



Thoughts on Present Truth Issues:

2014

Having correct doctrine does not excuse bad attitudes even in the most popular presenters! It is easy to explain doctrine; but attitude; not doctrine is the issue among us these days. We need to study for ourselves and pray for conversion and Christ-like characters all around!

"We shall in the future, as we have in the past, see all kinds of character developed. We shall witness the apostasy of men in whom we have had confidence, in whom we trusted, who, we supposed, were as true as steel to principle. Something comes to test them, and they are overthrown. If such men fall, some say, "Whom can we trust?" This is the temptation Satan brings to destroy the confidence of those who are striving to walk in the narrow way. Those who fall have evidently corrupted their way before the Lord, and they are beacons of warning, teaching those who profess to believe the truth that the Word of God alone can keep men steadfast in the way of holiness, or reclaim them from guilt. . . ." Manuscript 154, 1898.

The Challenge:

"Whatever may be man's intellectual advancement, let him not for a moment think that there is no need of thorough and continuous searching of the Scriptures for greater light. As a people we are called individually to be students of prophecy. We must watch with earnestness that we may discern any ray of light which God shall present to us. We are to catch the first gleamings of truth; and through prayerful study clearer light may be obtained, which can be brought before others." 5T 708.

Messages and Attitudes

There is an error many of us all can fall into; well-intentioned Christian parents go this way frequently. It is the mistaken idea that if I can show myself to be doctrinally correct by Bible and Spirit of Prophecy, then I am justified in using any ways or means to hold up my views, push them forward and enforce them. In others words it is OK to use the devil's methods to promote the Lord's truth. This is of course the very heart of the beast and dragon religions using the ways and attitudes of the beast while trying to promote the Lamb's truth. (the end justifies the means and the truth justifies bad attitudes)

The fact is, no matter how correct we can show ourselves to be doctrinally, we must still respect other's rights to differ with us and see things differently. God respects the right He gave to humans of freedom of choice, but we want to take it from each other. Discourtesy is never justified no matter how right we think we are or how wrong we think the other person is. We need to speak truth, but in love!

We need to realize that the power of the final call of mercy to the world is not going to be detailed argument; the world has no need of another voice crying, "I have the truth obey me!" It is going to be character that speaks; a character of love; the character that Jesus had—holy harmless and undefiled!

"A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench: he shall bring forth judgment unto truth." Isaiah 42:3

"Unbelievers are watching to see if the faith of professed Christians is exerting a sanctifying influence upon their lives; and they are quick to discern the defects in character, the inconsistencies in action. Let Christians not make it possible for the enemy to point to them and say, Behold how these people, standing under the banner of Christ, hate one another. Christians are all members of one family, all children of the same heavenly Father, with the same blessed hope of immortality. Very close and tender should be the tie that binds them together." AA 550.

"Then, I ask, Where is our power?--It is in the sincere prayers going up to heaven continually that Christ will reveal himself to us. The light and glory of God will rest upon his people. And then the world will see, and will say, "Behold, how these brethren love one another." Then all this heart burning and distrust will cease, and in place of it, there will be love and union, courtesy, kindness, and tenderness. The very countenances will shine with the glory of God. We shall all see eye to eye. We shall speak the same things, and be of the same judgment." GCDB, April 13, 1891.

We don't bring this about by trying humanly to see eye to eye and arguing out the minute points—but by seeking the revealing of Christ to us and in us.

What we have been faced with among us in the last months, is the same as 1888 with the 'Law in Galatians'. It was not a testing question and there can be many layers of truths in some passages; this is a character and attitude situation and that is where the test lies.

We all need to seek the Lord for character preparation for the crisis and to study for ourselves with the Holy Spirit's guidance. Satan has many tricks to keep us distracted from preparing this character to stand true and faithful—if we allow ourselves to get caught up with taking sides and chasing the devil's dogs and following his white rabbits, the Crisis will hit us unexpectedly and we won't have a shelter for our heads—we won't be under the wings, and it will be night to our souls. May God lead us all by the hand, teaching us as we go, because none of us know fully how to come in or go out in these fearful times! "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" Psalm 133:1.