

Old Paths

Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls.

Jeremiah 6:16

craight and Narrow

The secret of the LORD is with them that fear Him; and He will show them His covenant.

Psalm 25:14

Religious (iberty in the Light of Revelation 14

In closing his farewell address to Israel, Joshua said, "Choose you this day whom ye will serve." (Joshua 24:15) To this the people responded, "God forbid that we should forsake the LORD, to serve other gods." (v. 16) After assuring Joshua that they would serve the LORD regardless, (24:18-21) Joshua said, "Ye are witnesses against yourselves that ye have chosen you the LORD, to serve him." (v. 22) From Genesis to Revelation, God's word is filled with commands that call for choices to be made. (See Gen. 17:1; Isaiah 1:18, 19; Deut. 30:19; Acts 5:27-29; Rev. 3:18-22)

The Bible says that God made man in His own image. (Gen. 1:26) While we understand the physical outline of Adam to have been similar to his Creator, it was in character and thought capacity that Gen. 1:26 primarily refers to. Note the following quotation:

Every human being, created in the image of God, is endowed with a power akin to that of the Creater-ind.viduality, power to think and to do. ... It is the work of true education to develop this power, to train the youth to be thinkers, and not more reflectors of other men's thought. (Education, p. 17)

from Eden till today it has beer God's purpose for man that he should develop this power to think and to do; to develop the power of choice, so that he may be transformed into the divine image. Thus religious liberty is ordained of God. What is religious liberty?

RECICION is "the duty which we owe to our fireaeon, and the marrier of discharging it."

terty is "the state of being exempt from the domination of others, or from restricting circumstances. In ethics and philosophy, the power in any rational agent to make has choices and decide his conduct for himself.

spontaneously and voluntarily, in accordance with reasons or motives."

Religious liberty, therefore, is man's exemption from the domination of others, or from restricting circum stances: man's freedom to make his choices and decide his conduct for himself, spontaneously and voluntarily: in his duty to his Creator, and in the manner of dis charging that duty. (Individuality in Religion, p. 5. Bold emphasis supplied - all other the author's)

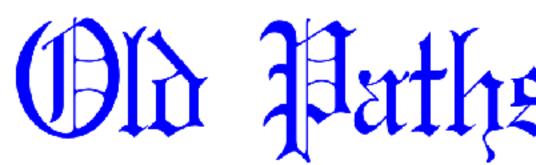
God has always desired that man worship Him from the dictates of his own conscience. Satan has always desired to pervert this freedom and to enslave man to follow him whether he chose to or not. Well has it been written:

Any service as to God that is not freely chosen by him who renders it is not service to God. There can be not service in it; there can be note of God in it. Any service rendered as to God that is not freely chosen on the part of him who renders it cannot be of God; tercause "God is love": and love and compulsion, love and force, love and oppression, never can go together. Therefore any duty, any obligation, anything, offered or rendered as to God that is not of the individual's own freely chosen choice, can neither be of God not to God. Accordingly when the Lord created whetever creature-angel or man-in order that that creature should be happy in the service of God, and in order that there should be virtue in rendering service or worship to God, He created him free to choose to do so. (Ibid., pp. 8, 9)

Let us now examine how the power of choice is involved in the three angel's messages.

First Angel's Message

"And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the nour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters." (Rev. 14:6, 7)



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Psalm 25:14

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World Wide Witnessing and the World Wide Web

We have a worldwide message. Jesus Himself tells us, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations." (Matthew 28:19) The fulfillment of this gospel commission is prophetically described in the book of Revelation: "And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people." (Revelation 14:6)

The culmination of the "everlasting gospel" enlightens the whole earth with the knowledge of God's wonderful character of love. "And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory." (Revelation 18:1)

Both the first angel of Revelation 14 and the final angel who lightens the earth with his glory are a symbolic representation of God's people, His true church. Yet how does the church preach the last warning message to every person in the whole world?

THE GOSPEL AND TECHNOLOGY

First, it must be recognized that we cannot effectively share with others truths we have not understood or experienced ourselves. Can we truly represent the vital power and truth of Christianity if our experience does not demonstrate and witness it with Christ-like words and actions? Obviously not! Yet, how does the true Christian relate to the technology explosion in this "information age?" In seeking a balanced and realistic understanding to this question, please ask yourself the following: Is God entirely dependent upon people to preach the gospel? The answer is no! If God wanted He could preach the gospel to the

whole world via His holy angels just like He sent them to proclaim the good news of His Son to the shepherds as they watched their flocks by night. (See Luke 2:8-15.) No, God is not dependent upon people, but He wants to use people to proclaim His truth.

Is God dependent upon human technology to proclaim His truth to the whole world? The answer again must be no! God does not need modern transportation, telecommunication, television, satellites, printing presses or, or,...wait a minute, did I say "printing presses?" That's right, God doesn't need printing presses to advance His message on earth. Word of mouth could promote it. Handwritten and hand copied books and Bibles could promote it. Yet, as demonstrated by history, God has chosen to work through the modern invention of printing presses to more speedily advance the light of His truth throughout the world.

One classic example of this is the Reformation of the sixteenth century. Martin Luther wrote his ninety-five theses and nailed them to the castle chapel doors for a few people to read. However, in just a short time all of Germany had heard of them because



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From the Editor:

Recently Brother Lynnford Beachy informed me of an Internet chat session where the subject would be the doctrine of God. This session would allow for typed messages as well as audio transmissions. The time of the session was Wednesday evening, beginning at 8:00 p.m. est. This created a conflict for me since our local church meets during this time for prayer meeting and one of my responsibilities is to lead out in our mid-week service. I would only be able to catch part of the session. However, Lynnford was able to participate in the entire session.

The moderator and leading speaker was promoting tritheism, a belief in three separate, individual gods. When I was able to see and hear the content of what was being taught, I was appalled. First, instead of a plain, "Thus saith the Lord," poor reasoning and logic were used to build the shaky platform of the moderator. Second, the moderator was shameless in his attempt to teach that there were three gods. Despite the plain declarations of the Bible, he had no problem teaching polytheism, especially that Jesus was not the literal Son of God brought forth of the Father before Bethlehem!

Lynnford Beachy, in the second article of this issue of *Old Paths* entitled, "How Many Gods Are There" helps to clarify the truth about God. I would encourage each reader to carefully consider the Scriptures and the evidence they bring forth. The proper worship of the true God is essential to our Christianity. Jesus told the woman in Samaria, "Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." (John 4:22-24) Jesus also said, "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent." (John 17:3)

"A knowledge of God is the foundation of all true education and of all true service. It is the only real safeguard against temptation. It is this alone that can make us like God in character.

"This is the knowledge needed by all who are working for the uplifting of their fellow men. Transformation of character, purity of life, efficiency in service, adherence to correct principles, all depend upon a right knowledge of God. This knowledge is the essential preparation both for this life and for the life to come." (Ministry of Healing, p. 409 - emphasis supplied)

Prayer Requests

Today we are thankful to report that the truth is making progress in new and old fields. We currently have several requests for us to visit areas to hold meetings. Sadly, we are not able to fill all the requests.

Due to health issues among my personal family, I am not able to be away much at this time. Please keep all my family in prayer, especially my dad, Robert, who is challenged with lung disease. Lynnford has been a great help taking some meetings that I could not attend. However, his wife, Kendra, is currently pregnant and is due near the first of the year.

Jesus said, "The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest." (Luke 10:2) Let us pray that more will respond to the calling of the Lord and allow the Master Worker to fit them for His service.

Please also pray for a special need in the family of Howard Williams.

Editor

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We can learn from God's little creatures. See page 11.

Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein. (Jeremiah 6:16)



And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever [olam]. (Genesis 3:22)

But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting [olam]. (Micah 5:2)

And God said, This is the token of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual [olam] generations. (Genesis 9:12)

There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked. (Isaiah 57:21)

. . . all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. (1 Corinthians 10:11)

. . . Hezekiah sick unto death. And the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz came to him, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Set thine house in order; for thou shalt die, and not live. (2 Kings 20:1)

I beseech thee, O LORD, remember now how I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in thy sight. (2 Kings 20:3)

But Hezekiah rendered not again according to the benefit done unto him; for his heart was lifted up: therefore there was wrath upon him, and upon Judah and Jerusalem. (2 Chronicles 32:25)

In reviewing our past history, having traveled over every step of advance to our present standing, I can say, Praise God! As I see what the Lord has wrought, I am filled with astonishment, and with confidence in Christ as leader. We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history. (*Life Sketches*, p. 196.2)

I know and understand that we are to be established in the faith, in the light of the truth given us in our early experience. At that time one error after another pressed in upon us; ministers and doctors brought in new doctrines. We would search the Scriptures with much prayer, and the Holy Spirit would bring the truth to our minds. Sometimes whole nights would be devoted to searching the Scriptures, and earnestly asking God for guidance. Companies of devoted men and women assembled for this purpose. The power of God would come upon me, and I was enabled clearly to define what is truth and what is error. (Manuscript Releases, vol. 8, p. 319.2; Letter 50, 1906)

As a people we are to stand firm on the platform of eternal truth that has withstood test and trial. We are to hold to the sure pillars of our faith. The principles of truth that God has revealed to us are our only true foundation. They have made us what we are. The lapse of time had not lessened their value. (*Selected Messages*, bk. 1, p. 201.2, 1904)

I saw a company who stood well guarded and firm, giving no countenance to those who would unsettle the established faith of the body. God looked upon them with approbation. I was shown three steps,—the first, second, and third angels' messages. Said my accompanying angel, "Woe to him who shall move a block or stir a pin of these messages. The true understanding of these messages is of vital importance. The destiny of souls hangs upon the manner in which they are received." I was again brought down through these messages, and saw how dearly the people of God had purchased their experience. It had been obtained through much suffering and severe conflict. God had led them along step by step, until He had placed them upon a solid, immovable platform. (Early Writings, pp. 258.3, 1858)

In the early days of the message, when our numbers were few, we studied diligently to understand the meaning of many scriptures. At times it seemed as if no explanation could be given. My mind seemed to be locked to an understanding of the Word; . . . (*The Review and Herald,* June 14, 1906, par. 18)

For two or three years my mind continued to be locked to the Scriptures. In 1846 I was married to Elder James White. It was some time after my second son was born [July 1849] that we were in great perplexity regarding certain points of doctrine. I was asking the Lord to unlock my mind, that I might understand His Word. Suddenly I seemed to be enshrouded in clear, beautiful light, and ever since, the Scriptures have been an open book to me. (Manuscript Releases, vol. 3, pp. 413.2, 1903)

For two or three years my mind continued to be locked to an understanding of the Scriptures. In the course of our labors, my husband and I visited Father Andrews, [December 1850] who was suffering intensely with inflammatory rheumatism. We prayed for him. I laid my hands on his head, and said, "Father Andrews, the Lord Jesus maketh thee whole." He was healed instantly. He got up, and walked about the room, praising God, and saying, "I never saw it on this wise before. Angels of God are in this room." The glory of the Lord was revealed. Light seemed to shine all through the house, and an angel's hand was laid upon my head. From that time to this I have been able to understand the Word of God. (Special Testimonies, Series B, no. 2, pp. 57.2, 1904)

During this whole time I could not understand the reasoning of the brethren. My mind was locked, as it were, and I could not comprehend the meaning of the scriptures we were studying. This was one of the greatest sorrows of my life. I was in this condition of mind until all the principal points of our faith were made clear to our minds, in harmony with the word of God. (Special Testimonies, series B, no. 2, p. 57.1)

Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper. (2 Chronicles 20:20)

The path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day? (Proverbs 4:18)

Upon every individual who has had the light of present truth devolves the duty of developing that truth on a higher scale than it has hitherto been developed. (*The Review and Herald*, September 21, 1897, par. 2)

And they are informed of thee, that thou teachest all the Jews which are among the Gentiles to forsake (apostasia) Moses, saying that they ought not to circumcise their children, neither to walk after the customs. (Acts 21:21)

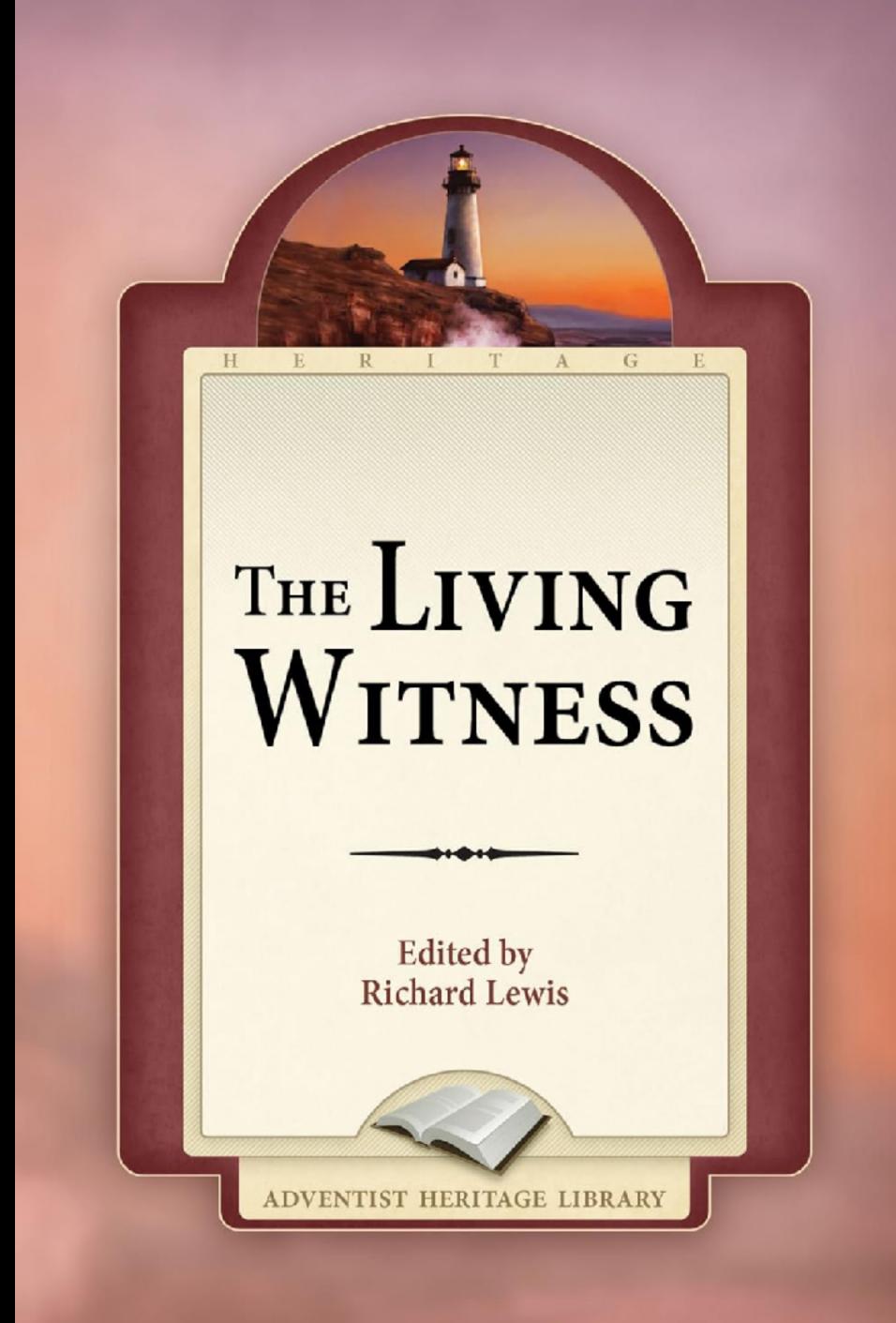
Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away (apostasia) first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition.

(2 Thessalonians 2:3)

The Lord has declared that the history of the past shall be rehearsed as we enter upon the closing work. Every truth that He has given for these last days is to be proclaimed to the world. Every pillar that He has established is to be strengthened. We cannot now step off the foundation that God has established. We cannot now enter into any new organization; for this would mean apostasy from the truth. (Selected Messages, bk. 2, p. 390.1, 1905)

Who has authority to begin such a movement? We have our Bibles. We have our experience, attested to by the miraculous working of the Holy Spirit. We have a truth that admits of no compromise. Shall we not repudiate everything that is not in harmony with this truth? (Special Testimonies, Series B, no. 2, p. 55, 1904)

Though there is no assurance that James White was the only author, he no doubt had a large part in its composition. (*The Living Witness*, p. 1)



I – That there is one God, a personal, spiritual being, the creator of all things, omnipotent, omniscient, and eternal; infinite in wisdom, holiness, justice, goodness, truth, and mercy; unchangeable, and everywhere present by his representative, the Holy Spirit. Ps. 139:7.

"distinctly non-trinitarian"

ISSUES: The Seventh-day Adventist Church and Certain Private Ministries

II. That there is one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Eternal Father, the one by whom he created all things, and by whom they do consist; that he took on him the nature of the seed of Abraham for the redemption of our fallen race; that he dwelt among men, full of grace and truth, lived our example, died our sacrifice, was raised for our justification, ascended on high to be our only mediator in the sanctuary in heaven, where, through the merits of his shed blood, he secures the pardon and forgiveness of the sins of all those who penitently come to him; and as the closing portion of his work as priest, before he takes his throne as king, he will make the great atonement for the sins of all such, and their sins will then be blotted out (Acts 3:19) and borne away from the sanctuary, as shown in the service of the Levitical priesthood, which foreshadowed and prefigured the ministry of our Lord in heaven. See Lev. 16; Heb. 8:4, 5; 9:6, 7; etc.

2. The Trinity

There is one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, a unity of three coeternal Persons.



The World Council of Churches a fellowship of churches which confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the scriptures, and therefore seek to fulfill together their common calling to the glory of the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (https:// www.oikoumene.org/about-the-wcc, accessed on February 16, 2025)

The Church had to wait for more than three hundred years for a final synthesis, for not until the council of Constantinople (381) was the formula of one God existing in three co-equal Persons formally ratified. (*Early Christian Doctrines*, pp. 87, 88)

The mystery of the Trinity is the central doctrine of Catholic faith.

Upon it are based all the other teachings of the Church. . . .

The Church studied this mystery with great care and, after four centuries of clarification, decided to state the doctrine in this way: in the unity of the Godhead there are three Persons—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—truly distinct one from another. Thus, in the words of the Athanasian Creed: "The Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God, and yet there are not three gods but one God. (*Handbook for Today's Catholic*, p. 16; 1994)

But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.

(1 Corinthians 8:6)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: (Ephesians 1:3)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. (1 Peter 1:3)

4. God the Son (Jesus Christ)

God the eternal Son became incarnate in Jesus Christ. Through Him all things were created, the character of God is revealed, the salvation of humanity is accomplished, and the world is judged.

Forever truly God, He became also truly human, Jesus the Christ. He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He lived and experienced temptation as a human being, but perfectly exemplified the righteousness and love of God.

By His miracles He manifested God's power and was attested as God's promised Messiah. He suffered and died voluntarily on the cross for our sins and in our place, was raised from the dead, and ascended to heaven to minister in the heavenly sanctuary on our behalf.

He will come again in glory for the final deliverance of His people and the restoration of all things

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(Isa. 53:4-6; Dan. 9:25-27; Luke 1:35; John 1:1-3, 14; 5:22; 10:30; 14:1–3, 9, 13; Rom. 6:23; 1 Cor. 15:3, 4; 2 Cor. 3:18; 5:17-19; Phil. 2:5–11; Col. 1:15-19; Heb. 2:9-18; 8:1, 2.) (https://www.adventist.org/beliefs/)
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There is a sanctuary in heaven, the true tabernacle that the Lord set up and not humans. In it Christ ministers on our behalf, making available to believers the benefits of His atoning sacrifice offered once for all on the cross. (https://www.adventist.org/beliefs/)

Adventists do not hold any theory of a dual atonement (emphasis in the original). Rather that all needful for our salvation was accomplished on the cross and that Christ only applies the benefits of his atoning sacrifice on the cross: When, therefore, one hears an Adventist say, or reads in Adventist literature—even in the writings of Ellen G. White—that Christ is making atonement now, it should be understood that we mean simply that Christ is now making application of the benefits of the sacrificial atonement He made on the cross; that He is making it efficacious for us individually, according to our needs and requests. (Questions on Doctrine, pp. 354, 355; emphasis in original)

XIII. That as the man of sin, the papacy, has thought to change times and laws (the law of God, Dan. 7:25), and has misled almost all Christendom in regard to the fourth commandment, we find a prophecy of a reform in this respect to be wrought among believers just before the coming of Christ. Isa. 56:1, 2; 1 Peter 1:5; Rev. 14:12, etc.

If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?" (Psalm 11:3)

Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set. (Proverbs 22:28)

I am instructed to say to our people: Let us follow Christ. Do not forget that He is to be our pattern in all things. We may safely discard those ideas that are not found in His teaching. I appeal to our ministers to be sure that their feet are placed on the platform of eternal truth. Beware how you follow impulse, calling it the Holy Spirit. Some are in danger in this respect. I call upon them to be sound in the faith, able to give to everyone who asks a reason of the hope that is in them.

The enemy is seeking to divert the minds of our brethren and sisters from the work of preparing a people to stand in these last days. His sophistries are designed to lead minds away from the perils and duties of the hour. They estimate as nothing the light that Christ came from heaven to give to John for His people. They teach that the scenes just before us are not of sufficient importance to receive special attention. They make of no effect the truth of heavenly origin and rob the people of God of their past experience, giving them instead a false science.

"Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein."

Jeremiah 6:16.

Let none seek to tear away the foundations of our faith—the foundations that were laid at the beginning of our work by prayerful study of the word and by revelation. Upon these foundations we have been building for the last fifty years. Men may suppose that they have found a new way and that they can lay a stronger foundation than that which has been laid. But this is a great deception. Other foundation can no man lay than that which has been laid.

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In the past many have undertaken the building of a new faith, the establishment of new principles. But how long did their building stand? It soon fell, for it was not founded upon the Rock.

Did not the first disciples have to meet the sayings of men? Did they not have to listen to false theories, and then, having done all, to stand firm, saying: "Other foundation can no man lay than that is laid"? 1 Corinthians 3:11.

So we are to hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end. Words of power have been sent by God and by Christ to this people, bringing them out from the world, point by point, into the clear light of present truth. With lips touched with holy fire, God's servants have proclaimed the message. The divine utterance has set its seal to the genuineness of the truth proclaimed.

The Lord calls for a renewal of the straight testimony borne in years past. He calls for a renewal of spiritual life. The spiritual energies of His people have long been torpid, but there is to be a resurrection from apparent death.

By prayer and confession of sin we must clear the King's highway. As we do this, the power of the Spirit will come to us. We need the Pentecostal energy. This will come, for the Lord has promised to send His Spirit as the all-conquering power.

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

I beseech those who are laboring for God not to accept the spurious for the genuine. Let not human reason be placed where divine, sanctifying truth should be. Christ is waiting to kindle faith and love in the hearts of His people. Let not erroneous theories receive countenance from the people who ought to be standing firm on the platform of eternal truth. God calls upon us to hold firmly to the fundamental principles that are based upon unquestionable authority. (Ellen White, Testimonies for the Church, vol. 8, pp. 296.1–298.2, 1904)

. . there is no new thing under the sun. (Ecclesiastes 1:9)

. . . a pestilent fellow, and a mover of sedition among all the Jews throughout the world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes: (Acts 24:5)

But this I confess unto thee, that after the way which they call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the law and in the prophets: (Acts 24:14)