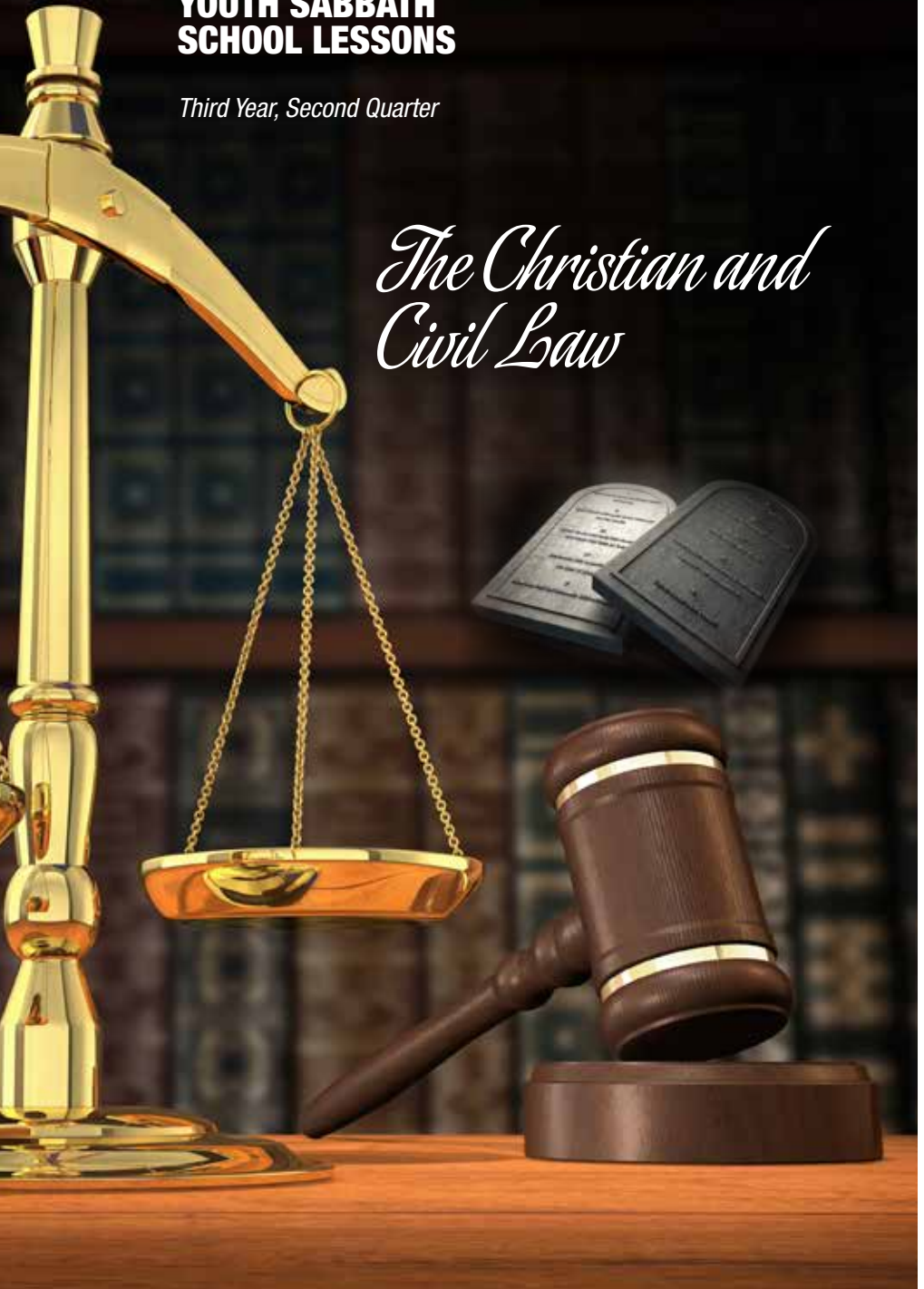


YOUTH SABBATH SCHOOL LESSONS

Third Year, Second Quarter

The Christian and Civil Law



**YOUTH
SABBATH SCHOOL LESSONS**

THIRD YEAR, SECOND QUARTER

The Christian
and Civil Law

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INTRODUCTION

These Youth Sabbath School Lessons present the subject of “The Christian and Civil Law,” which is of special significance to young people. First, we see our great Example, Jesus Christ, and His life principles and laws; second, the laws that govern the world and human society.

Often there is a great misunderstanding about how the Christian should relate to civil laws. Since the carnal nature does not comprehend spiritual things, and the spiritual man is not carnally minded, there is a clash of loyalties between the world and Christ’s followers. The purpose of these lessons is to present the individual’s responsibility in this.

We pray that every young person will understand the importance of making his decision in regard to his relationship with God and His eternal laws.



The Christian's Example

1. Where were believers first called Christians. Why? Acts 11:26, last part.

"In the populous city of Antioch, Paul found an excellent field of labor.... He proved just the help that Barnabas needed. For a year the two disciples labored unitedly in faithful ministry, bringing to many a saving knowledge of Jesus of Nazareth, the world's Redeemer.

"This is a royal name, given to all who join themselves to Christ."

"It was in Antioch that the disciples were first called Christians. The name was given them because Christ was the main theme of their preaching, their teaching, and their conversation....

"It was God who gave them the name of Christian. This is a royal name, given to all who join themselves to Christ." –*The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 156, 157.

2. What does the name "Christ" mean? Psalm 2:2; Hebrews 1:8, 9; Isaiah 61:1.

"The name Christ signifies anointed. Jesus was both Priest and King. Among the Jews priests were anointed, as their inauguration to their office. 1 Chronicles 16:22. In the New Testament the name Christ is used as equivalent to the Hebrew Messiah (anointed) (John 1:41), the name given to the long-promised Prophet and King whom the Jews had been taught by their prophets to expect." –William Smith, *Bible Dictionary*, p. 307.

3. By what other names is Jesus known? Isaiah 9:6; Matthew 1:21, 23.

"The Sovereign of the universe was not alone in His work of beneficence. He had an associate—a co-worker who could appreciate His purposes, and could share His joy in giving happiness to created beings.... Christ, the Word, the only begotten of God, was one with the eternal Father—one in nature, in character, in purpose—the only Being that could enter into all the counsels and purposes of God. 'His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The

everlasting Father, the Prince of peace.' Isaiah 9:6." –*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 34.

4. What is He to man? Hebrews 7:26.

"... It is the 'Son of man' whose name shall be called, 'Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.' Isaiah 9:6. The I AM is the Daysman between God and humanity, laying His hand upon both. He who is 'holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners,' is not ashamed to call us brethren. Hebrews 7:26; 2:11. In Christ the family of earth and the family of heaven are bound together. Christ glorified is our brother. Heaven is enshrined in humanity, and humanity is enfolded in the bosom of Infinite Love." –*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 25, 26.

5. What motivated God to send His Son to save man? John 3:16; 1 John 4:8, 16, 19.

"The heart of God yearns over His earthly children with a love stronger than death."

"The heart of God yearns over His earthly children with a love stronger than death. In giving up His Son, He has poured out to us all heaven in one gift. The Saviour's life and death and intercession, the ministry of angels, the pleading of the Spirit, the Father working above and through all, the unceasing interest of heavenly beings—all are enlisted in behalf of man's redemption." –*Steps to Christ*, p. 21.

6. Whose steps must we follow? 1 Peter 2:21; John 8:12; Revelation 14:4.

"At the Saviour's call, John, Peter, Matthew, and their companions 'left all, rose up, and followed Him.' The same consecration was required of the young ruler. And in this Christ did not ask a greater sacrifice than He Himself had made...."

"In the place of that which He called upon him to surrender, Christ offered him the privilege of companionship with Himself. 'Follow Me,' He said. This privilege had been counted a joy by Peter, James, and John." –*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 393.

7. Is it safe to follow and trust human beings? Why, or why not? Jeremiah 17:5, 6; James 2:9.

"It is too often the case that those who are looked up to are not what they are supposed to be. Often sin lurks in the heart, and wrong habits and deceptive practices are woven into the character...."

"In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, I beseech the people of God to depend upon the Lord for strength. Beware how you place men where God should be. We are not safe in taking men as our authority or our guide, for they will surely disappoint us. Individually, we are to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling, 'for it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure.' Philipians 2:13." –*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, pp. 385, 386.

8. To whom should one look? Why? Hebrews 12:1, 2.

"We cannot see anything else, or talk of anything else."

"If we gaze even a moment upon the sun in its meridian glory, when we turn away our eyes, the image of the sun will appear in everything upon which we look. Thus it is when we behold Jesus; everything we look upon reflects His image, the Sun of Righteousness. We cannot see anything else, or talk of anything else. His image is imprinted upon the eye of the soul, and affects every portion of our daily life, softening and subduing our whole nature. By beholding, we are conformed to the divine similitude, even the likeness of Christ." –*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, pp. 388, 389.

9. What aim does God have for His children? Ephesians 4:13; Colossians 1:28.

"The ideal of Christian character is Christlikeness. As the Son of man was perfect in His life, so His followers are to be perfect in their life. Jesus was in all things made like unto His brethren. He became flesh, even as we are. He was hungry and thirsty and weary. He was sustained by food and refreshed by sleep. He shared the lot of man; yet He was the blameless Son of God. He was God in the flesh. His character is to be ours." –*The Desire of Ages*, p. 311.

10. Who alone can save a person? Acts 4:12; Philipians 2:8-10.

"For every soul struggling to rise from a life of sin to a life of purity, the great element of power abides in the only 'name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.' 'If any man thirst' for restful hope, for deliverance from sinful propensities, Christ says, 'let him come unto Me, and drink.' John 7:37. The only remedy for vice is the grace and power of Christ.

"The good resolutions made in one's own strength avail nothing. Not all the pledges in the world will break the power of evil habit.... We cannot keep ourselves from sin for one moment. Every moment we are dependent upon God." –*The Ministry of Healing*, pp. 179, 180.

Christ—His Love and Obedience

1. What showed Christ's great love? Can there be any greater love? John 10:11; 15:13; Luke 22:44.

"Christ, in His relation to His people, is compared to a shepherd. After the fall, He saw His sheep doomed to perish in the dark ways of sin. To save these wandering ones He left the honors and glories of His Father's house....

"To save His sheep, Christ laid down His own life; and He points His shepherds to the love thus manifested, as their example." —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 190, 191.

"In Gethsemane the cup of woe trembled in His hand. He might even then have wiped the blood-sweat from His brow, and have left the guilty race to perish in their iniquity. Had He done this, there could have been no redemption for fallen man." —*The Great Controversy*, p. 348.

2. How did He prove His supreme love? Hebrews 12:2, middle part; 1 Corinthians 1:23; 2:2.

"Follow Him on His way to the judgment hall, while He is derided, mocked, and insulted by that infuriated mob. Behold Him clothed in that old purple kingly robe. Hear the coarse jest and cruel mocking. See them place upon that noble brow the crown of thorns, and then smite Him with a reed, causing the thorns to penetrate His temples, and the blood to flow from that holy brow. Hear that murderous throng eagerly crying for the blood of the Son of God. He is delivered into their hands, and they lead the noble sufferer away, pale, weak, and fainting, to His crucifixion. He is stretched upon the wooden cross, and the nails are driven through His tender hands and feet. Behold Him hanging upon the cross those dreadful hours of agony until the angels veil their faces from the horrid scene, and the sun hides its light, refusing to behold. Think of these things, and then ask, Is the way too strait? No, no." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, pp. 240, 241.

3. What loving, patient attitude did Christ reveal? Luke 23:34; 1 Peter 2:23.

“All heaven was filled with wonder when the prayer of Christ was offered in the midst of His terrible suffering—‘Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.’ Yet there stood men, formed in the image of God, joining to crush out the life of His only-begotten Son. What a sight for the heavenly universe!” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 760.

“There was never one who walked among men more cruelly slandered than the Son of man. He was derided and mocked because of His unswerving obedience to the principles of God’s holy law. They hated Him without a cause. Yet He stood calmly before His enemies, declaring that reproach is a part of the Christian’s legacy, counseling His followers how to meet the arrows of malice, bidding them not to faint under persecution.” —*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 32.

4. What was His loving desire? John 17:24, 26.

“... His office work is to introduce us to God as His sons and daughters.”

“By His [God’s] appointment He has placed at His altar an Advocate clothed with our nature. As our Intercessor, His office work is to introduce us to God as His sons and daughters. Christ intercedes in behalf of those who have received Him. To them He gives power, by virtue of His own merits, to become members of the royal family, children of the heavenly King. And the Father demonstrates His infinite love for Christ, who paid our ransom with His blood, by receiving and welcoming Christ’s friends as His friends.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, pp. 363, 364.

5. In His great love, what is Christ preparing? How will a person return His love? John 14:2, 3.

“Dear children and youth, Jesus has done all in His power to give you a home in the mansions that are prepared for them that love and serve Him here. He left His heavenly home, and came to a world marred by sin—came to a people who did not appreciate Him, who did not love His purity and holiness, who slighted His teachings, and finally put Him to a most cruel death....

“God wants something in return for this great sacrifice He has made in your behalf. He wants you to be Christians, not in name alone, but also in dress and conversation.” —*Messages to Young People*, p. 346.

6. How else did Jesus show His great love for His Father? Psalm 40:8; Hebrews 10:7.

“By His perfect obedience He had made it possible for every human being to obey God’s commandments. When we submit ourselves to Christ, the heart is united with His heart, the will is merged in His will, the mind becomes one with His mind, the thoughts are brought into captivity to Him; we live His life. This is what it means to be clothed with the garment of His righteousness. Then as the Lord looks upon us, He sees, not the fig leaf garment, not the nakedness and deformity of sin, but His own robe of righteousness, which is perfect obedience to the law of Jehovah.” –*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 312.

7. How did He cheerfully yield to His Father’s will? What about us? Philippians 2:8.

“Christ gave Himself willingly and cheerfully to the carrying out of the will of God. He became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. In view of all that He has done, should we feel it a hardship to deny self? Shall we draw back from being partakers of Christ’s sufferings? His death ought to stir every fiber of our beings, making us willing to consecrate to His work all that we have and are. As we think of all that He has done for us, our hearts should be filled with gratitude and love, and we should renounce all selfishness. What duty could the heart refuse to perform under the constraining influence of the love of Christ?” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9, p. 54.

8. What does Christ’s great sacrifice reveal? What should we understand about sin? Hebrews 5:8.

“Through sin the whole human organism is deranged, the mind is perverted, the imagination corrupted.”

“We must accept God’s estimate of sin, and that is heavy indeed. Calvary alone can reveal the terrible enormity of sin. If we had to bear our own guilt, it would crush us. But the sinless One has taken our place; though undeserving, He has borne our iniquity.” –*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 116.

“The infinite value of the sacrifice required for our redemption reveals the fact that sin is a tremendous evil. Through sin the whole human organism is deranged, the mind is perverted, the imagination corrupted. Sin has degraded the faculties of the soul.” –*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 451.

9. What motive prompts true obedience? What did Christ's obedience bring to man? Romans 5:19.

“... Sin will become hateful to us.”

“All true obedience comes from the heart. It was heart work with Christ. And if we consent, He will so identify Himself with our thoughts and aims, so blend our hearts and minds into conformity to His will, that when obeying Him we shall be but carrying out our own impulses. The will, refined and sanctified, will find its highest delight in doing His service. When we know God as it is our privilege to know Him, our life will be a life of continual obedience. Through an appreciation of the character of Christ, through communion with God, sin will become hateful to us.” –*The Desire of Ages*, p. 668.

10. Should one obey God even if he does not understand why a certain thing has been commanded? Isaiah 55:8, 9, 11.

“All that God has seen fit to make known, we are to accept upon the authority of His word. Only a bare statement of facts may be given, with no explanation as to why or how; but though we cannot comprehend it, we should rest content that it is true, because God has said it. All the difficulty lies in the weakness and narrowness of the human mind.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, pp. 699, 700.

“God's great object in the working out of His providences is to try men, to give them opportunity to develop character. Thus He proves whether they are obedient or disobedient to His commands. Good works do not purchase the love of God, but they reveal that we possess that love. If we surrender the will to God, we shall not work in order to earn God's love. His love as a free gift will be received into the soul, and from love to Him we shall delight to obey His commandments....

“Christ gives the test by which to prove our loyalty or disloyalty.... ‘If ye love Me,’ He says, ‘keep My commandments....’ John 14:15.” –*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 283.



1. What evil character of Satan did Christ come to expose? John 8:44.

"Now the guilt of Satan stood forth without excuse. He had revealed his true character as a liar and a murderer. It was seen that the very same spirit with which he ruled the children of men, who were under his power, he would have manifested had he been permitted to control the inhabitants of Heaven. He had claimed that the transgression of God's law would bring liberty and exaltation; but it was seen to result in bondage and degradation." –*The Great Controversy*, p. 502.

2. What supreme element did Jesus introduce to counteract evil? Ephesians 3:19.

"The length, the breadth, the height, the depth, of such amazing love we cannot fathom."

"The scenes of Calvary call for the deepest emotion. Upon this subject you will be excusable if you manifest enthusiasm. That Christ, so excellent, so innocent, should suffer such a painful death, bearing the weight of the sins of the world, our thoughts and imaginations can never fully comprehend. The length, the breadth, the height, the depth, of such amazing love we cannot fathom. The contemplation of the matchless depths of a Saviour's love should fill the mind, touch and melt the soul, refine and elevate the affections, and completely transform the whole character." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, p. 213.

3. What results will follow when one yields to Satan's evil suggestions? Galatians 5:19-21.

"Nature has affixed terrible penalties to these crimes—penalties which, sooner or later, will be inflicted upon every transgressor. It is these sins more than any other that have caused the fearful degeneracy of our race, and the weight of disease and misery with which the world is cursed.... And beyond this life stands the tribunal of the judgment, with its award of eternal penalties. 'They which do such things shall

not inherit the kingdom of God' (Galatians 5:21), but with Satan and evil angels shall have their part in that 'lake of fire' which 'is the second death.' Revelation 20:14." –*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 461.

4. What is Christ's earnest endeavor? How will it affect us? Galatians 5:22, 23.

"Christ is seeking to reproduce Himself in the hearts of men; and He does this through those who believe in Him. The object of the Christian life is fruit-bearing—the reproduction of Christ's character in the believer, that it may be reproduced in others.

"Christ is waiting with longing desire for the manifestation of Himself in His church."

"... As you receive the Spirit of Christ—the spirit of unselfish love and labor for others—you will grow and bring forth fruit. The graces of the Spirit will ripen in your character. Your faith will increase, your convictions deepen, your love be made perfect. More and more you will reflect the likeness of Christ in all that is pure, noble, and lovely....

"Christ is waiting with longing desire for the manifestation of Himself in His church. When the character of Christ shall be perfectly reproduced in His people, then He will come to claim them as His own." –*Christ's Object Lessons*, pp. 67-69.

5. What earnest decision does everyone have to make? Deuteronomy 28:1, 15; Jeremiah 21:8.

"True seekers for truth need not err; for not only is the word of God plain and simple in declaring the way of life, but the Holy Spirit is given as a guide in understanding the way of life therein revealed.

"I saw that the angels of God are never to control the will. God sets before man life and death. He can have his choice. Many desire life, but still continue to walk in the broad road. They choose to rebel against God's government, notwithstanding His great mercy and compassion in giving His Son to die for them. Those who do not choose to accept of the salvation so dearly purchased, must be punished." –*Early Writings*, p. 221.

6. How do those who are not converted to God consider the meek spirit of Jesus? Matthew 5:2-11.

"Patience and gentleness under wrong were not characteristics prized by the heathen or by the Jews. The statement made by Moses under

the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, that he was the meekest man upon the earth, would not have been regarded by the people of his time as a commendation; it would rather have excited pity or contempt. But Jesus places meekness among the first qualifications for His kingdom. In His own life and character the divine beauty of this precious grace is revealed.” –*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 14.

7. What teaching was totally foreign to the people? Matthew 5:38-41.

“The whole earthly life of Jesus was a manifestation of this principle.... Though calumny and persecution were heaped upon Him from the cradle to the grave, they called forth from Him only the expression of forgiving love. Through the prophet Isaiah He says, ‘I gave My back to the smiters, and My cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not My face from shame and spitting.’ ‘He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth: He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so He openeth not His mouth.’ Isaiah 50:6; 53:7. And from the cross of Calvary there come down through the ages His prayer for His murderers and the message of hope to the dying thief.” –*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 71.

8. What instruction did Jesus give concerning how one’s enemies should be treated? Matthew 5:44.

“The leaders at Jerusalem had sent out spies to find some pretext for putting Christ to death. He responded by giving them an evidence of His love for humanity, His respect for the law, and His power to deliver from sin and death. Thus He bore witness of them: ‘They have rewarded Me evil for good, and hatred for My love.’ Psalm 109:5. He who on the mount gave the precept, ‘Love your enemies,’ Himself exemplified the principle, not rendering ‘evil for evil, or railing for railing; but contrariwise blessing.’ 1 Peter 3:9.” –*The Desire of Ages*, p. 265.

9. Contrary to human desires, what did He make clear? Matthew 6:24, 25, 33.

“Jesus, our Redeemer, walked the earth with the dignity of a king; yet He was meek and lowly of heart. He was a light and blessing in every home, because He carried cheerfulness, hope, and courage with Him. Oh that we could be satisfied with less heart-longings, less striving for things difficult to obtain wherewith to beautify our homes,

while that which God values above jewels, the meek and quiet spirit, is not cherished. The grace of simplicity, meekness, and true affection, would make a paradise of the humblest home. It is better to endure cheerfully every inconvenience than to part with peace and contentment.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 622.

10. What other great truth did Jesus teach? Matthew 7:13, 14; Exodus 23:2.

“If you cling to any besetting sin you will find the way too narrow for you to enter.”

“In the road to death the whole race may go, with all their worldliness, all their selfishness, all their pride, dishonesty, and moral debasement. There is room for every man’s opinions and doctrines, space to follow his inclinations, to do whatever his self-love may dictate....

“But the way to life is narrow and the entrance strait. If you cling to any besetting sin you will find the way too narrow for you to enter. Your own ways, your own will, your evil habits and practices, must be given up if you would keep the way of the Lord. He who would serve Christ cannot follow the world’s opinions or meet the world’s standard.”
–*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, pp. 138, 139.



1. If one is born again, who is really his Father? 1 Peter 1:3, 23; Matthew 23:9.

“If you call God your Father you acknowledge yourselves His children, to be guided by His wisdom and to be obedient in all things, knowing that His love is changeless. You will accept His plan for your life. As children of God, you will hold His honor, His character, His family, His work, as the objects of your highest interest. It will be your joy to recognize and honor your relation to your Father and to every member of His family. You will rejoice to do any act, however humble, that will tend to His glory or to the well-being of your kindred.” –*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, pp. 105, 106.

2. To make His children happy, what home did God give them? Psalm 115:16; 8:4-8.

“Everything that God had made was the perfection of beauty, and nothing seemed wanting that could contribute to the happiness of the holy pair; yet the Creator gave them still another token of His love, by preparing a garden especially for their home. In this garden were trees of every variety, many of them laden with fragrant and delicious fruit. There were lovely vines, growing upright, yet presenting a graceful appearance, with their branches drooping under their load of tempting fruit, of the richest and most varied hues. It was the work of Adam and Eve to train the branches of the vine to form bowers, thus making for themselves a dwelling from living trees covered with foliage and fruit. There were fragrant flowers of every hue in rich profusion. In the midst of the garden stood the tree of life, surpassing in glory all other trees. Its fruit appeared like apples of gold and silver, and had the power to perpetuate life.

“The creation was now complete. ‘The heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.’ ‘And God saw everything that He had made, and, behold, it was very good.’ Genesis 2:1; 1:31. Eden bloomed on earth. Adam and Eve had free access to the tree of life.

No taint of sin, or shadow of death, marred the fair creation. 'The morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy.' Job 38:7." –*Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 46, 47.

3. What happened to their home? Genesis 3:1, 4, 6; 2:17.

"It was not the will of God that the sinless pair should know aught of evil. He had freely given them the good, and had withheld the evil. But, contrary to His command, they had eaten of the forbidden tree, and now they would continue to eat of it—they would have the knowledge of evil—all the days of their life. From that time the race would be afflicted by Satan's temptations. Instead of the happy labor heretofore appointed them, anxiety and toil were to be their lot. They would be subject to disappointment, grief, and pain, and finally to death....

"After their sin, Adam and Eve were no longer to dwell in Eden....

"In humility and unutterable sadness they bade farewell to their beautiful home, and went forth to dwell upon the earth, where rested the curse of sin. The atmosphere, once so mild and uniform in temperature, was now subject to marked changes, and the Lord mercifully provided them with a garment of skins as a protection from the extremes of heat and cold." –*Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 59, 61.

4. Who claimed the world after the fall? Romans 6:16; Luke 4:5, 6.

**"If we serve sin,
we cannot serve
Christ."**

"If we indulge anger, lust, covetousness, hatred, selfishness, or any other sin, we become servants of sin. 'No man can serve two masters.' Matthew 6:24. If we serve sin, we cannot serve Christ. The Christian will feel the promptings of sin, for the flesh lusteth against the Spirit; but the Spirit striveth against the flesh, keeping up a constant warfare. Here is where Christ's help is needed." –*Messages to Young People*, p. 114.

"After tempting man to sin, Satan claimed the earth as his, and styled himself the prince of this world. Having conformed to his own nature the father and mother of our race, he thought to establish here his empire. He declared that man had chosen him as their sovereign. Through his control of men, he held dominion over the world. Christ had come to disprove Satan's claim." –*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 114, 115.

5. How active is the prince of this world? Job 1:6, 7; John 14:30; Ephesians 6:12.

“For six thousand years that master-mind that once was highest among the angels of God, has been wholly bent to the work of deception and ruin. And all the depths of satanic skill and subtlety acquired, all the cruelty acquired, during these struggles of the ages, will be brought to bear against God’s people in the final conflict....

“The Scriptures declare that upon one occasion, when the angels of God came to present themselves before the Lord, Satan came also among them, not to bow before the Eternal King, but to further his own malicious designs against the righteous. With the same object he is in attendance when men assemble for the worship of God.... Like a skillful general, he lays his plans beforehand.” –*The Great Controversy*, Introduction, pp. x, 518.

6. Will be his end? What kingdom will be established forever? 1 Corinthians 15:24-26, 28; Hebrews 2:14.

“With a holy sadness Jesus comforted and cheered the angels and informed them that hereafter those whom He should redeem would be with Him, and that by His death He should ransom many and destroy him who had the power of death. And His Father would give Him the kingdom, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, and He should possess it forever and ever. Satan and sinners should be destroyed, nevermore to disturb heaven or the purified new earth....

“Then joy, inexpressible joy, filled heaven. And the heavenly host sang a song of praise and adoration.” –*Early Writings*, p. 151.

7. Then, where will God’s children go with Christ? John 14:2, 3; 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17.

“Thus will be fulfilled Christ’s promise to His disciples, ‘I will come again, and receive you unto Myself.’ John 14:3. Those who have loved Him and waited for Him, He will crown with glory and honor and immortality. The righteous dead will come forth from their graves, and those who are alive will be caught up with them to meet the Lord in the air. They will hear the voice of Jesus, sweeter than any music that ever fell on mortal ear, saying to them, Your warfare is accomplished. ‘Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.’ Matthew 25:34.” –*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 34.

“Those who have loved Him and waited for Him, He will crown with glory and honor and immortality.”

8. In what capital city is Jesus preparing a dwelling place for His faithful people? Hebrews 13:14; 11:8, 10; 12:22.

"All that are Christ's are 'Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise'—heirs to 'an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away'—the earth freed from the curse of sin. Galatians 3:29; 1 Peter 1:14. For 'the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High;' and 'the meek shall inherit the earth, and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.' Daniel 7:27; Psalm 37:11....

"We must dwell as pilgrims and strangers here if we would gain 'a better country, that is, a heavenly.' Those who are children of Abraham will be seeking the city which he looked for, 'whose builder and maker is God.' Hebrews 11:16, 10." —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 170.

9. Where will the final home of the righteous be—in heaven or on earth? 2 Peter 3:13; Isaiah 65:17; Revelation 21:1, 2.

"God's original purpose in the creation of the earth is fulfilled as it is made the eternal abode of the redeemed. 'The righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell therein for ever.' Psalm 37:29. The time has come to which holy men have looked with longing since the flaming sword barred the first pair from Eden—the time for 'the redemption of the purchased possession.' Ephesians 1:14. The earth originally given to man as his kingdom, betrayed by him into the hands of Satan, and so long held by the mighty foe, has been brought back by the great plan of redemption.

"All that was lost by the first Adam will be restored by the second." —*The Adventist Home*, p. 540.

10. What preparation will make it possible for anyone to enter the eternal home? 2 Peter 3:11, 12; 1 John 3:2, 3.

"I saw that the remnant were not prepared for what is coming upon the earth. Stupidity, like lethargy, seemed to hang upon the minds of most of those who profess to believe that we are having the last message. My accompanying angel cried out with awful solemnity, 'Get ready! get ready! get ready! for the fierce anger of the Lord is soon to come. His wrath is to be poured out, unmixed with mercy, and ye are not ready. Rend the heart, and not the garment. A great work must be done for the remnant.... Ye suffer your minds to be diverted too readily from the work of preparation, and the all-important truths for these last days.'" —*Early Writings*, p. 119.

1. Who was called by God, and for what purpose? Genesis 12:1, 2.

“It was a high honor to which Abraham was called—that of being the father of the people who for centuries were to be the guardians and preservers of the truth of God to the world, the people through whom all the nations of the earth should be blessed in the advent of the promised Messiah.” —*Prophets and Kings*, p. 15.

2. How did God plan to bless Israel in a very special way? Exodus 19:5, 6.

“If obedient,
they would
be preserved
from the
diseases that
afflicted other
nations...”

“Their obedience to the law of God would make them marvels of prosperity before the nations of the world. He who could give them wisdom and skill in all cunning work would continue to be their teacher, and would ennoble and elevate them through obedience to His laws. If obedient, they would be preserved from the diseases that afflicted other nations, and would be blessed with vigor of intellect. The glory of God, His majesty and power, were to be revealed in all their prosperity. They were to be a kingdom of priests and princes. God furnished them with every facility for becoming the greatest nation on the earth.” —*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 288.

3. Why did the nation not receive these blessings? Isaiah 1:2-4, 21; 5:7.

“The Lord had through Moses set before His people the result of unfaithfulness. By refusing to keep His covenant, they would cut themselves off from the life of God, and His blessing could not come upon them.

“The warning was not heeded by the Jewish people. They forgot God, and lost sight of their high privilege as His representatives. The blessings they had received brought no blessing to the world. All their advantages were appropriated for their own glorification. They robbed God of the service He required of them, and they robbed their fellowmen

of religious guidance and a holy example. Like the inhabitants of the antediluvian world, they followed out every imagination of their evil hearts.” –*Christ’s Object Lessons*, pp. 291, 292.

4. For how long were the Israelites favored as a nation under God? Genesis 49:10; Daniel 9:24.

“With awed yet exultant spirit he [John] searched in the prophetic scrolls the revelations of the Messiah’s coming—the promised seed that should bruise the serpent’s head; Shiloh, ‘the peace giver,’ who was to appear before a king should cease to reign on David’s throne. Now the time had come. A Roman ruler sat in the palace upon Mount Zion. By the sure word of the Lord, already the Christ was born.” –*The Desire of Ages*, p. 103.

“The seventy weeks, or 490 years, were to pertain especially to the Jews. At the expiration of this period, the nation sealed its rejection of Christ by the persecution of His disciples, and the apostles turned to the Gentiles, A.D. 34.” –*The Great Controversy*, p. 410.

5. Where were the disciples first to preach the gospel? Who would receive it later? Matthew 10:5, 6; 28:19; 24:14.

“Christ told His disciples that they were to begin their work at Jerusalem. That city had been the scene of His amazing sacrifice for the human race. There, clad in the garb of humanity, He had walked and talked with men, and few had discerned how near heaven came to earth. There He had been condemned and crucified.” –*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 31.

“The church of Christ is God’s appointed agency for the salvation of men. Its mission is to carry the gospel to the world. And the obligation rests upon all Christians. Everyone, to the extent of his talent and opportunity, is to fulfill the Saviour’s commission.” –*Steps to Christ*, p. 81.

6. To whom is salvation through Jesus Christ offered? Colossians 3:11; Galatians 3:28.

“I warn you, brethren and sisters, not to build up a wall of partition between different nationalities. On the contrary, seek to break it down wherever it exists. We should endeavor to bring all into the harmony

“The church of Christ is God’s appointed agency for the salvation of men.”

that there is in Jesus, laboring for the one object—the salvation of our fellow men.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9, p. 181.

“It is not earthly rank, nor birth, nor nationality, nor religious privilege, which proves that we are members of the family of God; it is love, a love that embraces all humanity. Even sinners whose hearts are not utterly closed to God’s Spirit, will respond to kindness; while they may give hate for hate, they will also give love for love. But it is only the Spirit of God that gives love for hatred.” —*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 75.

7. Why is one’s skin color no advantage or disadvantage in receiving salvation? Acts 8:27, 28; 10:34; Galatians 3:28, 29.

“The religion of the Bible recognizes no caste or color.”

“The religion of the Bible recognizes no caste or color. It ignores rank, wealth, worldly honor. God estimates men as men. With Him, character decides their worth. And we are to recognize the Spirit of Christ in whomsoever it is revealed. No one need be ashamed to speak with an honest black man in any place, or to shake him by the hand. He who is living in the atmosphere in which Christ lives, will be taught of God, and will learn to put His estimate on men.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9, p. 223.

“Many of the colored race are rich in faith and trust. God sees among them precious jewels, that will one day shine out brightly.

“... Let our people arouse, and redeem the past. The obligation to work for the colored people rests heavily upon us.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 7, pp. 229, 230.

8. What promise is repeated to modern Israel? 1 Peter 2:9.

“The members of Christ’s kingdom are the sons of God, partners in His great firm. The elect of God are a chosen generation, a peculiar people, a holy nation, to show forth the praises of Him who hath called them out of darkness into His marvelous light. They are the salt of the earth, the light of the world. They are living stones, a royal priesthood. They are in co-partnership with Jesus Christ.” —*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 422.

9. If Israel was rejected for disobedience, to whom else could this happen? Romans 11:19-22.

“Shall the warnings from God be passed by unheeded? Shall the opportunities for service be unimproved? Shall the world’s scorn, the pride of reason, conformity to human customs and traditions, hold the professed followers of Christ from service to Him? Will they reject God’s word as the Jewish leaders rejected Christ? The result of Israel’s sin is before us. Will the church of today take warning?”
–*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 306.

10. On what condition alone is it possible for a person to remain a follower of Christ? 2 Corinthians 6:14, 17, 18.

“It is not our privilege to claim special favors of the world.”

“The servants of Christ have neither their home nor their treasure here. Would that all of them could understand that it is only because the Lord reigns that we are even permitted to dwell in peace and safety among our enemies. It is not our privilege to claim special favors of the world. We must consent to be poor and despised among men, until the warfare is finished and the victory won. The members of Christ are called to come out and be separate from the friendship and spirit of the world; their strength and power consists in being chosen and accepted of God....

“Those who have not moral courage to conscientiously take their position in the face of unbelievers, leave the fashions of the world, and imitate the self-denying life of Christ, are ashamed of Him, and do not love His example.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, pp. 286, 287.



The Christian's Warfare

1. Who started the first war? What does Satan delight in? Revelation 12:7, 8, 12.

"All the heavenly host were summoned to appear before the Father to have each case decided. It was there determined that Satan should be expelled from heaven, with all the angels who had joined him in the rebellion. Then there was war in heaven. Angels were engaged in the battle; Satan wished to conquer the Son of God, and those who were submissive to His will. But the good and true angels prevailed, and Satan, with his followers, was driven from heaven." –*Early Writings*, p. 146.

"Satan delights in war; for it excites the worst passions of the soul, and then sweeps into eternity its victims steeped in vice and blood. It is his object to incite the nations to war against one another; for he can thus divert the minds of the people from the work of preparation to stand in the day of God." –*The Great Controversy*, p. 589.

2. What did Christ bring? Why is this not a contradiction to His message of peace? Matthew 10:34; Isaiah 9:6, last part; John 14:27.

"How, then, can the gospel be called a message of peace? When Isaiah foretold the birth of the Messiah, he ascribed to Him the title, 'Prince of Peace.'... There is a seeming contradiction between these prophetic declarations and the words of Christ, 'I came not to send peace, but a sword.' But rightly understood, the two are in perfect harmony. The gospel is a message of peace. Christianity is a system, which, received and obeyed, would spread peace, harmony, and happiness throughout the earth:... It was the mission of Jesus to reconcile men to God, and thus to one another. But the world at large are under the control of Satan, Christ's bitterest foe. The gospel presents to them principles of life which are wholly at variance with their habits and desires, and they rise in rebellion against it... It is in this sense—because the exalted truths it brings, occasion hatred and strife—that the gospel is called a sword." –*The Great Controversy*, pp. 46, 47.

3. What kind of enemy do Christ's followers face? What may be expected from that enemy? Ephesians 6:12.

"In all ages Satan has persecuted the people of God. He has tortured them and put them to death, but in dying they became conquerors. They revealed in their steadfast faith a mightier One than Satan. Satan could torture and kill the body, but he could not touch the life that was hid with Christ in God. He could incarcerate in prison walls, but he could not bind the spirit. They could look beyond the gloom to the glory, saying, 'I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.' Romans 8:18." –*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 30.

4. What is the Christian's weapon? How should he use it? Hebrews 4:12; Revelation 1:16.

"We need now the sword of the Lord to cut the very soul and marrow of fleshly lusts, appetites, and passions."

"We need not say, 'The perils of the last days are soon to come upon us.' Already they have come. We need now the sword of the Lord to cut the very soul and marrow of fleshly lusts, appetites, and passions. May it pierce and divide in a far greater degree than it has ever yet done." –*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 414.

"The sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, pierces the heart of the sinner, and cuts it in pieces. When the theory of the truth is repeated without its sacred influence being felt upon the soul of the speaker, it has no force upon the hearers, but is rejected as error, the speaker making himself responsible for the loss of souls." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 441.

5. As what are the Old and New Testaments presented in the Scriptures? What do they do? Revelation 11:3, 5, 6; John 5:39.

"The two witnesses represent the Scriptures of the Old and the New Testament. Both are important testimonies to the origin and perpetuity of the law of God. Both are witnesses also to the plan of salvation. The types, sacrifices, and prophecies of the Old Testament point forward to a Saviour to come. The gospels and epistles of the New Testament tell of a Saviour who has come in the exact manner foretold by type and prophecy." –*The Great Controversy*, p. 267.

"Jesus said of the Old Testament Scriptures—and how much more is it true of the New—'They are they which testify of Me,' the Redeemer, Him in whom our hopes of eternal life are centered. John 5:39. Yes,

the whole Bible tells of Christ... If you would become acquainted with the Saviour, study the Holy Scriptures." –*Steps to Christ*, p. 88.

6. What is the motivating power in the Christian battle? 2 Corinthians 5:14; Romans 5:5.

"The love of Christ,' said Paul, 'constraineth us.' 2 Corinthians 5:14. This was the actuating principle of his conduct; it was his motive power. If ever his ardor in the path of duty flagged for a moment, one glance at the cross caused him to gird up anew the loins of his mind and press forward in the way of self-denial. In his labors for his brethren he relied much upon the manifestation of infinite love in the sacrifice of Christ, with its subduing, constraining power." –*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 500.

7. What kind of spirit will Christians reveal? Why? Matthew 10:16.

"Satan's attacks against the advocates of the truth will wax more bitter and determined to the very close of time....

"What course shall the advocates of truth pursue? They have the unchangeable, eternal word of God, and they should reveal the fact that they have the truth as it is in Jesus. Their words must not be rugged and sharp. In their presentation of truth they must manifest the love and meekness and gentleness of Christ. Let the truth do the cutting; the word of God is as a sharp, two-edged sword, and will cut its way to the heart. Those who know that they have the truth should not, by the use of harsh and severe expressions, give Satan one chance to misinterpret their spirit." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9, p. 239.

8. Under what dual symbol is Christ represented? What does this show? Revelation 5:5, 6.

"The Lion of Judah, so terrible to the rejecters of His grace, will be the Lamb of God to the obedient and faithful."

"The Saviour is presented before John under the symbol of the 'Lion of the tribe of Judah' and of 'a Lamb as it had been slain.' These symbols represent the union of the omnipotent power and self-sacrificing love. The Lion of Judah, so terrible to the rejecters of His grace, will be the Lamb of God to the obedient and faithful. The pillar of fire that speaks terror and wrath to the transgressor of God's law is a token of light and mercy and deliverance to those who have kept His commandments." –*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 589.

9. How severe is the Christian's battle? What does it require? 1 Corinthians 16:13; Hebrews 11:34.

"They [the youth] should be taught that this world is not a parade ground, but a battlefield. All are called to endure hardness, as good soldiers. They are to be strong and quit themselves like men. Let them be taught that the true test of character is found in the willingness to bear burdens, to take the hard place, to do the work that needs to be done, though it brings no earthly recognition or reward." –*Education*, p. 295.

10. Who is the believer's constant support in the battle? Isaiah 43:2; Psalm 66:12.

"Simple faith, with the love of Christ in the soul, unites the believer to God. While toiling in battle as a faithful soldier of Christ, he has the sympathy of the whole loyal universe. The ministering angels are round about him to aid in the conflict...

"The heavenly host are surely fighting our battles for us. They are always looking with intense interest upon the souls purchased by the Saviour's blood. They see, through the sacrifice of Christ, the value of the human soul. It is always safe to be on the Lord's side, not halfheartedly, but wholly.... It is safe to commit the keeping of the soul to God, who reigns over all heaven and earth." –*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, pp. 147, 148.



Laws of the Universe and Nature

1. Who created the laws of nature? What powerful evidence of this is everywhere? Psalms 19:1-3; 102:25.

“Upon all created things is seen the impress of the Deity. Nature testifies of God. The susceptible mind, brought in contact with the miracle and mystery of the universe, cannot but recognize the working of infinite power. Not by its own inherent energy does the earth produce its bounties, and year by year continue its motion around the sun. An unseen hand guides the planets in their circuit of the heavens. A mysterious life pervades all nature—a life that sustains the unnumbered worlds throughout immensity, that lives in the insect atom which floats in the summer breeze, that wings the flight of the swallow and feeds the young ravens which cry, that brings the bud to blossom and the flower to fruit.” —*Education*, p. 99.

2. How do human science seek to contradict the Biblical record? Romans 1:20-22.

“Geology has been taught to contradict the literal interpretation of the Mosaic record of the creation. Millions of years, it is claimed, were required for the evolution of the earth from chaos; and in order to accommodate the Bible to this supposed revelation of science, the days of creation are assumed to have been vast, indefinite periods, covering thousands or even millions of years.

“Such a conclusion is wholly uncalled for.” —*Education*, pp. 128, 129.

3. What does the fossil record show? 2 Peter 3:3-6.

“It is true that remains found in the earth testify to the existence of men, animals, and plants much larger than any now known. These are regarded as proving the existence of vegetable and animal life prior to the time of the Mosaic record. But concerning these things

Bible history furnishes ample explanation.... At the flood the surface of the earth was broken up, marked changes took place, and in the re-formation of the earth's crust were preserved many evidences of the life previously existing. The vast forests buried in the earth at the time of the Flood, and since changed to coal, form the extensive coal fields, and yield the supplies of oil, that minister to our comfort and convenience today. These things, as they are brought to light, are so many witnesses mutely testifying to the truth of the word of God.”
–*Education*, p. 129.

If the teachings of evolution were correct, then there would naturally be intermediate stages of development, half of one animal and half of the other, existing or found as fossils. The fact that they cannot be found anywhere shows evolution to be a great error.

4. By what set of laws is all life governed? Psalm 139:14.

“From Him all life proceeds.”

“The same power that upholds nature, is working also in man. The same great laws that guide alike the star and the atom control human life. The laws that govern the heart's action, regulating the flow of the current of life to the body, are the laws of the mighty Intelligence that has the jurisdiction of the soul. From Him all life proceeds. Only in harmony with Him can be found its true sphere of action. For all the objects of His creation the condition is the same—a life sustained by receiving the life of God, a life exercised in harmony with the Creator's will. To transgress His law, physical, mental, or moral, is to place one's self out of harmony with the universe, to introduce discord, anarchy, ruin.” –*Education*, pp. 99, 100.

5. Why is true science a part of religion? Job 38:4-6, 33.

“The great reason why so few of the world's great men, and those having a college education, are led to obey the commandments of God, is because they have separated education from religion, thinking that each should occupy a field by itself. God presented a field large enough to perfect the knowledge of all who should enter it. This knowledge was obtained under divine supervision; it was bound about with the immutable law of Jehovah, and the result would have been perfect blessedness.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 503.

6. What has led to today's world conditions? Isaiah 24:5, 6.

“More and more the world is setting at naught the claims of God. Men have become bold in transgression. The wickedness of the inhabitants of the world has almost filled up the measure of their iniquity. This earth has almost reached the place where God will permit the destroyer to work his will upon it.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 7, p. 141.

“The human family is suffering because of transgression of the laws of God. The Lord desires that men shall be led to understand the cause of their suffering and the only way to find relief. He desires them to see that their well-being, physical, mental, and moral, depends upon their obedience to His law.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 224.

7. Only how can mankind have peace ? Isaiah 48:18.

“Atheists, infidels, and apostates oppose and denounce God’s law; but the results of their influence prove that the well-being of man is bound up with his obedience of the divine statutes. Those who will not read the lessons from the book of God, are bidden to read it in the history of nations.” –*The Great Controversy*, p. 285.

“In obedience to God’s law there is great gain.”

“In obedience to God’s law there is great gain. In conformity to the divine requirements there is a transforming power that brings peace and good will among men. If the teachings of God’s word were made the controlling influence in the life of every man and woman, if mind and heart were brought under its restraining power, the evils that now exist in national and in social life would find no place.” –*Prophets and Kings*, p. 192.

8. What laws of nature give a clear understanding of the Creator? Jeremiah 8:7; Proverbs 6:6-8.

“Solomon took an especial interest in natural history, but his researches were not confined to any one branch of learning. Through a diligent study of all created things, both animate and inanimate, he gained a clear conception of the Creator. In the forces of nature, in the mineral and the animal world, and in every tree and shrub and flower, he saw a revelation of God’s wisdom; and as he sought to learn more and more, his knowledge of God and his love for Him constantly increased.” –*Prophets and Kings*, p. 33.

9. What wonderful order can be observed in nature? Genesis 8:22; Jeremiah 33:20, 22.

“They [the apostles] first directed attention to the wonderful works of God—the sun, the moon, and the stars, the beautiful order of the recurring seasons, the mighty snow-capped mountains, the lofty trees, and other varied wonders of nature, which showed a skill beyond human comprehension. Through these works of the Almighty, the apostles led the minds of the heathen to a contemplation of the great Ruler of the universe.” —*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 180.

10. What is sin? Of what must one be very careful? 1 John 3:4; 2:4, 5.

“‘Sin is the transgression of the law.’ And ‘whosoever sinneth [transgresseth the law] hath not seen Him, neither known Him.’ 1 John 3:4, 6.... ‘He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth His word, in him verily is the love of God perfected.’ 1 John 2:4, 5. Here is the test of every man’s profession. We cannot accord holiness to any man without bringing him to the measurement of God’s only standard of holiness in Heaven and in earth. If men feel no weight of the moral law, if they belittle and make light of God’s precepts, if they break one of the least of these commandments, and teach men so, they shall be of no esteem in the sight of Heaven, and we may know that their claims are without foundation.” —*The Great Controversy*, pp. 472, 473.



1. What modern teaching is very dangerous? Psalm 2:1-3; Luke 19:13, 14.

"Already the doctrine that men are released from obedience to God's requirements has weakened the force of moral obligation, and opened the floodgates of iniquity upon the world. Lawlessness, dissipation, and corruption are sweeping in upon us like an overwhelming tide. In the family, Satan is at work. His banner waves, even in professedly Christian households. There is envy, evil surmising, hypocrisy, estrangement, emulation, strife, betrayal of sacred trusts, indulgence in lust.... The vilest of criminals, when thrown into prison for their offenses, are often made the recipients of gifts and attentions, as if they had attained an enviable distinction. Great publicity is given to their character and crimes. The press publishes the revolting details of vice....

"Courts of justice are corrupt. Rulers are actuated by desire for gain, and love of sensual pleasure.... Jurists are perverted, bribed, deluded. Drunkenness and revelry, passion, envy, dishonesty of every sort, are represented among those who administer the laws." *—The Great Controversy*, pp. 585, 586.

2. Is this type of liberty true or false? Why? 2 Peter 2:19.

"No error accepted by the Christian world strikes more boldly against the authority of Heaven ... than the modern doctrine, so rapidly gaining ground, that God's law is no longer binding upon men....

"It would be far more consistent for nations to abolish their statutes, and permit the people to do as they please, than for the Ruler of the universe to annul His law, and leave the world without a standard to condemn the guilty or justify the obedient....

"Those who refuse to submit to the government of God are wholly unfitted to govern themselves. Through their pernicious teachings, the spirit of insubordination is implanted in the hearts of children and youth, who are naturally impatient of control; and a lawless, licentious state of society results." *—The Great Controversy*, pp. 583, 584.

3. What examples from history show the folly of disobeying God? 1 Samuel 15:22, 23.

“Would we know the result of making void the law of God? The experiment has been tried. Terrible were the scenes enacted in France when atheism became the controlling power. It was then demonstrated to the world that to throw off the restraints which God has imposed is to accept the rule of the cruelest of tyrants. When the standard of righteousness is set aside, the way is open for the prince of evil to establish his power in the earth....

“The fatal error which brought such woe for the inhabitants of France was the ignoring of this one great truth: that true freedom lies within the proscriptions of the law of God....

“The number of young lads and of girls of seventeen who were murdered by that execrable government, is to be reckoned by hundreds. Babies torn from the breasts were tossed from pike to pike along the jacobin ranks.’ In a short space of ten years, multitudes of human beings perished.” –*The Great Controversy*, pp. 584, 285, 284.

4. Who instituted the moral law? What was and is its purpose? Deuteronomy 5:22; 33:2, 3.

“The Ten Commandments ... are of divine, and not human composition.”

“The Ten Commandments were spoken by God Himself, and were written by His own hand. They are of divine, and not human composition.” –*Selected Messages*, book I, p. 25.

“God placed man under law, as an indispensable condition of his very existence. He was a subject of the divine government, and there can be no government without law. God might have created man without the power to transgress His law; He might have withheld the hand of Adam from touching the forbidden fruit; but in that case man would have been, not a free moral agent, but a mere automaton. Without freedom of choice, his obedience would not have been voluntary, but forced. There could have been no development of character.” –*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 49.

5. In addition to God’s own words, what showed that His law cannot possibly be changed? Psalm 89:34; Malachi 3:6; Matthew 5:18.

“While the Saviour’s death brought to an end the law of types and shadows, it did not in the least detract from the obligation of the moral

law. On the contrary, the very fact that it was necessary for Christ to die in order to atone for the transgression of that law, proves it to be immutable." –*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 365.

"God could not change nor alter one precept of His law in order to save man; for the law is the foundation of His government. It is unchangeable, unalterable, infinite, and eternal." –*Selected Messages*, book 1, p. 240.

6. Who thought to change God's law? But why is that not possible? Daniel 7:25.

"The pope has changed the day of rest from the seventh to the first day. He has thought to change the very commandment that was given to cause man to remember his Creator. He has thought to change the greatest commandment in the decalogue and thus make himself equal with God, or even exalt himself above God. The Lord is unchangeable, therefore His law is immutable; but the pope has exalted himself above God, in seeking to change His immutable precepts of holiness, justice, and goodness. He has trampled underfoot God's sanctified day, and, on his own authority, put in its place one of the six laboring days." –*Early Writings*, p. 65.

7. On what is all true religious worship based? Ecclesiastes 12:13.

"Without obedience to His commandments, no worship can be pleasing to God. 'This is the love of God, that we keep His commandments.' 'He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination.' 1 John 5:3; Proverbs 28:9.

"The duty to worship God is based upon the fact that He is the Creator, and that to Him all other beings owe their existence. And wherever, in the Bible, His claim to reverence and worship, above the gods of the heathen, is presented, there is cited the evidence of His creative power.... And the holy beings who worship God in Heaven state, as the reason why their homage is due to Him, 'Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for Thou hast created all things.' Revelation 4:11." –*The Great Controversy*, pp. 436, 437.

8. Is one not saved by faith in Christ alone? What does God's law have to do with salvation? Romans 3:31; James 2:14, 18.

“The law reveals to man his sins, but it provides no remedy. While it promises life to the obedient, it declares that death is the portion of the transgressor. The gospel of Christ alone can free him from the condemnation or the defilement of sin....

“Is he now free to transgress God’s law? Says Paul: ‘Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid; yea, we establish the law.’ Romans 3:31....

“Without the law, men have no just conception of the purity and holiness of God, or of their own guilt and uncleanness. They have no true conviction of sin, and feel no need of repentance. Not seeing their lost condition as violators of God’s law, they do not realize their need of the atoning blood of Christ. The hope of salvation is accepted without a radical change of heart or reformation of life.” –*The Great Controversy*, pp. 467, 468.

9. What shows that one is following Jesus’ voice? Luke 6:46; 1 John 2:4.

“The voice or spirit that says to a man, You are under no obligation to obey the law of God; you are holy and sinless, while he is trampling on the divine law, is not the voice of Jesus; for He declares: ‘I have kept My Father’s commandments.’ John 15:10. And John testifies: ‘He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.’ 1 John 2:4....

“He leads His sheep in the path of humble obedience to the law of God.”

“We have unmistakable evidence of the voice of the True Shepherd, and He is calling upon us to follow Him. He says, ‘I have kept My Father’s commandments.’ John 15:10. He leads His sheep in the path of humble obedience to the law of God, but He never encourages them in the transgression of that law.” –*Selected Messages*, book 2, pp. 49, 50.

10. What great trial will all who are obedient to God’s law face in the near future? Revelation 12:17.

“Those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, will feel the ire of the dragon and his hosts. Satan numbers the world as his subjects; he has gained control even of many professing Christians. But here is a little company who are resisting his supremacy. If he could blot them from the earth, his triumph would be complete. As he influenced the heathen nations to destroy Israel, so in the near future he will stir up the wicked powers of earth to destroy the people of God. Men will be required to render obedience to human edicts in violation of the divine law.” –*Prophets and Kings*, pp. 587, 588.

1. What dual obligation is every Christian under? Why? Matthew 22:21.

"I saw that it is our duty in every case to obey the laws of our land, unless they conflict with the higher law which God spoke with an audible voice from Sinai, and afterward engraved on stone with His own finger.... He who has God's law written in the heart, will obey God rather than men, and will sooner disobey all men than deviate in the least from the commandment of God. God's people, taught by the inspiration of truth, and led by a good conscience to live by every word of God, will take His law, written in their hearts, as the only authority which they can acknowledge or consent to obey. The wisdom and authority of the divine law are supreme." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, p. 361.

"It is not wise to find fault continually with what is done by the rulers of government. It is not our work to attack individuals or institutions. We should exercise great care lest we be understood as putting ourselves in opposition to the civil authorities....

"Everything should be carefully considered, lest we place ourselves on record as encouraging disloyalty to our country and its laws. We are not required to defy authorities." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 394.

2. Why is a Christian a law-abiding citizen? Romans 13:7.

"Citizens of heaven will make the best citizens of earth."

"Although the magistrates were prejudiced against them [the apostles] by the false statements they had heard, they dared not condemn them. They could but acknowledge that the teachings of Paul and Barnabas tended to make men virtuous, law-abiding citizens, and that the morals and order of the city would improve if the truths taught by the apostles were accepted." –*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 178.

"Those who feel that they are God's servants will be men who can be trusted anywhere. Citizens of heaven will make the best citizens of earth. A correct view of our duty to God leads to clear perceptions of our duty to our fellow men." –*Messages to Young People*, p. 329.

3. Whom will Christians duly respect and obey? For what reason? Romans 13:1, 2; 1 Peter 2:13-15.

“We are to recognize human government as an ordinance of divine appointment, and teach obedience to it as a sacred duty, within its legitimate sphere....

“We are not required to defy authorities. Our words, whether spoken or written, should be carefully considered, lest we place ourselves on record as uttering that which would make us appear antagonistic to law and order. We are not to say or do anything that would necessarily close up our way. We are to go forward in Christ’s name, advocating the truths committed to us.” –*Gospel Workers*, pp. 389, 390.

4. Why should the government punish crime? Romans 13:3-5; 1 Timothy 1:9, 10.

“So with the apostasy at Sinai.... Had these transgressors been spared, evils would have followed, greater than resulted from sparing the life of Cain. It was the mercy of God that thousands should suffer, to prevent the necessity of visiting judgments upon millions.... Had not the evil been promptly put away, they would soon have fallen a prey to their numerous and powerful foes. It was necessary for the good of Israel, and also as a lesson to all succeeding generations, that crime should be promptly punished.... It was in love to the world, in love to Israel, and even to the transgressors, that crime was punished with swift and terrible severity.” –*Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 325, 326.

5. How did the apostles obey the government that they lived under? What similar attitude does a Christian have today? Acts 4:19; 5:29.

“But when its [a human government’s] claims conflict with the claims of God, we must obey God rather than men. God’s word must be recognized as above all human legislation. A ‘Thus saith the Lord’ is not to be set aside for a ‘Thus saith the church’ or a ‘Thus saith the state.’ The crown of Christ is to be lifted above the diadems of earthly potentates....

“If we are forbidden by men to do this work, then we may say, as did the apostles, ‘Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.’ Acts 4:20.” –*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 69.

6. Who were real heroes of faith in the Old Testament in this respect? Daniel 3:16-18; 6:10.

“In the history of Joseph, Daniel, and his fellows, we see how the golden chain of truth may bind the youth to the throne of God. They could not be tempted to turn aside from their course of integrity. They valued the favor of God above the favor and praise of princes, and God loved them and spread His shield over them. Because of their faithful integrity, because of their determination to honor God above every human power, the Lord signally honored them before men. They were honored by the Lord God of hosts, whose power is over all the works of His hand in heaven above and the earth beneath. These youths were not ashamed to display their true colors.” –*Messages to Young People*, pp. 27, 28.

7. What Old Testament experience will be repeated? Esther 3:2, 6, last part.

“The decree that will finally go forth against the remnant people of God will be very similar to that issued by Ahasuerus against the Jews. Today the enemies of the true church see in the little company keeping the Sabbath commandment, a Mordecai at the gate. The reverence of God’s people for His law, is a constant rebuke to those who have cast off the fear of the Lord, and are trampling on His Sabbath.

“Satan will arouse indignation against the minority who refuse to accept popular customs and traditions. Men of position and reputation will join with the lawless and the vile to take counsel against the people of God.” –*Prophets and Kings*, p. 605.

8. Why should the Christian pray for the earthly government? What may be expected? 1 Timothy 2:1, 2.

“The remnant church will be brought into great trial and distress. Those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, will feel the ire of the dragon and his hosts. Satan numbers the world as his subjects, he has gained control of the apostate churches; but here is a little company that are resisting his supremacy. If he could blot them from the earth, his triumph would be complete. As he influenced the heathen nations to destroy Israel, so in the near future he will stir up the wicked powers of the earth to destroy the people of God. All will be required to render obedience to human edicts in violation of the divine law.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9, p. 231.

9. In this regard, what must be expected in the future? Who appears to have everything under his control? Revelation 12:12.

“There is assurance in nothing that is human or earthly.”

“Everything in the world is in agitation. The signs of the times are ominous. Coming events cast their shadows before. The Spirit of God is withdrawing from the earth, and calamity follows calamity by sea and by land. There are tempests, earthquakes, fires, floods, murders of every grade. Who can read the future? Where is security? There is assurance in nothing that is human or earthly....

“Pleasure lovers are still crowding to theaters, horse-races, gambling halls. The highest excitement prevails, yet probation’s hour is fast closing, and every case is about to be eternally decided. Satan sees that his time is short. He has set all his agencies at work that men may be deceived, deluded, occupied and entranced, until the day of probation shall be ended, and the door of mercy be forever shut.”
–*The Desire of Ages*, p. 636.

10. What substitute for God is the world looking for? Who is safe in following human beings? Isaiah 2:22; Jeremiah 17:5.

“The signs of the times are ominous, indeed. There is assurance in nothing that is human or earthly....

“Rapidly are men ranging themselves under the banner they have chosen, restlessly waiting and watching the movements of their leaders. There are those who are watching and waiting and working for our Lord’s appearing; while the other party are rapidly falling into line under the generalship of the first great apostate. They look for a God in humanity, and Satan personifies the one they seek. Multitudes will be so deluded through their rejection of truth, that they will accept the counterfeit. Humanity is hailed as God....

“We are warned in the word of God that sleepless vigilance is the price of safety. Only in the straight path of truth and righteousness can we escape the tempter’s power.” –*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, pp. 364, 365.



1. What traits of character do Christians reveal? Galatians 5:22, 23.

“When we see men firm in principle, fearless in duty, zealous in the cause of God, yet humble and lowly, gentle and tender, patient toward all, ready to forgive, manifesting love for souls for whom Christ died, we do not need to inquire, Are they Christians? They give unmistakable evidence that they have been with Jesus and have learned of Him.”
–*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 224.

2. How do worldlings differ from Christians? Galatians 5:19-21.

“When men reveal the opposite traits, when they are proud, vain, frivolous, worldly minded, avaricious, unkind, censorious, we need not be told with whom they are associating, who is their most intimate friend. They may not believe in witchcraft, but notwithstanding this, they are holding communion with an evil spirit.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 225.

3. Whom did Jesus come to this earth to bless? Matthew 5:3-11.

“Christ leaves us in no doubt as to the traits of character that He will always recognize and bless. From the ambitious favorites of the world, He turns to those whom they disown, pronouncing all blessed who receive His light and life. To the poor in spirit, the meek, the lowly, the sorrowful, the despised, the persecuted, He opens His arms of refuge, saying, ‘Come unto Me, . . . and I will give you rest.’ Matthew 11:28.”
–*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, Preface, p. vii.

4. What corruptions prevail in the world? 1 John 5:19; 2 Timothy 3:2-5.

“There is coming rapidly and surely an almost universal guilt upon the inhabitants of the cities, because of the steady increase of determined wickedness. We are living in the midst of an ‘epidemic of crime,’ at which thoughtful, God-fearing men everywhere stand aghast. The corruption that prevails, is beyond the power of the human pen to describe. Every day brings fresh revelations of political strife, bribery, and fraud; every day brings its heart-sickening record of violence and lawlessness, of indifference to human suffering; of brutal, fiendish destruction of human life. Every day testifies to the increase of insanity, murder, and suicide.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9, p. 89.

5. What is the expectation of unconverted Christians? John 18:36.

“He would not accept the earthly throne.”

“But today in the religious world there are multitudes who, as they believe, are working for the establishment of the kingdom of Christ as an earthly and temporal dominion. They desire to make our Lord the ruler of the kingdoms of this world, the ruler in its courts and camps, its legislative halls, its palaces and marketplaces. They expect Him to rule through legal enactments, enforced by human authority. Since Christ is not now here in person, they themselves will undertake to act in His stead, to execute the laws of His kingdom.... But He said, ‘My kingdom is not of this world.’ John 18:36. He would not accept the earthly throne.” –*The Desire of Ages*, p. 509.

6. Where is a Christian’s hope centered? John 17:24; 14:2, 3.

“Dear children and youth, Jesus has done all in His power to give you a home in the mansions that are prepared for them that love and serve Him here. He left His heavenly home, and came to the world, marred by sin—came to a people who did not appreciate Him, who did not love His purity and holiness, who slighted His teachings, and finally put Him to a most cruel death.” –*Messages to Young People*, p. 346.

7. In what capacity should we serve on earth? John 17:15; Hebrews 11:13.

“God requires you to give to the world and to the church a good example, a life that represents Jesus. There are duties to be performed and responsibilities to be borne. The world has not enough true Christians; the church has need of them; society cannot spare them. Christ’s prayer for His disciples was, ‘I pray not that Thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that Thou shouldst keep them from the evil.’ John 17:15. Jesus knows we are in the world, exposed to its

temptations; but He loves us, and will give us grace to triumph over its corrupting influences.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 334.

8. What kind of treatment may Christians expect from the world? Why? John 17:14; 15:20; Matthew 10:23.

“The world is no more in harmony with the principles of Christ today than it was in the days of the apostles..”

“The world is no more in harmony with the principles of Christ today than it was in the days of the apostles. The same hatred that prompted the cry, ‘Crucify Him! crucify Him!’ the same hatred that led to the persecution of the disciples, still works in the children of disobedience. The same spirit which in the Dark Ages consigned men and women to prison, to exile, and to death, which conceived the exquisite torture of the Inquisition, which planned and executed the Massacre of St. Bartholomew, and which kindled the fires of Smithfield, is still at work with malignant energy in unregenerate hearts.” –*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 85.

9. How will persecution come to God’s people at the end of time? Daniel 7:21; Revelation 13:11, 15.

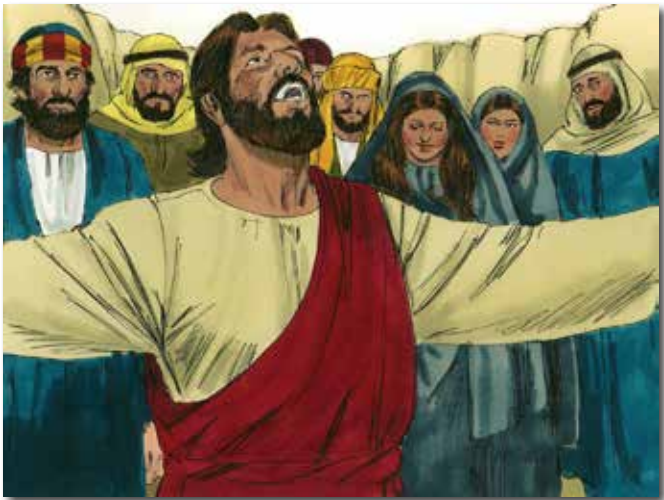
“In the days of Rome’s supremacy, there were instruments of torture to compel assent to her doctrines. There was the stake for those who would not concede to her claims. There were massacres on a scale that will never be known until revealed in the judgment.... The infernal process was repeated to the utmost limit of human endurance, until nature gave up the struggle, and the sufferer hailed death as a sweet release.

“Such was the fate of Rome’s opponents....

“She is silently growing into power. Her doctrines are exerting their influence in legislative halls, in the churches, and in the hearts of men. She is piling up her lofty and massive structures, in the secret recesses of which her former persecutions will be repeated. Stealthily and unsuspectedly she is strengthening her forces to further her own ends when the time shall come for her to strike.... Whoever shall believe and obey the word of God, will thereby incur reproach and persecution.” –*The Great Controversy*, pp. 569, 581.

10. What will be the outcome of the final battle? John 16:33; Revelation 7:14, 15.

"There the redeemed greet those who led them to the Saviour, and all unite in praising Him who died that human beings might have the life that measures with the life of God. The conflict is over. Tribulation and strife are at an end. Songs of victory fill all heaven as the ransomed ones take up the joyful strain, Worthy, worthy is the Lamb that was slain, and lives again, a triumphant conqueror." –*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 602.



Society, Labor Unions, and Politics

1. What important decision is placed before every Christian? Can that decision be divided? Amos 3:3; Matthew 7:13, 14.

“He who would serve Christ cannot follow the world’s opinions or meet the world’s standard.”

“In the road to death the whole race may go, with all their worldliness, all their selfishness, all their pride, dishonesty, and moral debasement. There is room for every man’s opinions and doctrines, space to follow his inclinations, to do whatever his self-love may dictate....

“But the way to life is narrow and the entrance strait. If you cling to any besetting sin you will find the way too narrow for you to enter. Your own ways, your own will, your evil habits and practices, must be given up if you would keep the way of the Lord. He who would serve Christ cannot follow the world’s opinions or meet the world’s standard.”
—Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, pp. 138, 139.

2. What urgent call must be obeyed? Why is this necessary? 2 Corinthians 6:17, 18; Leviticus 20:26.

“Ancient Israel were especially directed by God to be and remain a people separate from all nations. They were not to be subjected to witnessing the idolatry of those about them, lest their own hearts should be corrupted, lest familiarity with ungodly practices should make them appear less wicked in their eyes. Few realize their own weakness, and that the natural sinfulness of the human heart too often paralyzes their noblest endeavors.” *—Testimonies for the Church, vol. 4, p. 109.*

3. Why can Christians not join with those who practice the ways of the world? Psalms 1:1-3; 26:4, 5.

“I ask you who take pleasure in these associations, who love the gathering for indulgence in wit and merriment and feasting, Do you take Jesus with you? Are you seeking to save the souls of your

companions? Is that the object of your association with them? Do they see and feel that there is in you a living embodiment of the Spirit of Christ? Is it manifest that you are a witness for Christ, that you belong to a peculiar people, zealous of good works?....

“Those who cannot discern between him that serveth God and him that serveth Him not, may be charmed with these societies that have no connection with God, but no earnest Christian can prosper in such an atmosphere. The vital air of heaven is not there....

“Between the worldly man and the one who is faithfully serving God, there is a great gulf fixed.... One class is ripening as wheat for the garner of God, the other are tares for the fires of destruction. How can there be unity of purpose or action between them?” –*Selected Messages*, book 2, pp. 125-127.

4. How should one consider labor unions? Isaiah 8:11-13.

“The question has been asked, What do you mean by a confederacy? Who have formed confederacies? You know what a confederacy is—a union of men in a work that does not bear the stamp of pure, straightforward, unswerving integrity.” –*Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 4, p. 1142.

“In the world gigantic monopolies will be formed. Men will bind themselves together in unions that will wrap them in the folds of the enemy. A few men will combine to grasp all the means to be obtained in certain lines of business. Trade unions will be formed, and those who refuse to join these unions will be marked men....

“These unions are one of the signs of the last days. Men are binding up in bundles ready to be burned. They may be church members, but while they belong to these unions, they cannot possibly keep the commandments of God; for to belong to these unions means to disregard the entire Decalogue.” –*Selected Messages*, book 2, pp. 142, 143.

5. Why can the Christian not support labor unions or any other organization that limits personal freedom? Galatians 5:1, 13; Luke 10:27.

“These words sum up the whole duty of man. They mean the consecration of the whole being, body, soul, and spirit, to God’s service. How can men obey these words, and at the same time pledge themselves to support that which deprives their neighbors of freedom of action? And how can men obey these words, and form combinations that rob the poorer classes of the advantages which

justly belong to them, preventing them from buying or selling, except under certain conditions?" –*Selected Messages*, book 2, p. 143.

6. How should one deal with that which is unjust or which supports the oppression of the rich against the poor? James 5:1-6.

"The customs of the world are no criterion for the Christian. He is not to imitate its sharp practices, its overreaching, its distortion. Every unjust act toward a fellow being is a violation of the golden rule. Every wrong done to the children of God, is done to Christ Himself in the person of His saints. Every attempt to take advantage of the ignorance, weakness, or misfortune of another, is registered as fraud in the ledger of heaven.

"Every unjust act toward a fellow being is a violation of the golden rule."

"He who truly fears God, would rather toil day and night, and eat the bread of poverty, than to indulge the passion for gain that oppresses the widow and fatherless or turns the stranger from his right." –*Prophets and Kings*, pp. 651, 652.

7. Should anyone encourage uprisings against the rich? Explain your answer. James 5:7-9.

"The world has become bold in transgression of God's law. Because of His long forbearance, men have trampled upon His authority. They have strengthened one another in oppression and cruelty toward His heritage, saying, 'How doth God know? and is there knowledge in the Most High?' Psalm 73:11. But there is a line beyond which they cannot pass. The time is near when they will have reached the prescribed limit. Even now they have almost exceeded the bounds of the longsuffering of God, the limits of His grace, the limits of His mercy. The Lord will interpose to vindicate His own honor, to deliver His people, and to repress the swellings of unrighteousness." –*Christ's Object Lessons*, pp. 177, 178.

8. What example did Jesus give concerning participation in government affairs? Why? 1 Peter 4:3, 4; 1 John 5:19.

"The government under which Jesus lived was corrupt and oppressive; on every hand were crying abuses—extortion, intolerance, and grinding cruelty. Yet the Saviour attempted no civil reforms. He attacked no national abuses, nor condemned the national enemies. He did not interfere with the authority or administration of those in power. He who

was our Example kept aloof from earthly governments. Not because He was indifferent to the woes of men, but because the remedy did not lie in merely human and external measures. To be efficient, the cure must reach men individually, and must regenerate the heart.”
–*The Desire of Ages*, p. 509.

9. Why can a Christian not vote for political men or parties? Isaiah 41:21-24; Daniel 2:27, 28, first part.

“The very first exhibition of God’s power to the Hebrew captives was in showing the defective wisdom of the great ones of the earth. The wisdom of men is foolishness with God. The magicians revealed their ignorance of the light before the Lord revealed His wisdom as supreme. The wisdom of human agents who had misappropriated their God-given talents, God showed to be foolishness....

“All who shall unite to praise and honor and glorify those who have lifted the banner of Satan are fighting against God.” –*Counsels to Writers and Editors*, p. 102.

10. What attitude will the Christian take toward worldly politics? 2 Corinthians 6:14-17.

“The Lord would have His people bury political questions. On these themes silence is eloquence.... We cannot with safety vote for political parties; for we do not know whom we are voting for. We cannot with safety take part in any political scheme. We cannot labor to please men who will use their influence to repress religious liberty and to set in operation oppressive measures to lead or compel their followers to keep Sunday as the Sabbath.... The people of God are not to vote to place such men in office; for when they do this, they are partakers with them of the sins which they commit while in office.

“It is a mistake for you to link your interests with any political party, to cast your vote with them or for them....

“God’s children are to separate themselves from politics, from any alliance with unbelievers. They are not to link their interests with the interests of the world.” –*Gospel Workers*, pp. 391, 393, 395.

1. Who is the instigator of all persecution? Genesis 4:3-5, 8; John 8:44.

“Now the guilt of Satan stood forth without excuse. He had revealed his true character as a liar and a murderer. It was seen that the very same spirit with which he ruled the children of men, who were under his power, he would have manifested had he been permitted to control the inhabitants of Heaven. He had claimed that the transgression of God’s law would bring liberty and exaltation; but it was seen to result in bondage and degradation.

“Satan’s lying charges against the divine character and government appeared in their true light.” –*The Great Controversy*, p. 502.

2. What prophetic symbol is given to represent Satan and his supporters? Revelation 12:3, 4, 9.

“The line of prophecy in which these symbols are found, begins with Revelation 12, with the dragon that sought to destroy Christ at His birth. The dragon is said to be Satan; he it was that moved upon Herod to put the Saviour to death. But the chief agent of Satan in making war upon Christ and His people during the first centuries of the Christian era, was the Roman Empire, in which paganism was the prevailing religion. Thus while the dragon, primarily, represents Satan, it is, in a secondary sense, a symbol of pagan Rome.” –*The Great Controversy*, p. 438.

3. What great contrast is there between worldly kingdoms and Christ’s rule? Daniel 7:3, 17; John 1:29.

“Kings and rulers and governors have placed upon themselves the brand of antichrist, and are represented as the dragon who goes to make war with the saints—with those who keep the commandments of God and who have the faith of Jesus.” –*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 39.

“Earthly governments prevail by physical force; they maintain their dominion by war; but the founder of the new kingdom is the Prince of Peace. The Holy Spirit represents worldly kingdoms under the symbol of fierce beasts of prey; but Christ is ‘the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.’ John 1:29. In His plan of government there is no employment of brute force to compel the conscience.” –*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 77.

4. What must a person who follows Christ expect? Why is this so? 2 Timothy 3:12; John 15:20.

“Whoever sees the repulsive character of sin, and, in strength from above, resists temptation, will assuredly arouse the wrath of Satan and his subjects. Hatred of the pure principles of truth, and reproach and persecution of its advocates, will exist as long as sin and sinners remain. The followers of Christ and the servants of Satan cannot harmonize.” –*The Great Controversy*, pp. 506, 507.

5. Should we bemoan persecution, or rejoice in being obedient to Christ? Matthew 5:11, 12.

“So it will be with all who will live godly in Christ Jesus. Persecution and reproach await all who are imbued with the Spirit of Christ. The character of the persecution changes with the times, but the principle—the spirit that underlies it—is the same that has slain the chosen of the Lord ever since the days of Abel.

“In all ages Satan has persecuted the people of God. He has tortured them and put them to death, but in dying they became conquerors. They bore witness of the power of One mightier than Satan.” –*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 576.

6. Why should one not seek the friendship of the world to escape persecution? Luke 6:26; John 15:19.

“... There can be no harmony between the people of God and the world.”

“Like Israel, Christians too often yield to the influence of the world, and conform to its principles and customs, in order to secure the friendship of the ungodly; but in the end it will be found that these professed friends are the most dangerous of foes. The Bible plainly teaches that there can be no harmony between the people of God and the world.... Satan works through the ungodly, under cover of a pretended friendship, to allure God’s people into sin, that he may

separate them from Him; and when their defense is removed, then he will lead his agents to turn against them, and seek to accomplish their destruction.” –*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 559.

7. Why will the world never be friendly to God’s children? 1 John 3:13; John 15:18.

“‘If the world hate you,’ said Christ, ‘ye know that it hated Me before it hated you.’ You have entertained the opinion that the reason why the world is so much opposed to us as a people is, we are too unsocial, too plain in our dress, and too strict in regard to amusements, withdrawing ourselves from them too much in practice as well as in precept. You have thought that if we would be less exclusive, and would mingle more with the world, their opinions and impressions of us would be greatly modified. But no greater mistake could affect the human mind.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 433.

8. Why is there no persecution now? What would change this situation? Romans 12:2; Ephesians 2:2; 5:8, 11.

“Why is it, then, that persecution seems in a great degree to slumber? The only reason is, that the church has conformed to the world’s standard, and therefore awakens no opposition. ... It is only because of the spirit of compromise with sin, because the great truths of the word of God are so indifferently regarded, because there is so little vital godliness in the church, that Christianity is apparently so popular with the world. Let there be a revival of the faith and power of the early church, and the spirit of persecution will be revived, and the fires of persecution will be rekindled.” –*The Great Controversy*, p. 48.

9. Why should persecution never be invited unnecessarily? Romans 12:18; 1 Timothy 2:1, 2.

“Let every one bear in mind that we are in no case to invite persecution. We are not to use harsh and cutting words. Keep them out of every article written, drop them out of every address given. Let the word of God do the cutting, the rebuking; let finite men hide and abide in Jesus Christ. Let the spirit of Christ appear. Let all be guarded in their words, lest they place those not of our faith in deadly opposition against us, and give Satan an opportunity to use the unadvised words to hedge up our way.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9, p. 244.

10. What is God's purpose in permitting persecution? Isaiah 48:10; Daniel 12:10.

“Through trials and persecution, the glory-character-of God is revealed in His chosen ones.”

“Through trials and persecution, the glory-character-of God is revealed in His chosen ones. The church of God, hated and persecuted by the world, are educated and disciplined in the school of Christ. They walk in narrow paths on earth; they are purified in the furnace of affliction. They follow Christ through sore conflicts; they endure self-denial and experience bitter disappointments; but their painful experience teaches them the guilt and woe of sin, and they look upon it with abhorrence. Being partakers of Christ's sufferings, they are destined to be partakers of His glory.” *–Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, p. 31.*



1. How did Christ act when falsely accused and cruelly treated? How will a Christian act under similar circumstances? John 18:36; Matthew 26:53.

"Jesus knew that angels were witnessing the scene of His humiliation. The weakest angel could have caused that mocking throng to fall powerless and could have delivered Jesus. He knew that if He should desire it of His Father, angels would instantly release Him....

"Jesus stood meek and humble before the infuriated multitude, while they offered Him the vilest abuse.... There was commotion among the angels. They would have rescued Him instantly; but their commanding angels restrained them." *—Early Writings*, p. 170.

"In the parable of the unjust judge, Christ has shown what we should do.... 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." *—Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 171.

2. How does Jesus draw people to Himself and eternal life? Who forces people to do things? John 10:1-5; 1 Peter 5:2, 3.

"... He desires only voluntary service, the willing surrender of the heart under the constraint of love."

"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 fellowmen, 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." *—The Desire of Ages*, p. 487.

“Christ does not drive but draws men unto Him. The only compulsion which He employs is the constraint of love. When the church begins to seek for the support of secular power, it is evident that she is devoid of the power of Christ—the constraint of divine love.” —*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 127.

3. What kind of freedom do Christians enjoy? Galatians 5:1, 13; Acts 24:16.

“The principle we are to uphold at this time is the same that was maintained by the adherents of the gospel in the great Reformation....

“Those who had accepted the reformed faith, met together, and the unanimous decision was, ‘Let us reject the decree. In matters of conscience the majority has no power.’

“The banner of truth and religious liberty which these reformers held aloft, has in this last conflict been committed to us. The responsibility for this great gift rests with those whom God has blessed with a knowledge of His word.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 402.

“Let us show the people where we are in prophetic history, and seek to arouse the spirit of true Protestantism, awaking the world to a sense of the value of the privileges of religious liberty so long enjoyed.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 716.

4. How tolerant should one be of others in granting them liberty through Christ? Why? Mark 9:38, 39; Acts 18:24-26.

“At another time during their early evangelistic labors, James and John met one who, while not an acknowledged follower of Christ, was casting out devils in His name. The disciples forbade the man to work and thought they were right in doing this. But when they laid the matter before Christ, He reproved them, saying, ‘Forbid him not: for there is no man which shall do a miracle in My name, that can lightly speak evil of Me.’ None who showed themselves in any way friendly to Christ were to be repulsed. The disciples must not indulge a narrow, exclusive spirit, but must manifest the same far-reaching sympathy which they had seen in their Master.” —*The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 543, 544.

“The fact that one does not in all things conform to our personal ideas or opinions will not justify us in forbidding him to labor for God. Christ is the Great Teacher; we are not to judge or to command, but in humility each is to sit at the feet of Jesus, and learn of Him. Every soul whom God has made willing is a channel through which Christ will reveal His pardoning love. How careful we should be lest we discourage one of

God's light bearers, and thus intercept the rays that He would have shine to the world!

"Harshness or coldness shown by a disciple toward one whom Christ was drawing—such an act as that of John in forbidding one to work miracles in Christ's name—might result in turning the feet into the path of the enemy, and causing the loss of a soul." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 438.

5. What is the duty of every government? On what was America's liberty founded? 1 Timothy 2:1, 2; Romans 13:1, 4.

"To protect liberty of conscience is the duty of the State, and this is the limit of its authority in matters of religion. Every secular government that attempts to regulate or enforce religious observances by civil authority is sacrificing the very principle for which the evangelical Christians so nobly struggled." —*The Great Controversy*, p. 201.

"The fundamental principle of Roger Williams' colony, was 'that every man should have the right to worship God according to the light of his conscience.'...

"In that grand old document which our forefathers set forth as their bill of rights—the Declaration of Independence—they declared: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.' And the Constitution guarantees, in the most explicit terms, the inviolability of conscience: 'No religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office of public trust under the United States.' 'Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.'" —*The Great Controversy*, pp. 294, 295.

6. What happens when an earthly government enforces religious laws and curtails personal liberty? Daniel 3:4-6, 16-18, 27.

"Their God was King of kings and Lord of lords; they would bow to none other."

"On that eventful day the powers of darkness seemed to be gaining a signal triumph; the worship of the golden image bade fair to become connected permanently with the established forms of idolatry recognized as the state religion of the land....

"Not all had bowed the knee to the idolatrous symbol of human power. In the midst of the worshiping multitude there were three men who were firmly resolved not thus to dishonor the God of heaven. Their God was King of kings and Lord of lords; they would bow to none other....

"The season of distress before God's people will call for a faith that will not falter. His children must make it manifest that He is the only object of their worship, and that no consideration, not even that of life itself, can induce them to make the least concession to false worship. To the loyal heart the commands of sinful, finite men sink into insignificance beside the word of the eternal God." –*Prophets and Kings*, pp. 506, 512.

7. When church and state unite to make religious laws, what will inevitably result? Psalms 94:20, 21; 2:1-3.

"The founders of the nation wisely sought to guard against the employment of secular power on the part of the church, with its inevitable results—intolerance and persecution.... Only in flagrant violation of these safeguards to the nation's liberty, can any religious observance be enforced by civil authority....

"Whenever the church has obtained secular power, she has employed it to punish dissent from her doctrines. Protestant churches that have followed in the steps of Rome by forming alliance with worldly powers, have manifested a similar desire to restrict liberty of conscience....

"It was apostasy that led the early church to seek the aid of the civil government, and this prepared the way for the development of the papacy—the beast. Said Paul, 'There shall come a falling away, ... and that man of sin be revealed.' 2 Thessalonians 2:3. So apostasy in the church will prepare the way for the image to the beast." –*The Great Controversy*, pp. 442, 443.

8. What are religious whoredom and spiritual adultery? What people are joining together? Revelation 17:1-3.

"The unfaithfulness of the church to Christ in permitting her confidence and affection to be turned from Him, and allowing the love of worldly things to occupy the soul, is likened to the violation of the marriage vow....

"Babylon is also charged with the sin of unlawful connection with 'the kings of the earth.'...

"Many of the Protestant churches are following Rome's example of iniquitous connection with 'the kings of the earth'—the State churches, by their relation to secular governments; and other denominations, by seeking the favor of the world." –*The Great Controversy*, pp. 381-383.

9. When religious liberty is taken away, what will God's children experience? Revelation 17:6; Daniel 7:21, 25.

"The world is no more in harmony with the principles of Christ today than it was in the days of the apostles. The same hatred that prompted the cry, 'Crucify Him; crucify Him!' the same hatred that led to the persecution of the disciples, still works in the children of disobedience. The same spirit which in the Dark Ages consigned men and women to prison, to exile, and to death, which conceived the exquisite torture of the Inquisition, which planned and executed the Massacre of St. Bartholomew, and which kindled the fires of Smithfield, is still at work with malignant energy in unregenerate hearts." *—The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 85.

10. How far should one go in recognizing and obeying human government? Who has the highest claim to man's loyalty and obedience? 1 Peter 2:13-17.

"God's word must be recognized as above all human legislation."

"We are to recognize human government as an ordinance of divine appointment, and teach obedience to it as a sacred duty, within its legitimate sphere. But when its claims conflict with the claims of God, we must obey God rather than men. God's word must be recognized as above all human legislation. A 'Thus saith the Lord' is not to be set aside for a 'Thus saith the church' or a 'Thus saith the state.' The crown of Christ is to be lifted above the diadems of earthly potentates." *—The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 69.

