should never allow ourselves to employ arguments that are not wholly sound. These may avail to silence an opposer, but they do not honor the truth. We should present sound arguments, that will not only silence our opponents, but will bear the closest and most searching scrutiny. With those who have educated themselves as debaters there is great danger that they will not handle the word of God with fairness. In meeting an opponent it should be our earnest effort to present subjects in such a manner as to awaken conviction in his mind, instead of seeking merely to give confidence to the believer. {5T 708.1 }

Let Bible truth be presented in our papers. Give the reasons of our faith. In the most cheerful, hopeful, encouraging articles recommend the silent searching of Scriptures. Urge our people to become familiar with the Word of God. In their study, the students in our schools should commit to memory portions of the Word. The time will come when many will be deprived of the written word. But if this word is printed in the memory, no one can take it from us; and it is a talisman that will meet the worst forms of error and evil. {20MR 64.4 }

He has not been willing to bear reproof, but has been ready to rise up in heart and justify self, was rich and increased in goods, had a whole spirit, would get angry, and all this has been nourished and fostered by some of the church. If those who have been in the church for weeks and months have not learned the straightness of the way, and what it is to be Christians, and cannot hear all the straight truths of the Word of God, it were better that they were cut off from Israel. It is too late in the day to feed with milk. If souls a month or two old in the truth, who are about to enter the time of trouble such as never was, cannot hear all the straight truth, or endure the strong meat of the straightness of the way, how will they stand in the day of battle? Truths that we have been years learning must be learned in a few months by those who now embrace the Third Angel's Message. We had to search and wait the opening of truth, receiving a ray of light here and a ray there, laboring and pleading for God to reveal truth to us. But now the truth is plain; its rays are brought together. The blazing light of truth when it is presented as it should be can be now seen and brought to bear upon the heart. There is no need of milk after souls are convinced of the truth. As soon as the conviction of truth is yielded to and the heart willing, the truth should have its effect, the truth will work like leaven, and purify and purge away the passions of the natural heart. It is a disgrace for those who have been in the truth for years to talk of feeding souls who have been months in the truth, upon milk. It shows they know little of the leadings

of the Spirit of the Lord, and realize not the time we are living in. Those who embrace the truth now will have to step fast. There will have to be a breaking up of heart before the Lord, a rending of heart, and not the garment.— Manuscript 1, 1854, 2, 3. ("Reproof for Adultery and Neglect of Children," February 12, 1854.) {1MR 33.4}

He who would confess Christ must have Christ abiding in him. He cannot communicate that which he has not received. The disciples might speak fluently on doctrines, they might repeat the words of Christ Himself; but unless they possessed Christlike meekness and love, they were not confessing Him. A spirit contrary to the spirit of Christ would deny Him, whatever the profession. Men may deny Christ by evilspeaking, by foolish talking, by words that are untruthful or unkind. They may deny Him by shunning life's burdens, by the pursuit of sinful pleasure. They may deny Him by conforming to the world, by uncourteous behavior, by the love of their own opinions, by justifying self, by cherishing doubt, borrowing trouble, and dwelling in darkness. In all these ways they declare that Christ is not in them. And "whosoever shall deny Me before men," He says, "him will I also deny before My Father which is in heaven." {DA 357.2}

Unchristlike speech lies at the foundation of nine-tenths of all the difficulties that exist in the church. Satan's agents are industriously trying to get professed Christians to speak unadvisedly. When they succeed, Satan exults, because God's followers have hurt their influence.—The Review and Herald, November 24, 1904. {VSS 56.2}

...Choice words must be spoken by those who would do service for Christ. Haphazard words, hasty, common words, talking for the sake of talking, when silence would be better, is a sin Those who are the most wordy exercise no wholesome influence upon the society in which they live and move. Bible religion is not to be boastfully paraded, but quietly practiced in good words and works. {VSS 30.3}

This is the education we need in our schools. The hasty, reckless use of the faculty of speech lies at the foundation of nearly all the church troubles that exist. Evil speaking should be dealt with as a misdemeanor that is subject to church trial and separation from church membership, if persisted in, for the church cannot be set in order in any other way. {Ms74-1897.7}

Wisdom says to us today:

"Forsake the foolish, and live; and go in the way of understanding."
{Proverbs 9:6}

How to Study the Bible: *The Example of William Miller*

Consider William Miller’s experience:

Endeavoring to lay aside all preconceived opinions, and dispensing with commentaries, he compared scripture with scripture by the aid of the marginal references and the concordance. He pursued his study in a regular and methodical manner; beginning with Genesis, and reading verse by verse, he proceeded no faster than the meaning of the several passages so unfolded as to leave him free from all embarrassment. When he found anything obscure, it was his custom to compare it with every other text which seemed to have any reference to the matter under consideration. Every word was permitted to have its proper bearing upon the subject of the text, and if his view of it harmonized with every collateral passage, it ceased to be a difficulty. Thus whenever he met with a passage hard to be understood he found an explanation in some other portion of the Scriptures. As he studied with earnest prayer for divine enlightenment, that which had before appeared dark to his understanding was made clear. He experienced the truth of the psalmist’s words: “The entrance of Thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.” Psalm 119:130. {CIHS 49.2}

What we can learn from this:

1. Earnest Prayer a Necessity: confess and repent of our sins and ask for the Holy Spirit’s guidance in the name of Jesus Christ. {Isaiah 59:1-3, 1 John 1:5-10, Psalm 66:18, John 14:14, Luke 11:13, Psalm 25:5, John 14:26; 15:26}
 - a. A straight message: 2 Chronicles 15:1-2
2. Lay aside all preconceived opinions and dispense with all commentaries from spiritual Babylon {*note* In this instance in time as seen in the above quotation, there were no SDA commentaries and no Ellen White *SOP* books→ we should use these resources}
 - a. Check out these resources:
 - i. <https://egwwritings.org/>
 - ii. <https://www.e-sword.net/>
3. Compare Scripture with Scripture using the aid of marginal references and a Strong’s Concordance.
4. Utilize a regular and methodical manner reading verse by verse and looking at all related references from Genesis to Revelation.
5. Allow every verse to have its proper bearing upon the subject of the text.

This Week's Sabbath School Lesson

Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. {2Peter 3:13}

The Certainty of Christ's Return

1. How certain can we be of Christ's 2nd Advent?
2. What will be the signs in the world of Christ's approach?
3. How will we know the true Christ from the counterfeit Christ?

The Promise of Restoration

Read Isaiah 11:1-5

4. Who is the rod and Branch?
5. What is another term we can use to denote the spirit of the Lord?
6. What does the Holy Spirit give to people?
7. What is verse 4 talking about?
8. Can what we say promote church unity, as well as, destroy it? How does what we say promote or destroy church unity?
 - a. Hint: read E.G.W references on page 4
9. How should we speak?

Resurrection and Restored Relationships

10. In preparation for the 2nd Coming, resurrection and/or translation, what can we do to restore broken relationships right now?

A New Earth for the Redeemed

Read Revelation 21:2

11. What kind of city is New Jerusalem?
12. Since it is a holy city, what kind of people live in a holy city?
 - a. Do sinners and wicked people live in a holy city?
13. Since only holy people live in a holy city, then what are people unified in?

Read Revelation 22:1-4

14. The people living in the New Kingdom have something special in their foreheads. What will all of God's servants have in their foreheads and what does that mean?

Life on the New Earth

Read Isaiah 35:3-4

15. What does God tell us to do? What does this mean?

Read Isaiah 35:7-10

This is what we have to look forward to. Let's prepare and get ready to inherit such a great place.



Answer Sheet

1. How certain can we be of Christ's 2nd Advent?
 - a. Very certain-John 14:1-3
2. What will be the signs in the world of Christ's approach?
 - a. 2 Timothy 3:1-5→people will be very wicked
 - b. 1 Timothy 4:1-2→many false doctrines, people's words and behaviour will be deceptive
 - c. Daniel 12:4→knowledge will increase
 - d. Matthew 24:6, 7, 12→ wars and rumours of wars, famines and earthquakes, iniquity abounds and very little true love
3. How will we know the true Christ from the counterfeit Christ?
 - a. Matthew 24:27, 31→arrive coming from the east going westward, bright, brilliant, loud, many angels
 - b. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17→ descend from the sky, righteous dead rise, we all get caught up in the sky to meet Jesus Christ in the air, He will not set foot on the ground
4. Who is the rod and Branch?
 - a. Jeremiah 33:15→notice-"of righteousness"
 - b. 2 Peter 1:1→, Mary was of lineage of Jesse and she gave birth to Jesus and God is Jesus' father. Jesus is Christ our righteousness
5. What is another term we can use to denote the spirit of the Lord?
 - a. Holy Spirit, Holy Ghost →Matthew 3:16
6. What does the Holy Spirit give to people?
 - a. Isaiah 11:2→wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge and fear of the Lord
 - b. If we are unified by the Spirit of God, each one of us will possess those things
 - c. cool connection→ think of the 1st Angel's message
7. What is verse 4 talking about?
 - a. We have both the 1st advent and Jesus' life, as well as, the later judgement of the wicked and their destruction
 - i. Jesus was a friend and patron of the poor (Matt 5:3)
 - ii. He judges, decides...argues as an impartial judge with uncorrupted integrity (Isa 11:3)
 - iii. He is an upright judge or prince who will smite the wicked inhabitants of the earth in just, upright,

- impartial exercise of power. This is expressive of the punishment (Psa 2:9-12, Rev 2:27)
- iv. The rod of his mouth would denote the use of Scripture. Jesus lived by Sola Scriptura. (Prov 10:13; 13:24, 2 Tim 3:16, Matt 4:4)
 - v. The rod of his mouth can also denote the commands of one who is a ruler or office of authority. God's commands are so authoritative and certain in their execution as to be a sharp sword slaying the enemy with eternal destruction. (Job 9:34; 21:9, Heb 4:12, Isa 49:2, Rev 21:8)
8. Can what we say promote church unity, as well as, destroy it? How does what we say promote or destroy church unity?
- a. Read Ellen White Quotations on page 4
 - b. Proverbs 18:21→there is power in what is said
 - c. James 3:6-8→ can be quite dangerous
 - d. The words spoken among us are very likely contributing to disunity
9. How should we speak?
- a. 1 Peter 3:10→stop speaking evil things, no lying
 - b. Psalms 15:1-3→ no character assassinations, no evil speaking of people
10. In preparation for the 2nd Coming, resurrection and/or translation, what can we do to restore broken relationships right now?
- a. Matthew 5:21-24→we shouldn't harbour anger, resentment etc etc. but seek to reconcile ourselves with our brethren as soon as possible
 - b. Luke 6:37→to receive forgiveness from God, we need to forgive others, if there is a problem between each other today, we need to reconcile today
 - c. Proverbs 27:6→ we need to be honest and upfront with our brothers and sisters even if they may not like what we say
 - d. Proverbs 16:24→speak pleasantly and kindly
 - e. Romans 12:10→need to be kind to one another and work on enjoying fellowship with each other
 - f. Matthew 7:12→howsoever you want to be treated, you ought to treat others the same way
11. What kind of city is New Jerusalem?
- a. A holy city

12. Since it is a holy city, what kind of people live in a holy city? Do sinners and wicked people live in a holy city?
 - a. Holy people live in a holy city. Wicked people love sin and a place where sinners can't sin would mean they'd be in misery.
13. Since only holy people live in a holy city, then what are people unified in?
 - a. God's people must be unified in holiness
 - i. 1 Peter 2:9, Exodus 28:36,37, Jeremiah 2:3, Psalm 29:2, Hebrews 12:14
14. The people living in the New Kingdom have something special in their foreheads. What will all of God's servants have in their foreheads and what does that mean?
 - a. God's name
 - b. Exodus 33:19→God was going to declare His name before Moses
 - c. Exodus 34:5-8→all what is listed are character traits of God
 - d. The people living in the New Kingdom will have Christ-like characters. They will have overcome all their sinful faults and be counted as overcomers. (Revelation 3:5, 21:27)

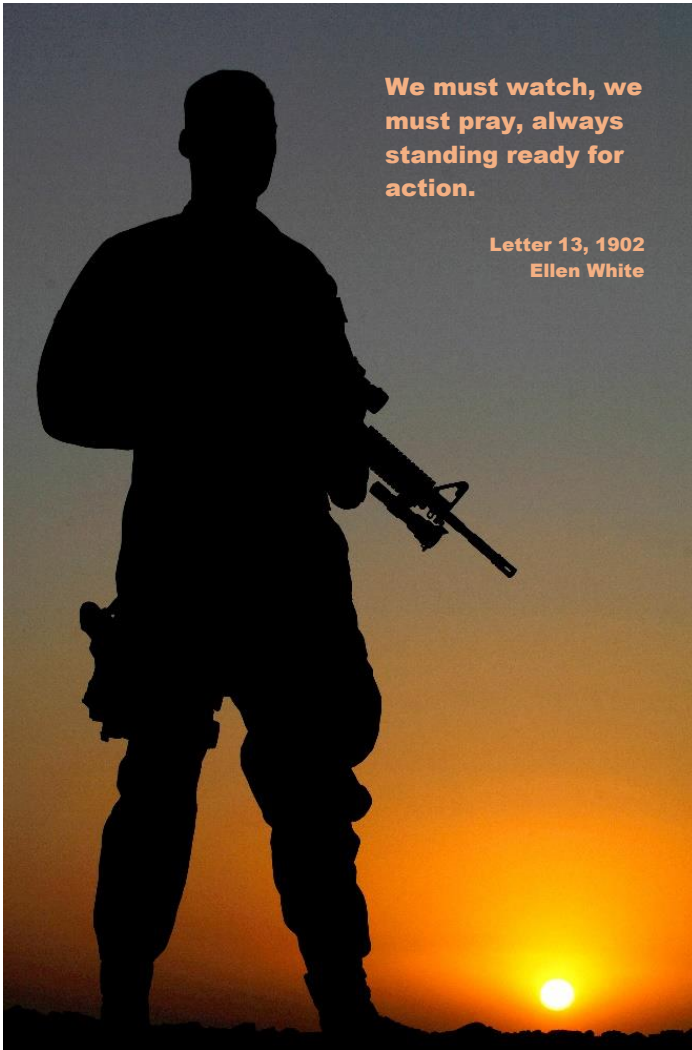
Thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:57). Christ has power from His Father to give His divine grace and strength to man, making it possible for him through His name to overcome....All are personally exposed to the temptations that Christ overcame, but strength is provided for them in the all-powerful name of the great Conqueror. And all must, for themselves, individually overcome. {ML 317.1-3}

What is justification by faith? It is the work of God in laying the glory of man in the dust, and doing for man that which it is not in his power to do for himself. When men see their own nothingness, they are prepared to be clothed with the righteousness of Christ. {FLB 111.2}

15. What does God tell us to do? What does this mean?
 - a. To strengthen, support and encourage people
 - b. Ms41, 1908

Let love be without
dissimulation. Abhor that
which is evil; cleave to that
which is good. Be kindly
affectioned one to another
with brotherly love; in
honour preferring one
another; Not slothful in
business; fervent in spirit;
serving the Lord;

{Romans 12:9-11}



**We must watch, we
must pray, always
standing ready for
action.**

**Letter 13, 1902
Ellen White**

“Death before dishonor or the transgression of
God’s law should be the motto of every Christian.”

{Counsels for the Church 109.3} ~ Ellen White