

A vibrant tulip field in a park with green trees and a building in the background. The tulips are in various shades of red, pink, and white, arranged in neat rows. The background features lush green trees and a white building, possibly a government or institutional structure, under a bright sky.

My Father's Kingdom

Ellen White
Compiled by
Tina-Marie Simon

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Spirit of Prophecy quotations compiled by
Tina-Marie Simon

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Introduction

So prevalent have objectionable, faultfinding traits of character become in the Church, that the Lord Jesus presents the Laodicean message to His people as an accurate description of their unsavory condition. In this message He gives the counsel that every church in the Southern field and all other fields should heed: "These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God; I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of My mouth." [Revelation 3:14-16.] What a deception is upon them! But God gives the recipe that will change their condition: "Because 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: I counsel thee to buy of Me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me." [Verses 17-20.] Who will use this God-given recipe? To those who choose to make use of it, the promise is: "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with Me in My throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with My Father in His throne." [Verse 21.]

The time has now come when the faultfinders, the unthankful, and the unholy will make a final decision. If they are saved at last, they must now be converted. They must heed the message, "Come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you." [2 Corinthians 6:17.]

"Love worketh no ill to his neighbor: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent,

the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in bedchambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.” [Romans 13:10-14.] {Ms59-1902.31}

“Judge not, and ye shall not be judged.” [Luke 6:37.]

My brethren in the Southern field, I ask you, in the name of the Lord God of Israel, to “quit you like men.” [1 Corinthians 16:13.] Use your talent of speech to a worthy purpose. Cultivate pleasantness of voice and fragrance of speech. Teach God’s Word—present truth—to those who are in the darkness of error. No longer imperil the salvation of your souls and the souls of others by speaking words of condemnation. “Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven: give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.” [Luke 6:37, 38.] Do you believe the words of a God too wise to err and too good to do us harm?

Often when a faultfinder asks forgiveness from his brother, he finds that he had no occasion for finding fault. Words misinterpreted, reports greatly exaggerated by those who carry them, result in estrangement between brethren. And when alienation creates an atmosphere so deleterious to spiritual health that some of the sufferers attempt to escape from the malarious atmosphere by asking the forgiveness of the one whom they have condemned, they discover that their brother is not guilty of the evils attributed to him. False reports had been passed from one to another, wrong impressions had been made, and at last the dish tasted so strongly of talebearing that it became nauseating.

He who cherishes a mischievous disposition and an unsanctified tongue, he who indulges his desire for criticism and talebearing, places himself in Satan’s power. He lives in darkness. His influence is of such a nature that many

others are affected by the darkness surrounding his soul. Concerning such men Christ “spake a parable,” saying: “Can the blind lead the blind? shall they not both fall into the ditch? The disciple is not above his master: but every one that is perfect shall be as his master.” Mark closely this lesson that Christ taught. He continued: “And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother’s eye, but perceivest not the beam that is in thine own eye? ... Thou hypocrite, cast out first the beam out of thine own eye, and then shalt thou see clearly to pull out the mote that is in thy brother’s eye. For a good tree bringeth not forth corrupt fruit; neither doth a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. For every tree is known by his own fruit. For of thorns men do not gather figs, nor of a bramble bush gather they grapes. A good man out of the good measure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.” [Verses 39-45.]

I present to you these lessons. Will you be offended at Christ’s words of instruction?

The words that I have quoted are the words of One who cannot err. Christ’s instruction applies to every one of His followers. {Ms59-1902. 29-37}

The Government of God

During His ministry Jesus devoted more time to healing the sick than to preaching. His miracles testified to the truth of His words, that he came not to destroy but save... The followers of Christ are to labor as He did. We are to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and comfort the suffering and afflicted. We are to minister to the despairing, and inspire hope in the hopeless. And to us also the promise will be fulfilled, "Thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the Lord shall be thy rearward." Isa. 58:8. **The love of Christ, manifested in unselfish ministry, will be more effective in reforming the evildoer than will the sword or the court of justice.** DA 350-351

Whereunto," asked Christ, **"shall we liken the kingdom of God? or with what comparison shall we compare it?"** Mark 4:30. **He could not employ the kingdoms of the world as a similitude. In society He found nothing with which to compare it. Earthly kingdoms rule by the ascendancy of physical power; but from Christ's kingdom every carnal weapon, every instrument of coercion, is banished.** This kingdom is to uplift and ennoble humanity. God's church is the court of holy life, filled with varied gifts and endowed with the Holy Spirit. The members are to find their happiness in the happiness of those whom they help and bless. {AA 12.2}

The government of the kingdom of Christ is like no earthly government. It is a representation of the characters of those who compose the kingdom. "Whereunto shall we liken the kingdom of God?" Christ asked, "or with what comparison shall we liken it?" **He could find nothing on earth that would serve as a perfect comparison.** His court is one where holy love presides, and whose offices and appointments are graced by the exercise of charity. **He charges his servants to bring pity and loving-kindness, his own attributes, into all their office work, and to find their happiness and satisfaction in reflecting the love and tender compassion of the divine nature on all with whom they associate** {17MR 163.1}

The power of Christ alone can work the transformation in heart and mind that all must experience who would partake with Him of the new life in the kingdom of God. "Except a man be born again," the Saviour said, "he cannot enter into the kingdom of heaven." The religion that comes from God is the only religion that can lead to God. In order to serve Him aright, we must be born of the divine Spirit. This will purify the heart and renew the

mind and give us a new capacity for knowing and loving God. It will give us willing obedience to all His requirements. This is true worship. {17MR 163.2}

Satan's power is wholly destructive; God's power is constructive. **The kingdom of God is a kingdom of continual progress.** If we follow on to know the Lord, we shall know that "His going forth is prepared as the morning. {ST November 24, 1898, par. 8}

Our Saviour says to us, **"Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."** Matthew 6:33. God has a care for us, even to bestow His temporal blessings upon us. Our earthly good is not beneath the notice of our heavenly Father. He knoweth that we have need of these things. He knoweth our frame, and is acquainted with our fears. **"Godliness is profitable unto all things having the promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come."** 1 Timothy 4:8. {L8-1873.10}

The disciples bore the message, and it was enough. John recalled the prophecy concerning the Messiah, **"The Lord hath anointed Me to preach good tidings unto the meek; He hath sent Me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord."** Isaiah 61:1, 2. **The works of Christ not only declared Him to be the Messiah, but showed in what manner His kingdom was to be established.** To John was opened the same truth that had come to Elijah in the desert, when "a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the Lord; but the Lord was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the Lord was not in the earthquake: and after the earthquake a fire; but the Lord was not in the fire:" and after the fire, God spoke to the prophet by "a still small voice." 1 Kings 19:11, 12. **So Jesus was to do His work, not with the clash of arms and the overturning of thrones and kingdoms, but through speaking to the hearts of men by a life of mercy and self-sacrifice.** {DA 217.2}

"**The faithful, praying ones are, as it were, shut in with God.** They themselves know not how securely they are shielded. **Urged on by Satan, the rulers of this world are seeking to destroy them;** but could their eyes be opened, as were the eyes of Elisha's servant at Dothan, they would see **the angels of God encamped about them, by their brightness and glory holding**

in check the host of darkness." {2TT 178.1}

God's people have many lessons to learn. They will have perfect peace if they will keep the mind stayed on Him who is too wise to err and too good to do them harm. They are to catch the reflection of the smile of God, and reflect it to others. {MM 45.3}

It is no part of Christ's mission to compel men to receive Him. It is Satan, and men actuated by his spirit, that seek to compel the conscience. Under a pretense of zeal for righteousness, men who are confederate with evil angels bring suffering upon their fellow men, in order to convert them to their ideas of religion; but Christ is ever showing mercy, ever seeking to win by the revealing of His love. He can admit no rival in the soul, nor accept of partial service; but He desires only voluntary service, the willing surrender of the heart under the constraint of love. There can be no more conclusive evidence that we possess the spirit of Satan than the disposition to hurt and destroy those who do not appreciate our work, or who act contrary to our ideas. {DA 487.3}

Satan is constantly urging men to accept his principles, and thus he is seeking to counterwork the work of God. He is constantly representing the chosen people of God as a deluded people. He is an accuser of the brethren, and his accusing power he is constantly using against those who work righteousness. The Lord desires through His people to answer Satan's charges by showing the result of obedience to right principles.—Medical Ministry, 187.

God's love has been expressed in His justice no less than in His mercy. Justice is the foundation of His throne, and the fruit of His love. It had been Satan's purpose to divorce mercy from truth and justice. He sought to prove that the righteousness of God's law is an enemy to peace. But Christ shows that in God's plan they are indissolubly joined together; the one cannot exist without the other. "Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other." Psalm 85:10. By His life and His death, Christ proved that God's justice did not destroy His mercy, but that sin could be forgiven, and that the law is righteous, and can be perfectly obeyed. Satan's charges were refuted. God had given man unmistakable evidence of His love. Another deception was now to be brought forward. Satan declared that mercy destroyed justice, that the death of Christ abrogated the Father's law.

Had it been possible for the law to be changed or abrogated, then Christ need not have died. But to abrogate the law would be to immortalize transgression, and place the world under Satan's control. It was because the law was changeless, because man could be saved only through obedience to its precepts, that Jesus was lifted up on the cross. **Yet the very means by which Christ established the law Satan represented as destroying it.** Here will come the last conflict of the great controversy between Christ and Satan. {DA 762.3-5}

When Christ delivered His memorial **Sermon on the Mount**, He gave the **exposition of His own law.** {2SAT 101.4}

In His sermon on the mount, Jesus presented the **true principles of the law of God**, and divested its precepts of the rubbish of man's invention {BEcho June 24, 1895, par. 3}

In the Sermon on the Mount He sought to undo the work that had been wrought by false education, and to give His hearers a **right conception of His kingdom and of His own character.** We no less than they [the multitude] need to learn the foundation principles of the kingdom of God. {DA 299.3}

Our Lord came to strip from the truth the external observances which had been supplied to take the place of true religion. He preached **his sermon on the mount in order to clearly define the true principles of the law of God**, which had been misapplied and misinterpreted, and which had been strained to mean that which God had never designed. {ST March 26, 1896, par. 1}

That which they presented as true piety was a spurious article; it misinterpreted the precepts of God to the people, and broke the principles of the divine law. **In his sermon on the mount he weeded out the traditions of men, and proclaimed the truth**, placing it in sharp contrast with errors that were hoary with age. **He made truth appear in its preciousness and value before the multitude.** {ST April 2, 1896, par. 5}

The same Teacher had spoken these words as had spoken the sermon on the mount. It was Christ who had said, **"Ye shall do my statutes, and keep my judgments."** **Christ had presented the same principles on the mount of**

beatitudes as he had on Mount Sinai. He had said that on the principles of love to God and to our neighbor, hung all the law and the prophets. {ST June 11, 1896, par. 9}

Christ came to this world, and clothed his divinity with humanity, taking upon Him the nature of man. He came to pass through the experiences of humanity, to pass over the ground on which Adam had fallen, to redeem his failure, to meet and conquer the adversary of God and man, that through his grace man might be an overcomer, and finally have a place with Him upon his throne. He took the field of conflict, and on this atom of a world the controversy between Christ, the Prince of life, and Satan, the prince of darkness, was to be waged. **By transgression man had become the child of evil, the captive of Satan, the enemy of God. Satan misrepresented the character of God, and man, who had been made in the divine image, doubted his Heavenly Father's love, distrusted his word, and set himself in stubborn unbelief and rebellion against his requirements.** Christ came to represent the character of his Father, to win man back to his allegiance to God, to reconcile man to God. He proposed to meet the foe and unmask his arts, that man might be able to make choice of whom he would serve. {BEcho November 1, 1892, par. 2, 3}

Not only had man come under the power of the deceiver, but the earth itself, the dominion of man, was usurped by the enemy. Through the plan of salvation, a larger purpose is to be wrought out even than the salvation of man and the redemption of the earth. **Through the revelation of the character of God in Christ,** the beneficence of the divine government will be manifested before the universe, the charge of Satan against God refuted, the nature and result of sin made plain, and the perpetuity of the law fully demonstrated. **Satan had declared that the law of God was faulty, and that the good of the universe demanded a change in its requirements.** {BEcho July 15, 1893, par. 2, 3}

God is constantly at work for the good of His creatures. Satan is also constantly at work, but for evil. The prince of the power of the air is the agent of destruction, the one who causes suffering and misery. **Times without number God has interposed to avert death, to keep men, women, and children in safety when Satan purposed a result wholly disastrous.**" (R&H September 17, 1901 Par. 2

Adam was tempted by the enemy, and he fell. It was not indwelling sin which caused him to yield; for God made him pure and upright, in His own image. He was as faultless as the angels before the throne. There were in him no corrupt principles, no tendencies to evil. But when Christ came to meet the temptations of Satan, He bore "the likeness of sinful flesh." In the wilderness, weakened physically by a fast of forty days, He met the adversary. His dignity was questioned, His authority disputed, His allegiance to His Father assailed by the fallen foe. All heaven watched the conflict between the Prince of light and the prince of darkness. **Angels stood ready to interpose in Christ's behalf should Satan pass the prescribed limit.** Oh, what love burned in their hearts as they saw their Commander apparently in the power of His foe. When the last temptation came, when as Satan offered Christ all the world and the glory of it, if He would fall down and worship him, divinity flashed through humanity, and the enemy was resisted, **the love of the angels knew no bounds. Their sympathy could no longer be restrained.** {BEcho September 3, 1900, par. 10, 11}

The angels never leave the tempted ones a prey to the enemy who would destroy the souls of men if permitted to do so. {GCB February 15, 1895, par. 4}

Mercy and the love of God are the attributes of his throne. While claiming to be the subjects of the kingdom of God, and yet refusing to be converted from their selfish love, their stern, iron will, their own perverse ways, many are constantly bearing a false testimony of Jesus Christ. {HM December 1, 1894, Art. D, par. 13}

The Redeemer did not shun man as man is inclined to shun his fellow men. When God condemned the guilty sinner because he was deserving of condemnation, the Majesty of heaven came near in all the fullness of the God-head. He looked upon the world in its fallen, corrupted state, and his heart of love was burdened because of the woe of his human creatures. **He looked for the central power of all evil, and he beheld the great apostate, the fallen angel who had been expelled from the heavenly courts, and who had assumed the power and throne of God upon the earth. The Son of God read all the purpose of Satan to eclipse God from the view of man.** And he knew that by paying the ransom he could end the reign of the enemy, and vindicate the justice of God. Therefore he clothed his divinity with humanity. He stooped to this fallen world that he might restore in man the divine

image. {RH June 5, 1900, par. 6}

Christ came to represent the Father. We behold in him the image of the invisible God. He clothed his divinity with humanity, and came to the world that the erroneous ideas Satan had been the means of creating in the minds of men, in regard to the character of God, might be removed. We could not behold the glory of God unveiled in Christ and live; but as he came in the garb of humanity, we may draw nigh to our Redeemer. We are called upon to behold the Lord our Father in the person of his Son. Christ came in the robe of the flesh, with his glory subdued in humanity, that lost man might communicate with him and live. Through Christ we may comprehend something of him who is glorious in holiness. Jesus is the mystic ladder by which we may mount to behold the glory of the infinite God. By faith we behold Christ standing between humanity and divinity, connecting God and man, and earth and heaven. {ST January 20, 1890, par. 5}

Christ came to save fallen man, and Satan with fiercest wrath met him on the field of conflict; for the enemy knew that when divine strength was added to human weakness, man was armed with power and intelligence, and could break away from the captivity in which he had bound him. **Satan sought to intercept every ray of light from the throne of God. He sought to cast his shadow across the earth, that men might lose the true views of God's character, and that the knowledge of God might become extinct in the earth.** {ST January 20, 1890, par. 6}

After **Satan** had induced man to sin against God, he claimed that man had chosen him as his leader in the place of God, and that his work from henceforth should be to unite with him in **making void the law of Jehovah.** It was his work now to enlist the beings whom God had created, to be the agents of Satan, and to cooperate with him in **obliterating the moral image of God** from the soul. **Through all the ages he has worked upon the same principles that he worked upon in causing the fall of man.** He presented the restriction of God in such a way to the mind of Eve as to create jealousy, and said to her, "God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil." **Satan cast reflections upon the character of God, representing him as selfish and oppressive.** {ST October 8, 1894, par. 5}

In the purity of his life he had revealed the Father, and the glory of God had

beamed forth from his character. The perfection of the Father had been displayed before unfallen worlds, before heavenly intelligences, and to sinful men. In the mediatorial work of Christ, the love of God was revealed in its perfection to men and angels. Having overcome the temptation and borne the test in the wilderness, having overcome in our behalf, he bends his steps toward Calvary, and in the perfection of humanity he grasps the world, and in the fullness of his divinity he lays hold upon the throne of God, and proclaims the result of his terrible conflict with the enemy, exclaiming, **“Now is the prince of this world cast out,” now is the last enemy destroyed.** {ST June 27, 1895, par. 7}

Many of the officers in charge of steamers and other vessels place themselves under the control of Satan by liquor drinking. A continuance of this indulgence destroys the brain nerve power, and they become incapable of doing their work. We know not how many times God has interposed to save a whole ship’s company from destruction because there were some on board who loved and feared Him. For their sake He has wrought wondrously. **But there comes a time when the line of forbearance is passed. Mercy steps down from her golden throne, and, folding her wings, departs. Then the enemy is permitted to do that which he longs to do.** Many of the terrible calamities which happen by land and sea will one day be seen to have been caused by liquor drinking. {ST July 4, 1900, par. 5}

In this age of the world we see every grade and degree of skepticism. **There are rank infidels, those who believe in the lying wonders of Spiritualism, and those who reject the claims of divine truth.** All these are placed among the class that John has written of, **and are controlled by the spirit of antichrist. Ignorance of the character of God, pride of understanding, and the love of sin, are the source of infidelity.** {ST September 3, 1894, par. 2}

You have been growing in inward experience and others may profit by your counsel and your advice. Religion to you, my precious child, has become more and more beautiful. **You now find so much comfort sitting at the feet of Christ and learning of Him. The fear of death is past.** If there is any terror in the look of the last dread enemy, it is driven away by looking unto Jesus, for He has brightened the tomb by His sacred presence. There is that in your heart which will not rest unless enfolded in the arms of infinite love. {8MR 126.3}

A Work for Us to Do to Dispel the Moral Darkness.

Satan had planted himself on the throne as the sovereign of this world. He had the control of human minds. He had taken human bodies and wrought upon them so that they were possessed with demons. He wrought upon them so that the moral image of God was almost obliterated in them. **He wrought upon them so that the moral image of God was almost obliterated in them**. He was weaving himself into the Jewish nation, and they were led captive and would not acknowledge Christ and the evidence that they had from God. They would not acknowledge Christ as the Son of God, notwithstanding the mighty evidences which accompanied Him. {Ms8-1888.9}

Now [Christ] takes the field and commences to press back this power of moral darkness. In Luke He announced what His work [was] to be (Luke 4:18, 19). **Now that was the mission of our Saviour, and even while He announced at Nazareth what His work was, [and] they witnessed to the precious words which came from His lips, Satan was on the ground**. And there is no meeting but that he is there, and as the truth is being impressed on minds, Satan presents the difficulties. {Ms8-1888.10}

Heaven, looking down, and seeing the delusions into which men were led, knew that a divine Instructor must come to earth. **Men in ignorance and moral darkness must have light**, spiritual light; **for the world knew not God**, and he must be revealed to their understanding. **Truth looked down from heaven and saw not the reflection of her image**; for dense **clouds of moral darkness** and gloom enveloped the world, and the Lord Jesus alone was able to roll back the clouds; for he was the light of the world. By his presence he could dissipate the gloomy shadow that Satan had cast between man and God. **Darkness covered the earth**, and gross darkness the people. **Through the accumulated misrepresentations of the enemy, many were so deceived that they worshiped a false god, clothed with the attributes of the satanic character**. {CE 73.3}

The vineyard includes the whole world, and every part of it is to be worked. **There are places which are now a moral wilderness, and these are to become as the garden of the Lord**. The waste places of the earth are to be

cultivated, that they may bud and blossom as the rose. New territories are to be worked by men inspired by the Holy Spirit. New churches must be established, new congregations organized. **At this time there should be representatives of present truth in every city, and in the remote parts of the earth. The whole earth is to be illuminated with the glory of God's truth.** The light is to shine to all lands and all peoples. And it is from those who have received the light that it is to shine forth. The day-star has risen upon us, and we are to flash its light upon the pathway of those in darkness. {CET 220.1}

I have been shown that **the disciples of Christ are His representatives upon the earth**; and God designs that **they shall be lights in the moral darkness of this world**, dotted all over the country, in the towns, villages, and cities, “a spectacle unto the world, to angels, and to man.”—Testimonies for the Church 2:631. {ChS 19.4}

The followers of Christ are to be the light of the world; but God does not bid them make an effort to shine. He does not approve of any self-satisfied endeavor to display superior goodness. **He desires that their souls shall be imbued with the principles of heaven; then, as they come in contact with the world, they will reveal the light that is in them. Their steadfast fidelity in every act of life will be a means of illumination.**—The Ministry of Healing, 36. {ChS 19.5}

God has appointed you a work to do for Him which will make you laborers with Him. All around you there are souls to save. There are those whom you can encourage and bless by your earnest efforts. You may turn souls from sin to righteousness. When you have a sense of your accountability to God you will feel the need of faithfulness in prayer and faithfulness in watching against the temptations of Satan. You will, **if you are indeed Christians, feel more like mourning over the moral darkness in the world** than indulging in levity and pride of dress. **You will be among those who are sighing and crying for the abominations** that are done in the land. You will resist the temptations of Satan to indulge in vanity and in trimmings and ornaments for display. The mind is narrowed and the intellect dwarfed that can be gratified with these frivolous things to the neglect of high responsibilities. {CCh 188.3}

The plan of salvation was laid by the infinite sacrifice of the Son of God. The

light of the gospel shining from the cross of Christ rebukes selfishness and encourages liberality and benevolence. It is not to be a lamented fact that there are increasing calls to give. God in His providence is calling His people out from their limited sphere of action to enter upon greater enterprises. Unlimited effort is demanded at this time **when moral darkness is covering the world.** Worldliness and covetousness are eating out the vitals of God's people. **They should understand that it is His mercy which multiplies the demands for their means.** The angel of God places benevolent acts close beside prayer. He said to Cornelius: "Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God." Acts 10:4.519 {CCh 281.6}

The Sabbath school should be a place **where the jewels of truth are searched for and rescued from their environment of error, and placed in their true setting in the framework of the gospel.** Precious gems of truth, long lost sight of, are now to be restored to the children of God. The themes of justification by faith, the righteousness of Christ, should be presented in our schools, that the youth and children may understand these important subjects, and teachers and scholars may know the way of salvation. Sacred and eternal principles connected with the plan of salvation have long been lost from sight, but they **must be restored to their proper place in the plan of salvation,** and made to appear in their heavenly light, **and penetrate the moral darkness in which the world is enshrouded.** {CSW 12.2}

Let the gems of divine light be reset in the framework of the gospel. Let nothing be lost of the precious light that comes from the throne of God. It has been misapplied, and cast aside as worthless; but it is heaven-sent, and each gem is to become the property of God's people and find its true position in the framework of truth. **Precious jewels of light are to be collected, and by the aid of the Holy Spirit they are to be fitted into the gospel system.** RH October 23, 1894, par. 6}

Overcoming Darkness and Growing into the Character of Christ

The men who are capable of the worst crimes are those who have once

been convicted by the Spirit of truth, and have turned away from the light into the darkness of iniquity. {3SP 135.1}

You must not only profess to be Christians, but you must exemplify the character of Christ. Let the wisdom from above pervade all your instruction. In a world of moral darkness and corruption, let it be seen that the spirit by which you are moved to action, is from above, not from beneath. {CE 42.3}

Why not let the Holy Spirit create an atmosphere about the soul that will drive away moral darkness and bring heavenly light to others?— Testimonies on Sabbath-School Work, 44, 45. {CSW 80.1}

The principles of the character of God were the foundation of the education constantly kept before the heavenly angels. These principles were goodness, mercy, and love. Self-evidencing light was to be recognized and freely accepted by all who occupied a position of trust and power. **They must accept God’s principles and convince all who were in the service of God, through the presentation of truth and justice and goodness, [that] this was the only power to be used. Force must never come in....** {CTr 13.2}

Satan’s influence is constantly exerted upon men to distract the senses, control the mind for evil, and incite to violence and crime. He weakens the body, darkens the intellect, and debases the soul. Whenever men reject the Saviour’s invitation, they are yielding themselves to Satan. Multitudes in every department in life, in the home, in business, and even in the church, are doing this today. **It is because of this that violence and crime have overspread the earth, and moral darkness, like the pall of death, enshrouds the habitations of men.** Through his specious temptations Satan leads men to worse and worse evils, till utter depravity and ruin are the result. **The only safeguard against his power is found in the presence of Jesus. Before men and angels Satan has been revealed as man’s enemy and destroyer; Christ, as man’s friend and deliverer.** His Spirit will develop in man all that will ennoble the character and dignify the nature. It will build man up for the glory of God in body and soul and spirit. “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.” 2 Timothy 1:7. He has called us “to the obtaining of the glory”—character—“of our Lord Jesus Christ;” has called us to be “conformed to the image of His Son.” 2 Thessalonians 2:14; Romans 8:29. {DA 341.1}

While men are sleeping, Satan is actively arranging matters so that the Lord’s

people may not have mercy or justice {CCh 335.2}

The condemning power of Satan would lead him to institute a theory of justice inconsistent with mercy. He claims to be officiating as the voice and power of God, claims that his decisions are justice, are pure and without fault. **Thus he takes his position on the judgment seat and declares that his counsels are infallible. Here his merciless justice comes in, a counterfeit of justice, abhorrent to God.** {CTr 11.4}

In the opening of the great controversy, Satan had declared that the law of God could not be obeyed, that justice was inconsistent with mercy, and that, should the law be broken, it would be impossible for the sinner to be pardoned. Every sin must meet its punishment, urged Satan; and if God should remit the punishment of sin, He would not be a God of truth and justice. DA 761.4

When Adam sinned, man broke away from the heaven-ordained center. **A demon became the central power in the world. Where God's throne should have been, Satan placed his throne. The world laid its homage, as a willing offering, at the feet of the enemy.** {CT 33.1}

Satan accomplished the fall of man, and since that time it has been his work to efface in man the image of God, **and to stamp upon human hearts his own image.** Possessing supremacy and guilt, he claims supremacy for himself, and exercises over his subjects the power of royalty. **He cannot expel God from his throne, but through the system of idolatry, he plants his own throne between the heaven and the earth, between God and the human worshiper.** RH October 22, 1895

Justice and Mercy stood apart, in opposition to each other, separated by a wide gulf. The Lord our Redeemer clothed His divinity with humanity, and wrought out in behalf of man a character that was without spot or blemish. **He planted His cross midway between heaven and earth, and made it the object of attraction which reached both ways, drawing both Justice and Mercy across the gulf. Justice moved from its exalted throne, and with all the armies of heaven approached the cross. There it saw One equal with God bearing the penalty for all injustice and sin. With perfect satisfaction Justice bowed in reverence at the cross, saying, It is enough.** (MS 94, 1899). {7BC 936.1}

Enoch was a public teacher of the truth in the age in which he lived. He taught the truth; he lived the truth; and the character of the teacher who walked with God was in every way harmonious with the greatness and sacredness of his mission. Enoch was a prophet who spake as he was moved by the Holy Ghost. **He was a light amid the moral darkness,** ... a man who walked with God, being obedient to God's law—that law that Satan had refused to obey, that Adam had transgressed, and that Abel had obeyed and, because of his obedience, been murdered over. **And now God would demonstrate to the universe the falsity of Satan's charge that human beings cannot keep God's law. He would demonstrate that though humans had sinned, they could so relate themselves to God that they would have the mind and spirit of God and would be representative symbols of Christ.** This holy man was selected of God to denounce the wickedness of the world, and to evidence to the world that it is possible for a person to keep all the law of God.... {CTr 51.3}

The world had **lost the original pattern of goodness** and had sunk into universal apostasy **and moral corruption; and the life of Jesus** was one of laborious, self-denying effort to bring man back to his first estate by **imbuing him with the spirit of divine benevolence and unselfish love.** {5T 421.2}

Is it then a remarkable thing that all heaven is interested in the ransom of man? Is it a wonderful fact that ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands of angels are employed in ascending and descending on the mystic ladder to minister to those who shall be heirs of salvation? **Angels do not come to the earth to denounce and to destroy, to rule and to exact homage, but are messengers of mercy to cooperate with the Captain of the Lord's host,** to cooperate with the human agents who shall go forth to seek and to save the lost sheep. Angels are commanded to encamp round about those who fear and love God. {ST November 20, 1893, par. 3}

Christ has given to the church a sacred charge. Every member should be a channel through which God can communicate to the world the treasures of His grace, the unsearchable riches of Christ. **There is nothing that the Saviour desires so much as agents who will represent to the world His Spirit and His character.** There is nothing that the world needs so much as the manifestation through humanity of the Saviour's love. All heaven is waiting for men and women through whom **God can reveal the power of Christianity.** {AA 600.1}

“We all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory even as by the Spirit of the Lord.” Christ is the sinner’s advocate. **Those who accept His gospel behold Him with open face. They see the relation of His mission to the law, and they acknowledge God’s wisdom and glory as revealed by the Saviour.** The glory of Christ is revealed in the law, which is a transcript of His character, and His transforming efficacy is felt upon the soul until men become changed to His likeness. They are made partakers of the divine nature, and grow more and more like their Saviour, advancing step by step in conformity to the will of God, till they reach perfection. {6BC 1096.4}

In the life of the disciple John true sanctification is exemplified. During the years of his close association with Christ, **he was often warned and cautioned by the Saviour;** and these reproofs he accepted. **As the character of the Divine One was manifested to him, 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}

The word of God is the seed. Every seed has in itself a germinating principle. In it the life of the plant is enfolded. So there is life in God’s word. Christ says, **“The words that I speak unto you, they are Spirit, and they are life.”** John 6:63. “He that heareth My word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life.” John 5:24. **In every command and in every promise of the word of God is the power, the very life of God,** by which the command may be fulfilled and the promise realized. **He who by faith receives the word is receiving the very life and character of God.** {COL 38.1}

“But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.” Matthew 6:15. **Nothing can justify an unforgiving spirit. He who is unmerciful toward others shows that he himself is not a partaker of God’s pardoning grace.** In God’s forgiveness the heart of the erring one is drawn close to the great heart of Infinite Love. The tide of divine compassion flows into the sinner’s soul, and from him to the souls of others. The

tenderness and mercy that Christ has revealed in His own precious life will be seen in those who become sharers of His grace. But **“if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His.” Romans 8:9.** He is alienated from God, fitted only for eternal separation from Him. {COL 251.1}

The teacher who is severe, critical, overbearing, heedless of others’ feelings, must expect the same spirit to be manifested toward himself. {5T 30.3}

The class represented by the foolish virgins are not hypocrites. **..They do not know God. They have not studied His character;** they have not held communion with Him; therefore **they do not know how to trust, how to look and live...** This is the class that in time of peril are found crying, Peace and safety. They lull their hearts into security, and dream not of danger. When startled from their lethargy, they discern their destitution, and entreat others to supply their lack; but in spiritual things no man can make up another’s deficiency. The grace of God has been freely offered to every soul. The message of the gospel has been heralded, “Let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.” Revelation 22:17. But character is not transferable. **It is in a crisis that character is revealed.** When the earnest voice proclaimed at midnight, “Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him,” and the sleeping virgins were roused from their slumbers, it was seen who had made preparation for the event. Both parties were taken unawares; but one was prepared for the emergency, and the other was found without preparation. **So now, a sudden and unlooked-for calamity, something that brings the soul face to face with death, will show whether there is any real faith in the promises of God. It will show whether the soul is sustained by grace.** The great final test comes at the close of human probation, when it will be too late for the soul’s need to be supplied. {COL 411-412}

So the followers of Christ are to shed light into the darkness of the world.

Through the Holy Spirit, God’s word is a light as it becomes a transforming power in the life of the receiver. By implanting in their hearts the principles of His word, **the Holy Spirit develops in men the attributes of God. The light of His glory—His character—is to shine forth in His followers.** Thus they are to glorify God, to lighten the path to the Bridegroom’s home, to the city of God, to the marriage supper of the Lamb. {COL 414.2}

The coming of the bridegroom was at midnight—the darkest hour. So the coming of Christ will take place in the darkest period of this earth’s history. The days of Noah and Lot pictured the condition of the world just before the coming of the Son of man. The Scriptures pointing forward to this time declare that Satan will work with all power and “with all deceivableness of unrighteousness.” 2 Thessalonians 2:9, 10. His working is plainly revealed by the rapidly increasing darkness, the multitudinous errors, heresies, and delusions of these last days. Not only is Satan leading the world captive, but his deceptions are leavening the professed churches of our Lord Jesus Christ. The great apostasy will develop into darkness deep as midnight, impenetrable as sackcloth of hair. To God’s people it will be a night of trial, a night of weeping, a night of persecution for the truth’s sake. But out of that night of darkness God’s light will shine.

He causes “the light to shine out of darkness.” 2 Corinthians 4:6. When “the earth was without form, and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep,” “the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light; and there was light.” Genesis 1:2, 3. So in the night of spiritual darkness, God’s word goes forth, “Let there be light.” To His people He says, “Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.” Isaiah 60:1.

“Behold,” says the Scripture, “the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people; but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and His glory shall be seen upon thee.” Isaiah 60:2

It is the darkness of misapprehension of God that is enshrouding the world. Men are losing their knowledge of His character. It has been misunderstood and misinterpreted. At this time a message from God is to be proclaimed, a message illuminating in its influence and saving in its power. **His character is to be made known. Into the darkness of the world is to be shed the light of His glory, the light of His goodness, mercy, and truth. {COL 414-415.}**

It is the privilege of every soul to be a living channel through which God can communicate to the world the treasures of His grace, the unsearchable riches of Christ. **There is nothing that Christ desires so much as agents who will represent to the world His Spirit and character.** There is nothing that the world needs so much as the manifestation through humanity of the Saviour’s love. **All heaven is waiting for channels through which can be poured the**

holy oil to be a joy and blessing to human hearts. {COL 419.2}

Attention to mere conventionalities, or even to mental and social improvement, should be regarded as of secondary importance. These things have their place in the formation of character, **but we should remember that the world is in gross darkness;** irreligion, vice, and depravity are steadily strengthening and increasing; every teacher should feel in his very soul that the great needs of those under his care, are the regenerating power of God's Spirit in the heart, the living practice, the preparation for higher Christian attainments. **This education will give to the character those softening, refining touches that proceed from Christ himself. These graces will give a sweetness of character, a gentleness of manner, which can never be equaled by the superficial polish of fashionable society.** Let every worker for Christ make it his highest aim to win souls to God, rather than to be looking at and teaching mere superficial acquirements. Direct your energies to the fitting of living stones for the building of God's temple.—Gospel Workers, 315-319.

Where Sin Abound Grace Much More Abounds

Shall we not learn a lesson from this? Although we are in a world teeming with moral corruption, we have no need to gather to our souls the disgusting pollutions of earth. ..Let your life, dear reader, be a continual testimony that you belong to Christ. **Represent your Lord in kindness, in forbearance, in long-suffering, in patience, in thinking no evil, in cheerfulness, in fulness of joy. In the work of overcoming sinful habits, special grace will be given to all that sincerely desire it.** We may come to the divine Helper, who is able to succor those who are in the midst of temptation and evil. The loving-kindness of God is not all reserved for the future, eternal reward, but it is abundant for the present needs of his people. {BEcho April 1, 1889, par. 8,9}

We are to consider that Christ has set us to be a light amid the moral darkness of the world. We are not to misinterpret the character of God, we are not to be fretful, to speak out what we think, **to blame and criticise and censure others;** but we are to let the Holy Spirit fashion the character after the similitude of Christ. {BEcho October 8, 1894, par. 6}

We want not to exemplify the attributes of Satan in anything. We want to be partakers of the divine nature, refreshed in soul and spirit by drinking of

the living water that makes glad the city of God. Talk it, pray it, act it—the love of Jesus for fallen humanity. Let every soul become imbued and radiant with the Word and Spirit and love of God and be a medium through which the light and blessing may be communicated to our world. Let this loveless, Pharisaical religion of forms and ceremonies be cleansed away from the heart and life of every Christian, and let the sweet influence of the Spirit of God have a controlling power upon every soul. **Ye are the light of the world, to shine amid the moral darkness of the world. We must be imbued with the love of Jesus;** all this selfish spirit toward brethren must be rooted out. {Ms34-1894.22}

You will be tested and tried by the enemy of truth, but if you hide yourself behind Jesus, so that He alone shall appear in your defense, God’s name will be magnified, for you will be under the influence of the Holy Spirit. **You are doing a good work in presenting old truths which are as a new revelation to your hearers. You are unfolding precious truths which for centuries have been placed in the companionship of error. As Christ’s representative you are now engaged in the sacred work of redeeming truth from the base companionship of error and are placing it in its appropriate framework.** That which has [been] ignored and despised is shown to proceed from God, who inspired holy men of old, as they spoke being moved upon by the Holy Spirit. God spake through human instrumentality. He designs that His truth should be recovered from the gloomy regions of doubt and unbelief into which Satan has plunged it, designing that it should remain in oblivion. **It is to be presented before the people who are in the darkness of spiritual error, who are deluded with falsehood, and it is to shine before them in its original luster, enlightening their moral darkness.** That which has been merely a “guess-so” will be forced upon the conscience as a certainty. {Lt113-1894.4, 5}

Every natural trait of character should be brought under the control of the will, and this must itself be kept in harmony with the will of God. It is one of the greatest deceptions that can come upon the mind to imagine ourselves more merciful or just than God. Man is impulsive and changeable. Even the best acts prompted by the natural heart are faulty. And how true is the testimony of the Sacred Record, that “the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel.” Our only safe course is to condemn what God condemns, and cherish what he cherishes. {ST January 13, 1881, par. 12}

God does not ask sinners to enter His service with their natural traits of character, to make a failure before the heavenly universe and before the world.... **The hard, cruel spirit which judges and condemns has left the trace of the enemy upon everything. But mercy is to come in and lay her broad impress upon every plan.** The world is to see principles different from those which have hitherto been presented. **Christ has erected the cross. He does not call upon any man to manufacture tests and crosses for His people.** He presents His requirements before them, and gives them the invitation, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30). Wear My yoke, and in your daily experience you will find the rest which comes only to the obedient. {UL 169.4}

Those who should have been the light of the world have shed forth but feeble and sickly beams. **What is light? It is piety, goodness, truth, mercy, love; it is the revealing of the truth in the character and life.** The gospel is dependent on the personal piety of its believers for its aggressive power, and God has made provision through the death of His beloved Son, that every soul may be thoroughly furnished unto every good work. **Every soul is to be a bright and shining light, showing forth the praises of Him who has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light. "We are laborers together with God."** Yes, laborers; that means doing earnest service in the vineyard of the Lord. There are souls to be saved,—souls in our churches, in our Sabbath schools, and in our neighborhoods.—The Review and Herald, March 24, 1891

Christ is our pattern, and those who follow Christ will not walk in darkness, for they will not seek their own pleasure. To glorify God will be the continual aim of their life. Christ represented the character of God to the world. The Lord Jesus so conducted His life that men were compelled to acknowledge that He had done all things well. **The world's Redeemer was the light of the world, for His character was without fault.** Though He was the only begotten Son of God, and the heir of all things in heaven and earth, He did not leave an example of indolence and self-indulgence. {YI October 18, 1894}

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by

him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not" (John 1:1-5). The world did not see divinity in the humble Man of Nazareth. **The only-begotten Son of the infinite God was in the world, and men knew Him not in His true character.** {1SM 296.1}

The true minister of Christ should be encircled by an atmosphere of spiritual light, because he is connected with the world of light, and walks with Christ, who is the light of the world. Arguments may be resisted, persuasion and entreaty may be scorned, the most eloquent appeals, supported by the rigor of logic, may be disregarded; but a living character of righteousness, a daily piety in the walks of life, an anxiety for the sinner wherever found, the spirit of truth burning in the heart, beaming from the countenance, and breathing from the lips in every word, constitute a sermon which is hard to resist or to set aside, and which makes the strongholds of Satan tremble. Ministers who walk with God are clad with the panoply of heaven, and victory will attend their efforts. {LHU 225.2}

The light of the gospel shining from the cross of Christ rebukes selfishness and encourages liberality and benevolence. It should not be a lamented fact that there are increasing calls to give. **God in His providence is calling His people out from their limited sphere of action, to enter upon greater enterprises. Unlimited effort is demanded at this time when moral darkness is covering the world.** Many of God's people are in danger of being ensnared by worldliness and covetousness. **They should understand that it is His mercy that multiplies the demands for their means.** Objects that call benevolence into action must be placed before them, or they cannot pattern after the character of the great Exemplar. {CCh 272.2}

The system of Jewish economy was the gospel in figure, a presentation of Christianity which was to be developed as fast as the minds of the people could comprehend spiritual light. Satan ever seeks to make obscure the truths that are plain, and Christ ever seeks to open the mind to comprehend every essential truth concerning the salvation of fallen man. **To this day there are still aspects of truth which are dimly seen, connections that are not understood, and far-reaching depths in the law of God that are uncomprehended. There is immeasurable breadth, dignity, and glory in the law of God; and yet the religious world has set aside this law, as did the Jews, to exalt the traditions and commandments of men.** Before the days of

Christ, men asked in vain, "What is truth?" Darkness covered the earth, and gross darkness the people. Even Judea was shrouded in gloom, although the voice of God spoke to them in his oracles. The truth of God had been silenced by the superstition and traditions of its professed interpreters, and contention, jealousy, and prejudice divided the professed children of God. Then was a Teacher sent from God, even him who was the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Jesus presented to view the pure, rich truth of heaven to shine amid the moral darkness and gloom of earth. God has said, "Let there be spiritual light," and the light of the glory of God was revealed in the face of Jesus Christ. {RH November 28, 1893, par. 5}

In Christ God beheld the reflection of his own image. God was manifest in the flesh because of the entire identity of his character with Christ's character. That God should be thus manifest in the flesh was a wonder to the heavenly host, "even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations." {ST, April 15, 1897 par. 10}

"Christ's oneness with the Father was a constant joy to God, for He knew that there was in the world One who would not misrepresent Him. In Christ He beheld the reflection of His own character. And it was that His followers might have this same oneness, that was Christ's great desire. For this oneness He prayed. [John 17:17-21, quoted.]" 14MR 220.2

Through Jesus, the Son of God, the Father is more fully revealed to the world. Jesus said to his disciples: "If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also; and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him. Philip saith unto him, Lord, show us the Father, and it sufficeth us. Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? He that hath seen me hath seen the Father." The souls of thousands are crying out today, "Show us the Father, and we will be satisfied. We cannot claim God as our Father until we see him." Jesus says to every such soul, as he said to Philip: "'Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me?' Have you seen my works, have you listened to my teachings, have you witnessed the miracles that I have wrought in my Father's name, and yet have you not understood the nature of God? I have prayed with you and for you, and yet can you not comprehend that I am the way, the truth, and the life, and that in my life I have unfolded to you the character of my Father? I am the brightness of my Father's glory, I am the express image of his person. 'Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and

the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself; but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works. **Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me; or else believe me for the very works' sake. Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.**" {ST June 9, 1890, par. 1}

The Throne of God is Established in Truth and Righteousness

"Judgment is turned away backward, and justice standeth afar off; for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter. Yea, truth faileth; and he that departeth from evil maketh himself a prey." Isaiah 59:14, 15. **This was fulfilled in the life of Christ on earth.** He was loyal to God's commandments, setting aside the human traditions and requirements which had been exalted in their place. Because of this He was hated and persecuted. This history is repeated. The laws and traditions of men are exalted above the law of God, and those who are true to God's commandments suffer reproach and persecution. **Christ, because of His faithfulness to God, was accused as a Sabbathbreaker and blasphemer. He was declared to be possessed of a devil, and was denounced as Beelzebub. In like manner His followers are accused and misrepresented. Thus Satan hopes to lead them to sin, and cast dishonor upon God.** {COL 170.3}

In the parable of the unjust judge, Christ has shown what we should do. "Shall not God avenge His own elect, which cry day and night unto Him?" Christ, our example, did nothing to vindicate or deliver Himself. He committed His case to God. So His followers are not to accuse or condemn, or to resort to force in order to deliver themselves. {COL 171.2}

Satan was seeking to bring contempt upon the sacrificial offerings that prefigured the death of Christ. As the minds of the people were darkened by idolatry, he led them to counterfeit these offerings and sacrifice their own children upon the altars of their gods. **As men turned away from God, the divine attributes—justice, purity, and love—were supplanted by oppression, violence, and brutality.** {PP 120.3}

Under God, Adam was to stand at the head of the earthly family, to maintain the principles of the heavenly family. This would have brought

peace and happiness. But the law that none “liveth to himself” (Romans 14:7), Satan was determined to oppose. He desired to live for self. He sought to make himself a center of influence. It was this that had incited rebellion in heaven, and it was man’s acceptance of this principle that brought sin on earth. When Adam sinned, man broke away from the heaven-ordained center. A demon became the central power in the world. Where God’s throne should have been, Satan placed his throne. The world laid its homage, as a willing offering, at the feet of the enemy. {CT 33.1}

In the heavenly courts Satan claimed that the law of God’s government needed amendment. If he could have made it appear that the slightest jot or tittle in the ten commandments was not based on the highest principles of justice, he would thereby have shown that the entire code is defective; for in a code of laws, no law is of more force than the one regarded as the least essential. To prove that a change should be made in one of the commandments would have been the strongest argument Satan could have used against the infallibility of God. Thus he would have made void not only one precept, but all the other precepts of Jehovah. {Ms125-1901.13}

The same spirit that prompted rebellion in heaven still inspires rebellion on earth. Satan has continued with men the same policy which he pursued with the angels. His spirit now reigns in the children of disobedience. Like him they seek to break down the restraints of the law of God and promise men liberty through transgression of its precepts. Reproof of sin still arouses the spirit of hatred and resistance. When God’s messages of warning are brought home to the conscience, Satan leads men to justify themselves and to seek the sympathy of others in their course of sin. Instead of correcting their errors, they excite indignation against the reprover, as if he were the sole cause of difficulty. From the days of righteous Abel to our own time such is the spirit which has been displayed toward those who dare to condemn sin. {GC 500.1}

In the banishment of Satan from heaven, God declared His justice and maintained the honor of His throne. But when man had sinned through yielding to the deceptions of this apostate spirit, God gave an evidence of His love by yielding up His only-begotten Son to die for the fallen race. In the atonement the character of God is revealed. The mighty argument of the cross demonstrates to the whole universe that the course of sin which Lucifer had chosen was in no wise chargeable upon the government of God.

{GC 500.4}

The goodness, mercy, and love of God was proclaimed by Christ to Moses. This was God's character. When men who profess to serve God ignore his parental character, and depart from honor and righteousness in dealing with their fellow-men, Satan exults, for he has inspired them with his attributes. They are following in the track of Romanism. Those who are enjoined to represent the attributes of the Lord's character, step from the simple platform, and in their own human judgment devise rules and resolutions to force the will of others. The devisings for forcing men to follow the prescriptions of other men are instituting an order of things that overrides sympathy and tender compassion, that blinds the eyes to mercy, justice, and the love of God. Moral influence and personal responsibility are trodden under foot. {1888 1435.2}

I am now instructed to say, Do your long neglected duty. There is to be no questioning in this matter. Justice, mercy, and the love of God have been so long excluded from the managing force at the heart of the work, that eyes have become blinded and spiritual perceptions perverted. {SpM 178.3}

To the apostle John, on the Isle of Patmos, were revealed the things that God desired him to give to the people. Study these revelations. Here are themes worthy of our contemplation, large and comprehensive lessons, which all the angelic hosts are now seeking to communicate. Behold the life and character of Christ, and study His mediatorial work. Here are infinite wisdom, infinite love, infinite justice, infinite mercy. Here are depths and heights, lengths and breadths, for our consideration. Numberless pens have been employed in presenting to the world the life, the character, and the mediatorial work of Christ; yet every mind through whom the Holy Spirit has worked has presented these themes in a light that is fresh and new, according to the mind and spirit of the human agent RH April 4, 1899.

"In presenting the binding claims of the law, many have failed to portray the infinite love of Christ.... The law is to be presented to its transgressors, not as something apart from God, but rather as an exponent of his mind and character. As the sunlight cannot be separated from the sun, so God's law cannot be rightly presented to man apart from the divine Author. {RH, February 3, 1891 par. 9}

Mercy and the love of God are the attributes of his throne. While claiming

to be the subjects of the kingdom of God, and yet refusing to be converted from their selfish love, their stern, iron will, their own perverse ways, many are constantly bearing a false testimony of Jesus Christ. {HM December 1, 1894, Art. D, par. 13}

The priests and rulers had set themselves up as judges to condemn Christ's work, but He declared Himself their judge, and the judge of all the earth.

The world has been committed to Christ, and through Him has come every blessing from God to the fallen race. He was the Redeemer before as after His incarnation. As soon as there was sin, there was a Saviour. He has given light and life to all, and according to the measure of light given, each is to be judged. And He who has given the light, He who has followed the soul with tenderest entreaty, seeking to win it from sin to holiness, is in one its advocate and judge. **From the opening of the great controversy in heaven, Satan has maintained his cause through deception; and Christ has been working to unveil his schemes and to break his power. It is He who has encountered the deceiver, and who through all the ages has been seeking to wrest the captives from his grasp, who will pass judgment upon every soul. {DA 210.2}**

And God "hath given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of man." Because He has tasted the very dregs of human affliction and temptation, and understands the frailties and sins of men; because in our behalf He has victoriously withstood the temptations of Satan, and will deal justly and tenderly with the souls that **His own blood has been poured out to save,—because of this, the Son of man is appointed to execute the judgment.** {DA 210.3}

But Christ's mission was not for judgment, but for salvation. "God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved." John 3:17. And before the Sanhedrin Jesus declared, "**He that heareth My word, and believeth Him that sent Me, hath eternal life, and cometh not into judgment, but hath passed out of death into life.**" John 5:24, R. V. {DA 210.4}

The scribe was near to the kingdom of God, in that he recognized deeds of righteousness as more acceptable to God than burnt offerings and sacrifices. **But he needed to recognize the divine character of Christ, and through faith in Him receive power to do the works of righteousness.** The ritual service

was of no value, unless connected with Christ by living faith. Even the moral law fails of its purpose, unless it is understood in its relation to the Saviour. **Christ had repeatedly shown that His Father's law contained something deeper than mere authoritative commands.** In the law is embodied the same principle that is revealed in the gospel. The law points out man's duty and shows him his guilt. To Christ he must look for pardon and for power to do what the law enjoins. {DA 608.2}

In heaven it is said by the ministering angels: The ministry which we have been commissioned to perform we have done. We pressed back the army of evil angels. **We sent brightness and light into the souls of men, quickening their memory of the love of God expressed in Jesus.** We attracted their eyes to the cross of Christ. Their hearts were deeply moved by a sense of the sin that crucified the Son of God. They were convicted. **They saw the steps to be taken in conversion; they felt the power of the gospel; their hearts were made tender as they saw the sweetness of the love of God. They beheld the beauty of the character of Christ.** {COL 318.1}

Christ is the sinner's advocate. **Those who accept His gospel behold Him with open face. They see the relation of His mission to the law, and they acknowledge God's wisdom and glory as revealed by the Saviour.** {6BC 1096.4}

What can I say more than I have said? **The Old Testament should be studied most diligently. The New Testament does not present a lower standard than the Old.** In his sermon on the mount Jesus set forth the very principles that came from his lips to Moses, to be given to the children of Israel. Christ delineated the duties of men to God and to their fellow men in much stronger lines, because through disobedience men had become confused in regard to God's claims. **Read carefully the sermon on the mount.** {SpTA09 58.2}

From age to age Satan has sought to keep men in ignorance of the beneficent designs of Jehovah. He has endeavored to remove from their sight the great things of God's law—the principles of justice, mercy, and love therein set forth. Men boast of the wonderful progress and enlightenment of the age in which we are now living; but God sees the earth filled with iniquity and violence. Men declare that the law of God has been abrogated, that the Bible is not authentic; and as a result, a tide of evil, such

as has not been seen since the days of Noah and of apostate Israel, is sweeping over the world. Nobility of soul, gentleness, piety, are bartered away to gratify the lust for forbidden things. The black record of crime committed for the sake of gain is enough to chill the blood and fill the soul with horror. {PK 275.2}

As in a Mirror

When you open the Bible, if you are transgressing the law of God, it will seem that all the threatenings of wrath are for your case. When you rise in meeting to bear your testimony, it will be full of unbelief and darkness. **Your testimony will misrepresent your Heavenly Father. It will represent him as unwilling to forgive when you want to return to him, and you will dishonor your Redeemer before the congregation.** The Lord has promised, “Ye shall seek me and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.” Why can you not take the Lord at his word? Why can you not come with an eye single to the glory of God, and appropriate the rich promises he has made? {RH March 19, 1889, par. 7}

Well would it be for us to hold up the mirror, God’s royal law, and see in it the reflection of our individual characters. {Lt53-1887.13}

The Lord will try every soul of us, as gold is tried in the furnace, until the dross and the tin are consumed and the Refiner sees His image reflected as in a mirror. Therefore the trial is not to be a matter of discouragement, but rather as that which will increase our confidence in God. We need daily to show that we appreciate and have respect unto the recompense of the reward. {Lt21a-1892.2}

“Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us that we should be called the sons of God. ... And every man that hath this hope in him, purifieth himself, even as he is pure. Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law; for sin is the transgression of the law. And we know that he was manifested to take away our sins, and in him is no sin.” [1 John 3:1, 3-5.] **Until men see their own defects in the mirror of God’s law, until they see that they must meet that law in character, they will manifest a spirit that is opposed to being led in the way of the Lord.** They will not feel

it essential to be free from sin. The Son of God came to our world in human form to show man that divinity and humanity combined does not commit sin. He is our Pattern. Through Him we may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. “Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not; whosoever sinneth hath not seen him.” [Verse 6.] “Be not deceived; God is not mocked.” [Galatians 6:7.] {Ms16-1898.16}

We lose many and rich blessings because we neglect to seek the Lord with humble hearts. **When we come to Him in sincerity of heart, asking Him to reveal our defects, He will show us a true picture of ourselves reflected in the mirror of His Word.** Then, having seen ourselves as God sees us, let us not go away forgetting what manner of man we are. Let us study critically the features of our character that are defective and seek for grace to make them like the pattern presented in the Word of God. {Ms137-1907.10}

We should show our faith by our works. A greater anxiety should be manifested to have a large measure of the spirit of Christ; for in this will be the strength of the church. It is Satan who is striving to have God’s children draw apart. Love, oh, how little love we have—love for God and for one another! The word and spirit of truth, dwelling in our hearts, will separate us from the world. The immutable principles of truth and love will bind heart to heart, and the strength of the union will be according to the measure of grace and truth enjoyed. **Well would it be for us each to hold up the mirror, God’s royal law, and see in it the reflection of His own character. Let us be careful not to neglect the danger signals and the warnings given in His word. Unless heed is given to these warnings, and defects of character are overcome, these defects will overcome those who possess them, and they will fall into error, apostasy, and open sin.** The mind that is not elevated to the highest standard will in time lose its power to retain that which it had once gained. “Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.” 1 Corinthians 10:12. “Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness. But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.” 2 Peter 3:17, 18. {2TT 209.1}

Let us obey the command, even though our sight cannot penetrate the darkness. The obstacles that hinder our progress will never disappear before a halting, doubting spirit. Those who defer obedience till every uncertainty disappears, and there remains no risk of failure or defeat, will

never obey. Faith looks beyond the difficulties, and lays hold of the unseen, even Omnipotence, therefore it cannot be baffled. **Faith is the clasping of the hand of Christ in every emergency.**—Gospel Workers, 262. ChS 110.1

Are we followers of God as dear children? or are we servants of the prince of darkness? Are we worshipers of Jehovah, or of Baal? of the living God, or of idols? No outward shrines may be visible, there may be no image for the eye to rest upon; yet we may be practising idolatry. It is as easy to make an idol of cherished ideas or objects as to fashion gods of wood or stone. **Thousands have a false conception of God and his attributes. They are as verily serving a false god as were the servants of Baal. God is a God of truth. Justice and mercy are the attributes of his throne. He is a God of love, of pity, and tender compassion. Thus he is represented in his Son, our Saviour.** He is a God of patience and long-suffering. If such is the being whom we adore, and whose character we are seeking to imitate, we are worshiping the true God. {RH December 3, 1908, par. 2}

There are men professing to be wise who need to become fools in the judgment of the world in order to become wise in the judgment of God. {Ms45-1909.7}

God does not conceal His truth from men. By their own course of action they make it obscure to themselves. Christ gave the Jewish people abundant evidence that He was the Messiah; but His teaching called for a decided change in their lives. They saw that if they received Christ, they must give up their cherished maxims and traditions, their selfish, ungodly practices. It required a sacrifice to receive changeless, eternal truth. Therefore they would not admit the most conclusive evidence that God could give to establish faith in Christ. **They professed to believe the Old Testament Scriptures, yet they refused to accept the testimony contained therein concerning Christ's life and character.** They were afraid of being convinced lest they should be converted and be compelled to give up their **preconceived opinions.** The treasure of the gospel, the Way, the Truth, and the Life, was among them, but they rejected the greatest gift that Heaven could bestow. {COL 105.1}

“Among the chief rulers also many believed on Him,” we read; “but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue.” John 12:42. They were convinced; they believed Jesus to be the

Son of God; but it was not in harmony with their ambitious desires to confess Him. They had not the faith that would have secured for them the heavenly treasure. **They were seeking worldly treasure.** {COL 105.2}

Faith in Christ as the world's Redeemer calls for an acknowledgment of the enlightened intellect controlled by a heart that can discern and appreciate the heavenly treasure. This faith is inseparable from repentance and transformation of character. **To have faith means to find and accept the gospel treasure, with all the obligations which it imposes.** {COL 112.4}

The casting of the net is the preaching of the gospel. This gathers both good and evil into the church. **When the mission of the gospel is completed, the judgment will accomplish the work of separation. Christ saw how the existence of false brethren in the church would cause the way of truth to be evil spoken of.** The world would revile the gospel because of the inconsistent lives of false professors. Even Christians would be caused to stumble as they saw that many who bore Christ's name were not controlled by His Spirit. Because these sinners were in the church, men would be in danger of thinking that God excused their sins. **Therefore Christ lifts the veil from the future and bids all to behold that it is character, not position, which decides man's destiny.** {COL 122.2}

The sanctification of the soul by the working of the Holy Spirit is the implanting of Christ's nature in humanity. **Gospel religion is Christ in the life—a living, active principle. It is the grace of Christ revealed in character and wrought out in good works.** The principles of the gospel cannot be disconnected from any department of practical life. Every line of Christian experience and labor is to be a representation of the life of Christ. {COL 384.1}

God chose Israel to reveal His character to men. He desired them to be as wells of salvation in the world. To them were committed the oracles of heaven, the revelation of God's will. In the early days of Israel the nations of the world, through corrupt practices, had lost the knowledge of God. **They had once known Him; but because "they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, ... their foolish heart was darkened."** Romans 1:21. Yet in His mercy God did not blot them out of existence. He purposed to give them an opportunity of again becoming acquainted with Him through His chosen people. Through the teachings of

the sacrificial service, **Christ was to be uplifted before all nations, and all who would look to Him should live. Christ was the foundation of the Jewish economy.** The whole system of types and symbols was a compacted prophecy of the gospel, a presentation in which were bound up the promises of redemption. {AA 14.1}

The Jewish economy was the gospel in figure, a presentation of Christianity which was to be developed as fast as the minds of the people could comprehend spiritual light. Christ was manifested as the Saviour of men, the embodiment of this light. To know Him, to be instructed by Him is true wisdom. A man may have a knowledge of the Scriptures which will not make him wise unto salvation. If his knowledge, begun in ambition, is carried forward in pride, he flatters himself in vain that he is a Christian. **The fruit of the Spirit is "love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance."** Neither talent, eloquence, nor selfish study of the Scriptures, **will produce love to God or conformity to the image of Christ.** Nothing but divine power can regenerate the human heart and character, and imbue the soul with the love of Christ, which will ever manifest itself in love to those for whom He died. {BEcho February 19, 1894, par. 7}

Fallen man is Satan's lawful captive. The mission of Christ was to rescue him from the power of his great adversary. Man is naturally inclined to follow Satan's suggestions, and he cannot successfully resist so terrible a foe unless Christ, the mighty Conqueror, dwells in him, guiding his desires, and giving him strength. **God alone can limit the power of Satan.** He is going to and fro in the earth, and walking up and down in it. He is not off his watch for a single moment, through fear of losing an opportunity to destroy souls. **It is important that God's people understand this, that they may escape his snares. Satan is preparing his deceptions, that in his last campaign against the people of God they may not understand that it is he.** 2 Corinthians 11:14: "And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light." 1T 341

The parable of the gospel sower, which Christ presented before His hearers, contains a lesson that we should study. **Those who preach present truth and scatter the good seed will realize the same results as the gospel sower. All classes will be affected more or less by the presentation of pointed and convincing truth.** Some will be wayside hearers. They will be affected by the truths spoken; but they have not cultivated the moral powers, they have

followed inclination rather than duty, and evil habits have hardened their hearts until they have become like the hard, beaten road. These may profess to believe the truth; but they will have no just sense of its sacred, elevated character. They do not separate from the friendship of the lovers of pleasure and corrupt society; but they place themselves where they are constantly tempted, and may well be represented by the unfenced field. They invite the temptations of the enemy and finally lose the regard they seemed to have for the truth when the good seed was dropped into their hearts. {3T 111.1}

A great work is now to be accomplished in setting before men the saving truths of the gospel. The purpose which God seeks to accomplish through his people is the same that he desired to accomplish through Israel when he brought them forth out of Egypt. **By beholding the goodness, the mercy, the justice, and the love of God revealed in the church, the world is to have a presentation of his character.** And when the law of God is thus exemplified in the life, even the world will recognize the superiority of those who love and fear and serve God above every other people on the earth. {SW May 15, 1906, par. 8}

Christ the Way to the Father's Character

Why are we so dull of comprehension? Why do we not cling to Jesus, and draw from him by faith the strength and perfection of his character, as the vine branch draws the sap from the living vine? We are to look to Jesus, and as temptations close us about, climb up step by step in the work of overcoming. Abiding in Christ, we become one with him. Then we are safe, entirely safe, against all the assaults of Satan. Christ living in the soul is revealed in the character. **Man is nothing without Christ. But if Christ lives in us, we shall work the works of God.** We shall represent Christ in our life, we shall talk of Christ because we meditate upon him. We shall grow up into Christ to the full stature of men and women in spiritual understanding. {ST October 10, 1892, par. 8}

The foundation firmly laid, we need wisdom that we may know how to build. When Moses was about to erect the sanctuary in the wilderness, he was cautioned, "See that thou make all things according to the pattern showed thee in the mount. **In his law God has given us a pattern. Our character building is to be "after the pattern showed to thee in the mount."**" The law is the great standard of righteousness. It represents the character of

God, and is the test of our loyalty to his government. And it is revealed to us, in all its beauty and excellence, in the life of Christ. {NPUGleaner March 17, 1909, par. 4}

The Jews looked upon the whole world as cursed, and Satan claimed the world. He claimed the publicans and sinners as his own subjects, but Christ came to dispute his claims and challenge his usurped authority. In this work man is brought into cooperation with God, and is to work as God works for the salvation of fallen men. What are we individually doing to let our light shine forth to others? It is the neglect of men in failing to cooperate with Jesus that leaves the world so long unreclaimed. Jesus has said of his followers, “As Thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I sent them into the world.” As Christ represented the Father, so he has commissioned his believing ones to represent him in character. We are to show forth his self-denial and self-sacrifice, and to establish his kingdom in righteousness. We are to speak the words that Christ has spoken, and do the works that Christ has done. The work of Christ was not to destroy, but to save. He gave his disciples lessons that are of the highest value; for through their words many are to come to the knowledge of Bible truth, and teach others also the lessons which they have learned. The disciples were to know that they were not simply combating the influence of finite enemies, but that they were also contending with demons. Light and darkness were in opposition, truth and delusion, good and evil, heaven and hell. Satanic supernatural agencies were united with evil men to corrupt and destroy. {ST January 1, 1894, par. 5}

“Love is the fulfilling of the law.” God is love, and when we love God supremely and love our neighbor as ourselves, we reflect the character of the Father and the Son. But those who truly love God will be obedient to all his commands. Obedience is the test of love. Jesus says, “He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me; and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.” “If a man love me, he will keep my words; and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings; and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father’s which sent me.” {ST October 22, 1894, par. 8}

Christ was one with the Father, on a level with the eternal throne, and the glory of God fell directly upon him, and was reflected to the world in the

luster of the greatness of the character of the Son of God. {ST April 25, 1895, par. 7}

Every one who is chosen of God should improve his intellectual powers. **Jesus came to represent the character of the Father, and he sent his disciples into the world to represent the character of Christ; he has given us his word to point out the way of life**, and he has not left us simply to carry that word, but has also promised to give it efficiency by the power of the Holy Spirit. {16MR 165.3}.

Those who would behold this glory would be drawn to love Jesus and to love the Father whom he represented. **Christ exalted the character of God, attributing to him the praise, and giving to him the credit, of the whole purpose of his own mission on earth,—to set men right through the revelation of God.** In Christ was arrayed before men the paternal grace and the matchless perfections of the Father. In his prayer just before his crucifixion, he declared, “I have manifested thy name.” “I have glorified thee on the earth; **I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.**” **When the object of his mission was attained,—the revelation of God to the world,—the Son of God announced that his work was accomplished, and that the character of the Father was made manifest to men.** {ST January 20, 1890, par. 9}

The work of Christ in the world was to reveal the Father, and when praying to the Father for His disciples, He said, “As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I sent them into the world.” [John 17:18.] **“And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent. I have glorified thee on the earth, I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.** And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was. **I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world:** thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word. Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee. For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me: and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me.” [Verses 3-8.] {Ms21-1890.3}

Christ made His soul an offering for sin. Thus He made it possible for man to

hate sin—that which requires such an offering, such a sacrifice, to rescue the sinner from its terrible influence. In the Saviour’s memorable prayer, He claims much. To His Father He declared, **“I have glorified Thee on the earth: I have finished the work which Thou gavest Me to do.”** The great conflict was yet before Him. “And now, O Father, glorify Thou Me with Thine own self with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was.” **In representing to the world His Father’s attributes, He cast over God’s character no shadow to dim its glory. He revealed to the world His Father’s likeness. In neither word nor action did He perpetuate sin.** {Ms7-1902.16}

I have glorified thee on the earth; I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.” We should all bear in mind that to every man God has given his work. There is no one in the entire human family who has not been entrusted with talents to be wisely used and improved. **Said Christ, “I have glorified Thee in my human character, perfecting that character for the benefit of all humanity, to show human beings that man can keep the law of God in a world of sin and transgression,** and through being a partaker of the divine nature, stand as an overcomer.” **“To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.”** **Christ is our pattern.** {Lt157-1901.6}

In His prayer to His Father Christ said, **“I have glorified thee on the earth; I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.** And now, O Father, glorify thou me thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.” **Christ’s work was finished when He expired on the cross, crying with a loud voice, “It is finished.”** The way was laid open, the veil was rent in twain. Man could approach God without sacrificial offerings, without the service of priest. Christ Himself was a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek. Heaven was His home. **He came to this world to reveal the Father. His work on the field of His humiliation and conflict was now done.** He ascended up into the heavens, and is forever set down on the right hand of God. {Ms128-1897.30}

How important then that we study the words of Christ, [John 17] which the Father gave Him to give to the world. There is knowledge for all of us to gain here in this world. It is the divine plan that we receive the words of Christ and practice them, for the state of the heart regulates the life and forms character. And obedience to the words of Christ will be evidence that we receive Him. {Lt82-1895.7 -8}

We are God's little children, and we are to learn of Him, His spirit is too pure to dwell in the mind and heart of one that is lifted up unto vanity. **In His prayer Christ said, "I have glorified Thee on the earth." This is the science of heaven. "I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.** And now, O Father, glorify thou me with Thine own self, with the glory which I had with thee before the world was." **These are the words of Him who was one in mind, in heart, and purpose, with God** in the work of saving a fallen world. **God and Christ had oneness of purpose, oneness of aim, and they made one eternal never-ending effort to work for the salvation of the fallen race.** The prayer of Christ lays open before the intelligent, understanding mind that not one taint of the science of Satan's practice can enter the holy city. {BCL 127-128.}

In the intercessory prayer of Jesus with His Father, He claimed that He had fulfilled the conditions which made it obligatory upon the Father to fulfill His part of the contract made in heaven, with regard to fallen man. He prayed: **"I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. [That is, He had wrought out a righteous character on earth as an example for men to follow.]** (*These words in Square brackets[] are penned by Ellen White*) And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was." In this prayer He further goes on to state what is comprehended by the work which He has accomplished, and which has given Him all those **who believe on His name.** He values this recompense so highly that He forgets the anguish it has cost Him to redeem fallen man. He declares Himself glorified in those who believe on Him. **The church, in His name, is to carry to glorious perfection the work which He has commenced; and when that church shall be finally ransomed in the Paradise of God,** He will look upon the travail of His soul and be satisfied. Through all eternity the ransomed host will be His chief glory (The Spirit of Prophecy 3:260, 261)

I have glorified Thee on the earth," the Saviour continued: "I have finished the work which Thou gavest Me to do. And now, O Father, glorify Thou Me with Thine own self with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was. **I have manifested Thy name unto the men whom Thou gavest Me out of the world:** Thine they were, and Thou gavest them Me; and they have kept Thy word. Now they have known that all things whatsoever Thou hast given Me are of Thee. For I have given unto them the words which Thou gavest Me; and they have received them; and have known surely that I came out from Thee, and they have believed that Thou didst send Me. I pray for them: I pray

not for the world, but for them which Thou hast given Me; for they are Thine. And all Mine are Thine, and Thine are Mine; and I am glorified in them." I pray that these words may have due weight upon our hearts at all times and in all places. **There are many among us who have not considered it their privilege to understand the mystery of godliness; but if they would do this, they would come up on to a higher plane of action.** {Ms91-1909. 4-5}

"I have glorified Thee on the earth: I have finished the work that Thou gavest Me to do. And now, O Father, glorify Thou Me with Thine own self with the glory that I had with Thee before the world was. I have manifested Thy name unto the men whom Thou gavest Me out of the world; Thine they were, and Thou gavest them Me; and they have kept Thy word. Now they have known that all things whatsoever Thou hast given Me are of Thee. For I have given unto them the words which Thou gavest Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from Thee, and they have believed that Thou didst send Me. **"I pray for them; I pray not for the world, but for them which Thou hast given Me; for they are Thine.** And all Mine are Thine, and Thine are Mine; and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to Thee. Holy Father, keep through Thine own name those whom Thou hast given Me; that they may be one, as We are." **I ask you to read prayerfully every verse of this chapter; and if you are perplexed to know what means the higher education, read these words again, and study the teachings and works of Christ.** No higher education can be presented in any educational institution than is comprehended in the prayer of Christ. And this prayer, comprehensive as it is, may be understood by all who seek for knowledge and understanding in spiritual things. O that the teachings of this prayer might be brought more fully into the religious life of our people, and its refining, purifying, unselfish principles be truly appreciated! I am instructed to keep before the people the need of our having high motives and purposes. **The aim of Christ's life was to receive of the Father, that He might give, by precept and by unselfish service, that which would save men and women from sinning and turn the rebellious into paths of righteousness.** "For their sakes I sanctify Myself," He said, "that they also might be sanctified through the truth." **Christ stood before the human race as the representative of God. "He that hath seen Me," He said, "hath seen the Father." The church of Christ on earth should represent Christ's character.** {Lt44-1909.8-11}

The Son of God took human nature upon Him and came to this earth to stand

at the head of the fallen race. He dwelt on this earth, a man among men. He died on the cross that men and women might live forever in glory. His work stands before us as the work of the greatest medical missionary the world has ever known. **If we would study His love, and try to comprehend His greatness, we should reveal more of it in our lives.** The seventeenth chapter of John is an unfolding of the love we are to cherish for one another. In His prayer Christ said, **“I have glorified thee on the earth; I have finished the work that thou gavest me to do.” Christ came to represent His Father by revealing a love that is without a parallel.** And so untiring were His efforts that when the time came for Him to leave the earth, **He could say, “I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.”** This prayer touches my heart and thrills my whole being. Shall we not strive to make our lives, which cost the Son of God so much, such that He can be glorified in us? {Ms11-1902.17, 19}

Jesus knows every throb of pain, every throe of anguish and distress, and He will give His children grace to endure the afflictions that He permits to come upon them. His heart beats in sympathy with suffering humanity and those who suffer most have most of His pity and sympathy. {ST February 28, 1906, par. 5}

We want the transforming grace of God to take right hold of our thinking powers. We may think evil, we may continue to keep our minds upon objectionable things, but what does this do for us? It conforms our entire experience to that which we are looking upon. **But by beholding Jesus we become changed into His likeness.** The servant of the living God sees to some purpose. The eyes are sanctified, and the ears are sanctified, and those who will close their eyes and ears to evil will become changed.—Manuscript 17, 1894.

To learn of Christ means to receive His grace, which is His character. {COL 271.1}

When left alone, Jesus “went up into a mountain apart to pray.” For hours He continued pleading with God. Not for Himself but for men were those prayers. **He prayed for power to reveal to men the divine character of His mission, that Satan might not blind their understanding and pervert their judgment.** DA 379.1}

As We Judge, We Will Be Judged by the Judgment We Give to Others.

“Either God or Satan controls the mind; and the life shows so clearly that none need mistake to which power you yield allegiance. {RH August 26, 1884, par. 9}

What was the result of the outpouring of the Spirit upon the Day of Pentecost? The glad tidings of a risen Saviour were carried to the utmost bounds of the inhabited world. The hearts of the disciples were surcharged with a benevolence so full, so deep, so far-reaching, that it impelled them to go to the ends of the earth, testifying: “God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Galatians 6:14. As they proclaimed the truth as it is in Jesus, hearts yielded to the power of the message. The church beheld converts flocking to her from all directions. Backsliders were reconverted. Sinners united with Christians in seeking the pearl of great price. Those who had been the bitterest opponents of the gospel became its champions. The prophecy was fulfilled: The weak shall be “as David,” and the house of David “as the angel of the Lord.” Every Christian saw in his brother the divine similitude of love and benevolence. One interest prevailed. One subject of emulation swallowed up all others. The only ambition of the believers was to reveal the likeness of Christ’s character and to labor for the enlargement of His kingdom. {CCh 99.3

The work of judging his brother has not been placed upon any man. **“Judge not,”** the Saviour says, **“that ye be not judged; for with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.”** He who takes upon himself the work of judging and criticizing others, lays himself open to the same degree of judgment and criticism. Those who are ready to condemn their brethren, would do well to examine their own works and character. Such an examination, honestly made, will reveal the fact that they, too, have defects of character, and have made grave blunders in their work. If the great Judge should deal with men as they deal with their fellow workers, they would regard him as unkind and unmerciful. {ChL 59.2}

There would be men who would go out to labor who would act out their own natural defective temperament in dealing with souls. They were guided by impulse; they would flatter. Some others who were faulty needed

correction. **But these men who ought to have labored with the spirit of meekness and prayer, with the spirit of Christ, manifested their own spirit.** Self was prominent. **They were dictatorial, exacting, harsh in judgment. These things were reprov'd by testimony.** {Ms4a-1881.23}

Let our brethren be careful not to incur the displeasure of God by hindering instead of helping in His work. **Those whose religious experience is counterfeit may do great harm by counterworking with their own ideas and their faulty judgment the work of the Holy Spirit.** {SpTB05 48.4}

The Lord has sent you Testimonies of instruction, of rebuke, and warning. Some have come to the light that they may see and know their errors, and put them away. Others are deceived and deluded in regard to their spiritual standing before God. They do not bring their character and works to the test by comparing them with the word of God and the declaration of Scripture that plainly condemns their course and marks out the only true path for them to walk in. These have not had true Bible repentance. The word of God has not been their rule of action. It has not been received with deference and reverence as it should have been. This word requires of them true sorrow for sins and thorough confession if they would have from their Redeemer peace and pardon. **But there are men standing in responsible positions who teach one thing and practice another. While they have been forward to condemn their brethren, their own character is more faulty in the sight of God than the ones they would criticise and condemn.** These men are blind leaders of the blind, and both leaders and those led by them will be ruined unless there is true repentance and heart-felt confession before God. These who bind souls in deception are themselves deceived. They form their judgment of duty from the general practice of professed Christians who have a form of godliness, but who deny the power thereof. They have a superficial, hasty, erroneous conception of the nature of virtue and of piety. It is their opinion, if not guilty of out-breaking sins that human eyes can discern, they are not called upon to show the fruits of true repentance and sorrow for sin. This is in direct contradiction to the words of inspiration. {PH155 12.3}

The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God." He is not with Christ in mind and heart, and he cannot rightly appreciate or enjoy the high, exalted truths of God's Word. **It seems foolishness to him to put on the white garment of Christ's righteousness.** With him the religious experience is a matter of chance. He is not born of the Spirit, therefore he cannot judge

correctly concerning spiritual things. Many of those who claim to believe in Christ reveal by their words and actions that they are not partakers of the divine nature. They do not appreciate the truths of eternal value. {20MR 336.2}

Many, many are trusting to their own righteousness. They set up a standard for themselves and do not submit to the will of Christ and allow Him to clothe them with the robe of His righteousness. **They form characters according to their own will and pleasure. Satan is well pleased with their religion. They misrepresent the perfect character—the righteousness—of Christ.** Themselves deceived, they deceive others. They are not accepted of God. They are liable to lead other souls into false paths. They will at last receive their reward with the great deceiver—Satan. {Ms138-1902.10}

The Lord meets men where they are. The Apostle declares, “We are laborers together with God: ye are God’s husbandry, ye are God’s building” (1 Corinthians 3:9). **The Holy Spirit teaches those who are willing to be taught, not only what they should impart but how they should impart.** To the believing Christian the highest purest instruction is given. Heavenly wisdom is imparted to him. {20MR 336.3}

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 which streams from the cross of Calvary and in connection with the wondrous central truth of the Saviour’s atonement. Those who study the Redeemer’s wonderful sacrifice grow in grace and knowledge. {20MR 336.4}

We need to have higher and more distinct views of the character of Christ, to lead us to copy his example. We need to better understand what constitutes a pure religious life. We must learn to be Christ-like in disposition and character. We need an increase of faith in the promises of God. He has shown us great and precious favors; he has revealed to us his glory, all loving, holy. **These attributes are blended with justice and mercy. We are not to think of God only as a judge, and to forget him as our loving Father. Nothing can do our souls greater harm than this; for our whole spiritual life will be molded by our conceptions of God’s character.** We have lessons to learn of Jesus’ love. He has been ever solicitous for our welfare. His voice is ever

inviting us to come to him with all our griefs and sorrows; and if we will obey the call, we shall draw toward Jesus. {RH April 5, 1887, par. 10}

The Judgment of God and Christ

He [Christ] suffered every indignity that men could devise and Satan could invent, in order to carry out the plan of salvation. {RH September 3, 1908, Art. B, par. 9}

Christ is made the Judge of every man's character. All judgment is given by the Father into His hands. Daily the examination of every man's character is being carried on. God is particular in requiring every one to be truthful in speech. **"By thy words thou shall be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned."** [Matthew 12:37.] {Ms138-1902.9}

In His teachings, **Christ showed how far-reaching are the principles of the law spoken from Sinai. He made a living application of that law whose principles remain forever the great standard of righteousness—the standard by which all shall be judged in that great day when the judgment shall sit and the books shall be opened.** He came to fulfill all righteousness, and as the head of humanity, to show man that he can do the same work, meeting every specification of the requirements of God. Through the measure of His grace furnished to the human agent, not one need miss heaven. **Perfection of character is attainable by every one who strives for it. This is made the very foundation of the new covenant of the gospel.** The law of Jehovah is the tree; the gospel is the fragrant blossoms and fruit which it bears.—The Review and Herald, April 5, 1898.

As the Holy One upon the throne slowly turned the leaves of the Ledger, and his eyes rested for a moment upon individuals, his glance seemed to burn into their very souls, and at the same moment every word and action of their lives passed before their minds as clearly as if traced before their vision in letters of fire. Trembling seized them, and their faces turned pale. Their first appearance when around the throne was that of careless indifference. But how changed their appearance now! The feeling of security is gone, and in its place is a nameless terror. **A dread is upon every soul lest he shall be found among those who are wanting. Every eye is riveted upon the face of the One upon the throne; and as his solemn, searching eye**

sweeps over that company, there is a quaking of heart, >>>for they are self-condemned without one word being uttered. In anguish of soul each declares his own guilt, and with terrible vividness sees that by sinning he has thrown away the precious boon of eternal life.<<< PH043 p 3

This is not an act of arbitrary power on the part of God. The rejecters of His mercy reap that which they have sown. God is the fountain of life; and when one chooses the service of sin, he separates from God, and thus cuts himself off from life. He is "alienated from the life of God." Christ says, "**All they that hate Me love death.**" Ephesians 4:18; Proverbs 8:36. God gives them existence for a time that they may develop their character and reveal their principles. This accomplished, they receive the results of their own choice. By a life of rebellion, **Satan and all who unite with him place themselves so out of harmony with God that His very presence is to them a consuming fire. The glory of Him who is love will destroy them.** DA 764.1

And now, invested with supreme majesty and power, the King of kings pronounces sentence upon the rebels against His government and executes justice upon those who have transgressed His law and oppressed His people. Says the prophet of God: "I saw a great white throne, and Him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened:and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works." Revelation 20:11, 12 {GC 666.1}

As soon as the books of record are opened, and the eye of Jesus looks upon the wicked, they are conscious of every sin which they have ever committed. They see just where their feet diverged from the path of purity and holiness, just how far pride and rebellion have carried them in the violation of the law of God. **The seductive temptations which they encouraged by indulgence in sin, the blessings perverted, the messengers of God despised, the warnings rejected, the waves of mercy beaten back by the stubborn, unrepentant heart--all appear as if written in letters of fire.**{GC 666.2}

In the day of final judgment, every lost soul will understand the nature of his own rejection of truth. **The cross will be presented, and its real bearing will**

be seen by every mind that has been blinded by transgression. Before the vision of Calvary with its mysterious Victim, sinners will stand condemned. Every lying excuse will be swept away. Human apostasy will appear in its heinous character. Men will see what their choice has been. Every question of truth and error in the long-standing controversy will then have been made plain. **In the judgment of the universe, God will stand clear of blame for the existence or continuance of evil. It will be demonstrated that the divine decrees are not accessory to sin.** There was no defect in God's government, no cause for disaffection. **When the thoughts of all hearts shall be revealed, both the loyal and the rebellious will unite in declaring, "Just and true are Thy ways, Thou King of saints. Who shall not fear Thee, O Lord, and glorify Thy name? ... for Thy judgments are made manifest."** Revelation 15:3, 4. {DA 58.1}

"Thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things." Romans 2:1. Thus those who condemn or criticize others, proclaim themselves guilty, for they do the same things. In condemning others, **they are passing sentence upon themselves, and God declares that this sentence is just. He accepts their own verdict against themselves.** {MB 124.2}

Conclusion

There was one class who soon renounced the idea that "the door of mercy was shut," because they discovered that other messages were to be proclaimed after that declaring, the hour of judgment is come; and that that of the third angel, the last one, was to go to "many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings." They learned that the judgment sits in heaven before the coming of the Lord; that the judgment of the righteous is fully accomplished while Jesus is yet their advocate before the Father's throne; that eternal life is instantly given to the saints when their Saviour comes, which is proof that they have been judged and acquitted. **As the hopes of the disciples revived, and they were "glad when they saw the Lord," and declared his Messiahship with yet greater confidence, so did these rejoice**

when they discovered the truth of the third Angel's message, which, to them, was like life from the dead. With renewed zeal and strengthened confidence they began again to proclaim the soon coming of the Lord. {4SP 499.3}

"Judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts." 1 Corinthians 4:5. We cannot read the heart. Ourselves faulty, we are not qualified to sit in judgment upon others. Finite men can judge only from outward appearance. **To Him alone who knows the secret springs of action, and who deals tenderly and compassionately, is it given to decide the case of every soul.** {MB 124.1}

None of us liveth to himself. Each is assigned a post of duty in labor. **The influence of each, closely bound in the closest bonds of holy union by the links of the golden chain of love, because God is love, is the evidence to the world that God has sent His Son.** The love that is revealed in the home life bursts its bonds and becomes a working power in the church and extends to the neighborhood. **Thus the love principle which caused Christ to die to save the world extends to the community, and to the nations and kingdoms of the world.** John 14:15-20. Think of this: **The love of Jesus Christ, exercised one for another, quenches that satanic spirit of thinking evil and speaking evil and always supposing your brethren want to do you harm.** Put this all away: love as brethren. {Ms41-1890.28, 30}

At the cross of Calvary, love and selfishness stood face to face. Here was their crowning manifestation. **Christ had lived only to comfort and bless,** and in putting Him to death, Satan manifested the malignity of his hatred against God. He made it evident that the real purpose of his rebellion was to dethrone God, and to destroy Him through whom the love of God was shown. {DA 57.2}

Satan is a deceiver. When he sinned in heaven, even the loyal angels did not fully discern his character. This was why God did not at once destroy Satan. Had He done so, the holy angels would not have perceived the justice

and love of God. **A doubt of God's goodness would have been as evil seed that would yield the bitter fruit of sin and woe.** Therefore the author of evil was spared, fully to develop his character. Through long ages **God has borne the anguish of beholding the work of evil, He has given the infinite Gift of Calvary, rather than leave any to be deceived by the misrepresentations of the wicked one;** for the tares could not be plucked up without danger of uprooting the precious grain. And shall we not be as forbearing toward our fellow men as the Lord of heaven and earth is toward Satan? {COL 72.2}

Since Satan is the originator of sin, the direct instigator of all the sins that caused the death of the Son of God, **justice demands that Satan shall suffer the final punishment.** {CIHS 38.5}

Satan will be judged by his own idea of justice. It was his plea that every sin should meet its punishment. If God remitted the punishment, he said, He was not a God of truth or justice. **Satan will meet the judgment which he said God should exercise** (Manuscript 111, 1897). {5BC 1087.4}

Christ not only uttered precepts, but He illuminated these precepts by His life. He has been, in humanity, that which He enjoins every individual to be. This they can and will be if they join themselves to Christ. We are not to demand that we be ministered unto, but we are to minister. See what you can do to make others happy. **Lighten the sorrows, and relieve the distress of others.** Let not your eager watchful eye be ever looking for something to charge against others. **Our love toward men is to be like the Lord's. You can carry the needs and sorrows of men in your mind. When you have the mind of Christ, you will not feed upon the garbage of their fruits and mistakes, but you will seek to help them.** God would awaken in you a desire to think of others without despising their ways and manners. You are very far from perfect; but does God despise you? No; he is grieved with your course of action, yet He invites you as a sinner to come to Him, and let Him take away your sins, your harshness, your exaggerated expressions, your accusing power. {EA 287.2}

Christ died because the law was transgressed, that guilty man might be saved

from the penalty of his enormous guilt. (1888 696.4)

Satan has used you for a long time as his agent in this line, and will you not now step close to the bleeding side of Jesus? I tell that you have no time to lose. Christ sets before you a perfect example. Will you consider this? Will you behold this? Will you talk of the perfection of Jesus Christ? On our behalf He surrendered case, supremacy, honor, riches. For our sakes He became poor, that we through His poverty might be made rich. He submitted to suffering, stepping down still lower even after He had accepted humanity; He bore insult, mockery, and the most cruel death to save you and me. "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus." **Use your voice for the rest of life to talk of the matchless depths of a Saviour's love. Let not one word of evil speaking be expressed toward your brethren.** God has not given you this work to do. You may feel all the disgust you please at the way you have used your tongue in the past; for you have dishonored God and the truth. **Give expression to the love you have for the perfect character of Christ.** All His teachings are invested with a beauty that charms the mind. His words breathe the inspiration of truth, and are weighted with eternal wisdom. **Talk of the perfection of Christ, until you become inspired with His loveliness of character. To see Christ is to see the Father.** {EA 287.3}

All that man needs to know or can know of God has been revealed in the life and character of His Son. "No man hath seen God at any time; the only-begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, He hath declared Him." John 1:18. {8T 286.1-2}

Thus it has been, and thus it will be till the end of time. **Sin is Satan's attribute,** and it is always leagued against good. **The spirit of Cain is manifest in all false religions. Satan's work is to condemn and destroy, to take away man's liberty and destroy his life.** Transgression always leads men to act as Satan's agents, to carry out his purposes against God and righteousness. In Nazareth Christ announced that His work was to restore and uplift, to bring peace and happiness. He came to this world to represent the Father, and He revealed His divine power by giving life to the dead, by restoring the sick and suffering to soundness and health. He was in this world as the tree of life.

Satan is at war with Christ, the divine Restorer. His agents are leagued against the Saviour's work of elevating and ennobling man. **The first death in our world was caused by the working out of Satan's principles;** and ever since that time Christ and His followers have been the object of his malignant hate. {ST March 21, 1900, par. 13-15}

"In presenting the binding claims of the law, many have failed to portray the infinite love of Christ. The law is to be presented to its transgressors, not as something apart from God, but rather as an exponent of his mind and character. As the sunlight cannot be separated from the sun, so God's law cannot be rightly presented to man apart from the divine Author. **But he whose eyes have been opened to see the love of Christ, will behold the character of God as full of love and compassion. God will not appear as a tyrannical, relentless being, but as a father longing to embrace his repenting son.** The sinner will cry with the psalmist, "Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him." **All despair is swept from the soul when Christ is seen in his true character.**" {RH, February 3, 1891 par. 9-10}

Brethren and sisters, let us study carefully the prayer of Christ. Let us seek to experience the oneness in faith and works for which he prayed. **The Fatherhood of God is given to us in the gift of Jesus Christ; and as God was one with his only begotten Son, so he would have his earthly children one with him.** Faith in Christ will help us to overcome all weakness of the flesh. **It is our privilege through faith in our Redeemer to become sanctified, holy, cleansed from all sin in this life, and in that life that measures with the life of God to be partakers in the joys of the redeemed.** {RH, September 30, 1909 par. 15}

My Father's Kingdom

"I am the resurrection and the life." In our knowledge of Christ and His love the kingdom of God is placed in the midst of us. Christ is revealed to us in sermons and chanted to us in songs. The spiritual banquet is set before us in rich abundance. The wedding garment, provided at infinite cost, is freely offered to every soul. By the messengers of God are presented to us the righteousness of Christ, justification by faith, the exceeding great and precious promises of God's word, free access to the Father by Christ, the comfort of the Spirit, the well-grounded assurance of eternal life in the kingdom of God. What could God do for us that He has not done in providing the great supper, the heavenly banquet? COL 3:17

You are invited to this kingdom, this precious place revealed in Christ and freely open to every man, woman and child. This kingdom does not come with outward observation for it is a spiritual kingdom spoken with a still small voice. By nature man is deaf, blind and resistive of this kingdom but in the face of Jesus Christ it is opened to us. Will you come to the heavenly Banquet?