

Thus faith does not "make void," "overthrow," "abolish," or "destroy" the law; rather does it “establish," "uphold," “confirm," and “corroborate" the law. Mrs. White put it this way:

Faith is not an opiate, but a stimulant. Looking to Calvary will not quiet your soul into non-performance of duty, but will create faith that will work, purifying the soul from all selfishness. - *The Faith I Live By*, p. 93.

The faith in Christ which saves the soul is not what it is represented to be by many. "Believe, believe," is their cry; "only believe in Christ, and you will be saved. It is all you have to do." *While true faith trusts only in Christ for salvation, it will lead to perfect conformity to the law of God.* - *Review and Herald*, October 5, 1886; also in *S. D. A. Bible Commentary*, vol. 6, p. 1073. Italics supplied.

It is not the work of the gospel to weaken the claims of God's holy law, but to bring men up to where they can keep its precepts. - *Ibid*.

Read also *Selected Messages*, Book 1, pp. 389-398, for an inspired statement on how a man is made just with God.

After studying this lesson, you must come to your own conclusions as to whether Mrs. White stood in defense of the gospel-whether her work met the test of 1 John 4:2, by confessing that "Jesus Christ is come in the flesh." Or was her witness legalistic? Remember, the church to which she belonged still believes and teaches as she did on this question.

Lesson 10 will answer these questions:

- Is the Spirit of Prophecy "another Bible"?
- Are the key doctrines of the Advent Movement founded upon the Bible or upon the Spirit of Prophecy counsels?
- From what source did Seventh-day Adventists derive their views on the Sabbath? Tithe paying? and the second advent of Christ?

PROPHETIC GUIDANCE IN THE ADVENT MOVEMENT

IN HARMONY WITH THE GOSPEL

Test Questions – Lesson 9

1. Fill in these statements:

1. One of the Bible test of the true prophet is his attitude towards..... and His

2. “I ashamed of the of Christ: for it is the of..... unto to everyone that"
2. Place a check after each true statement:

1. In the warfare between good and evil, God can do only that which is just and right. ()

2. Satan will employ any instrument that will work to his advantage. ()

3. If we have a good purpose in view, the end will justify the means. ()
3. Fill in the words missing from this E.G. White statement:

“You know that my

....., both in the pulpit and in private, by voice and pen, is the"
4. Copy in the spaces below choice Spirit of Prophecy phrases or sentences indicating Mrs. White’s teaching on cardinal Bible truths concerning Christ the Saviour.

1. His divinity, pre-existence, incarnation:

2. His sinless life:

3. His vicarious death:

4. His bodily resurrection:

5. His ascension to heaven:

6. His intercessory priesthood:

7. His second coming as King of kings:

.....
5. Answer these questions:

1. What is the great truth around which all other truths cluster?

2. What two E. G. White books offer the most convincing testimonies in favor of the saving gospel of Christ?and.....
6. Underline the clauses in parentheses which truly complete these statement:

1. The prime objectives of the gospel are to (persuade God to overlook sin) (reconcile men to God) (bring men into harmony with God’s law and government).
2. Faith in Christ’s sacrifice (makes it unnecessary) (makes one able) to obey the Ten Commandments law of God.

THINK ON THESE THINGS (No written answer)

Do I meditate every day on the life of Christ? (Read Desire of Ages, p. 83.)

Is any influence in life – secular or religious – more moving than the sacrifice of Christ on Calvary’s cross?

How has the cross infused my thoughts and habits of life?

Does faith abolish or confirm the law of God?

Is it possible to defend the gospel yet repudiate God's law?

Is the Spirit of Prophecy position on the law and the gospel wholly sound?

In Harmony with the Gospel

9



PROPHETIC GUIDANCE

GUIDING TEXT: Hereby know ye the Spirit of God; Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God. -1 John 4:2.

Position of God's True Messenger Toward Gospel

One of the Bible-established tests of a true prophet is his attitude toward Christ and His incarnation.

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth the Jew first, and also to the Greek. - Romans 1:16.

The Centenary Translation reads: "For I am proud of the gospel. It is God's saving power for everyone who believes."

The apostle Paul was "proud" of the gospel of Christ by which he himself had found salvation; and never was there a greater preacher and teacher of the blessed "good news." Paul was as unsparing in denunciation of those who perverted the gospel as he was bold in its defense. To the Galatian church, split by heresy, he wrote:

O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you? - Galatians :3:1.

I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: which is not another: but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. - Galatians 1 :6-8.

The true prophet or apostle will, like Paul, stand in defense of the gospel which was taught by the Saviour and by the inspired prophets and apostles. He will not believe or teach "another gospel."

The true gospel is "everlasting." Revelation 14:6. It cannot be improved upon, nor can its claims be strengthened by adjustment to the changing philosophies of any age or person or circumstance. Its provisions and requirements are always the same. In it all the truths of redemption are wrapped up. Christ and His perfect life, His shed blood and intercession, are the heart of the gospel. In it Christ is revealed as Lord and Saviour, and from it every true doctrine receives its force and impact. The true prophet and preacher in every age will uphold the gospel, and will not declare any teaching contrary to it. Only by standing solidly on this truth can the unity of Christ's church be maintained.

God Instructed His Church About the Evils of Divisive Teaching

And if a kingdom be divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house be divided against itself, that home cannot stand. - Mark 3:24, 25.

The gist of Jesus' remark here' is that *God does not work in partnership with Satan* . God's righteous kingdom and Satan's evil kingdom are at war; their interests are diametrically opposed. Christ, His gospel, and His church stand on one side of the battle line; Satan and his fallen angels and his earthly followers stand on the other side. There is no compromise, no armistice; it is a battle to the death. In the very nature of this warfare, a just and honorable God must employ only the weapons of truth, love and morality in the struggle; He cannot use devious or deceptive methods. On the other hand, Satan is the great deceiver a "liar from the beginning" (John 8:44), the false accuser of God and the saints. With him, the end justifies any means, and he will employ any agent, any instrument, that will do his evil work. Read Matthew 24:11, 24; 2 Corinthians 11:13-15. But God's loyal host will ever represent and uphold the principles of His kingdom of righteousness.

In the light of these facts we now inquire into the belief and teachings of Mrs. Ellen White on this vital theme of the gospel. Let us see on which side she stood. Was she a true "evangel," a teacher of the gospel?

Mrs. White's Teaching Concerning the Gospel and the Plan of Redemption

The burden of Mrs. White's oral or written messages, first, last, and always was Christ as the only Saviour and Redeemer of mankind. While serving the church in New South Wales, Australia, doing pioneer work in the creation of a Christian college and hospital, Ellen White spent much time in writing her classic biography of Jesus, *The Desire of Ages*. She rejoiced in this, the central feature of her work, for she was well acquainted with Jesus as her personal Lord and Saviour. The extraordinary

beauty of language in this biography of Christ represents her deep appreciation of His sacrifice for her. "You know," she wrote, "*that my whole theme , both in the pulpit and in private, by voice and pen, is the life of Christ.*" - *Letter* 41, 1895, Quoted in *Messenger to the Remnant*, p. 59. Italics supplied. Read also *Desire of Ages*, p. 83.

Ellen White's writings were filled with Scripture passages exalting Jesus as Lord and Saviour. She wrote often of His "matchless charms." In public sermons she held the Bible aloft in her hand and recommended the Word of God as the great exponent of life only through Christ. Her writings struck squarely at pantheistic and spiritualistic representations of the Son of God. It was the historical Christ, the divine and pre-existent Son of God made flesh; the ever-sinless one; crucified, dead, and buried; risen from the grave, ascended, now interceding, and coming soon again - this was the representation of Christ that ever characterized her writings.

The great center of attraction, Jesus Christ, must not be left out. It is at the cross of Christ that mercy find truth meet together, and righteousness and peace kiss each other. The sinner must be made to look to Calvary; with the simple faith of a little child he must trust in the merits of the Saviour, accepting. His righteousness. believing in His mercy. - *Gospel Workers*, pp. 156. 157.

Emphasis on Basic Bible Truths Concerning Christ the Saviour

We shall here note the harmony between the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy in emphasis on seven vital Christian teachings.

Our Lord's divinity, pre-existence, and incarnation.

Bible:
And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory. - 1 Timothy 3:16.

And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was. - John 17:5.

Spirit of Prophecy:

Christ was God essentially, and in the highest sense. He was with God from all eternity, God over all, blessed forevermore. *Selected Messages*, Book I, p. 247.

Had He [Christ] appeared with the glory that was His with the Father before the world was, we could not have endured the light of His presence. That we might behold it and not be destroyed, the manifestation of His glory was shrouded. His divinity was veiled with humanity, - the invisible glory in the visible human form. - *Desire of Ages*, p. 23.

Christ did not make believe take human form; He verily did take it. He did in reality possess human nature. "As the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same" (Hebrews 2:14). He was the son of Mary; He was of the seed of David according to human descent. *Selected Messages*, Book I, p. 247. Italics supplied.

Our Lord's sinless life.

Bible:
Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me? John 8:46.

If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love: even as I have kept My Father's commandments, and abide in his love. - John 15:10.

Spirit of Prophecy:

We should have no misgivings in regard to the perfect sinlessness of the human nature of Christ. He is a brother in our infirmities, but not in possessing like passions. As the sinless One, His nature recoiled from evil. He endured struggles and torture of soul in a world of sin. His humanity made prayer a necessity and a privilege. He could have sinned, He could have fallen, but not for one moment was there in Him an evil propensity. - *The Faith I Live By*, p. 49. . . . He "was in all points tempted like as we are." Satan stood ready to assail Him at every step, hurling at Him his fiercest temptations; yet He "did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth." "He ... suffered being tempted," suffered in proportion to His perfect holiness. But the prince of darkness found nothing in Him; not a single thought or feeling responded to temptation. - *Testimonies*, vol. 5, p. 422.

Our Lord's vicarious death.

Bible:
For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. - John 3:16.

But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. - Isaiah 53:5.

Spirit of Prophecy:

. . . .To remove the cross from blotting out the sun from the sky. God, reconciling us to him. . . . Without the cross, man could have no union with the Father. -*Acts of the Apostles*, p. 209.

The sacrifice of Christ is sufficient: He made a whole, efficacious offering to God, and human effort without the merit of Christ, is worthless. - *Evangelism*, p. 192.

He planted the cross between heaven and earth, and when the Father beheld the sacrifice of His Son, He bowed before it in recognition of its perfection. "It is enough," He said. "The atonement is complete." - *Review and Herald*, Sept. 24, 1901.

Hanging upon the cross Christ was the gospel. . . . This is our message, our argument, our doctrine, our warning to the impenitent, our encouragement for the sorrowing, the hope for every believer. If we can awaken an interest in men's minds that will cause them to fix their eyes on Christ, we may step aside, and ask them only to continue to fix their eyes upon the Lamb of God. –*S. D. A. Bible Commentary*, vol. 6, p. 1113, E. G. White Supplement.

Our Lord's actual bodily resurrection.

Bible:
But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept. - 1 Corinthians 15:20.

Spirit of Prophecy:

The events of Christ's life, His death and resurrection, the prophecies pointing to these events, the mysteries of the plan of salvation, the power of Jesus for the remission of sins--to all these things they had been witnesses, and they were to make them known to the world. They were to proclaim the gospel of peace and salvation through repentance and the power of the Saviour. Acts of the Apostle, 27

Our Lord's ascension to heaven.

Bible:
And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. - Acts 1:9.

Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. - Hebrews 4:14.

Spirit of Prophecy:

Upon reaching the Mount of Olives, Jesus led the way across the summit, to the vicinity of Bethany. Here He paused, and the disciples gathered about Him. Beams of light seemed to radiate from His countenance as He looked lovingly upon them. He upbraided them not for their faults and failures; words of the deepest tenderness were the last that fell upon their ears from the lips of their Lord. With hands outstretched in blessing, and as if in the assurance of His protecting care, He slowly ascended from among them, drawn heavenward by a power stronger than any earthly attraction. As He passed upward, the awe-stricken disciples looked with straining eyes for the last glimpse of their ascending Lord. A cloud of glory hid Him from their sight; and the words came back to them as the cloudy chariot of angels received Him, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." At the same time there floated down to them the sweetest and most joyous music from the angel choir. - *Desire of Ages*, pp. 830, 831.

The resurrection and ascension of our Lord is a sure evidence of the triumph of the saints of God over death and the grave, and a pledge that heaven is open to those who wash their robes of character and make them white in the blood of the Lamb. Jesus ascended to the Father as a representative of the human race, and God will bring those who reflect His image to behold and share with Him His glory. - *Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 286.

Our Lord's intercessory priesthood in heaven.

Bible:
For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us. - Hebrews 9:24.

Spirit of Prophecy:

. . . .He stands to mediate for you. He is the great High Priest who is mediating in your behalf; and you are to come and present your case to the Father through Jesus Christ. Thus you can find access to God; and though you sin, your case is not hopeless. "If any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." 1 John 2:1. - *Testimonies*, vol. 2, p. 591. Read also *I bid.*, vol. 6, pp. 363, 364 .

He presents us to the Father clothed in the white raiment of own character. He pleads before God in our behalf, saying: I have taken the sinner's place. Look not upon this wayward child, but look on Me. Does Satan plead loudly against our souls, accusing us of sin, and claiming us as his prey, the blood of Christ pleads with greater power. - *Mount of Blessing*, p. 9, 1956 edition.

Our Lord's second coming.

Bible:
Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in mé. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.-John 14:1-3.

Spirit of Prophecy:

One of the most solemn and yet most glorious truths revealed in the Bible is that of Jesus' second coming, to complete the great work of redemption. . . .The doctrine of the Second Advent is the very keynote of the Sacred Scriptures. - *Great Controversy*, p.299.

The coming of the Lord has been in all ages the hope of His true followers. The Saviour's parting promise upon Olivet, that He would come again, lighted up the future for His disciples, filling their hearts with joy and hope that sorrow could not quench nor trials dim. Amid suffering and persecution, "the appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ" was the "blessed hope." - *Ibid.*, p. 302.

Surely all must agree that the foregoing utterances, treating seven vital phases of Christ's ministry on man's behalf, are clearly the words of a true messenger of God, and are in harmony with the Scriptures and the pure gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Central Truth in Gospel Emphasis of All God's Messengers

But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.-Galatians 6: 14.

This text represents Paul's emphasis, on the cross of Christ. Note Mrs. White's emphasis:

The sacrifice of Christ as an atonement for sin is the great truth around which all other truths cluster. In order to be rightly understood and appreciated, every truth in the word of God, from Genesis to Revelation, must be studied in the light that streams from the cross of Calvary. I present before you the great, grand monument of mercy and regeneration, salvation and redemption the Son of God uplifted on the cross. This is to be the foundation of every discourse given by our ministers. - *Gospel Workers*, p.315.

With this brief sample of Mrs. White's gospel emphasis as a beginning, we may go on and read whole books which she devoted to the theme of the cross and the atonement. *Desire of Ages*, *Christ's Object Lessons* - either one or both - offer most convincing testimonies in favor of the saving gospel of Christ. In fact, the gospel emphasis runs like a crimson thread through each of the more than fifty published volumes of the Spirit of Prophecy.

Important Objective of the Gospel Sometimes Overlooked

The prime objectives of the gospel are to reconcile men to God, and to bring them, in heart and life and habit, back into harmony with the law and government of God. The sacrifice of Christ effects this reconciliation with God *when men by faith accept* His proffered grace.

Respect for and attempts to obey the moral law cannot bring reconciliation. *But once reconciliation has taken place* through the blood of the cross, and the person has accepted Christ into his heart as Lord and Saviour, obedience to God's holy law becomes at once a *proof of faith and a mark of genuine Christian conversion*.

Note Paul's statement of this fact, in Romans 3:31, as expressed in different versions:

Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law. (KJV)

Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law. (RSV.)

Do we then by means of this faith abolish the Law? God forbid! We confirm the Law. Weymouth Version. "Then," you will say, "we destroy law for the sake of the faith?" Never! On the contrary, we corroborate law. Ferrar Fenton Version.