The Word of God and His Mercy

Let’s remember what our purpose is for coming together on His Sabbath day. Why don’t we take a moment and speak to our individual purpose.

How do we ask God to show us how to love one another as Christ loves us?

John 13:34

As we go through this study of the word of God, let’s minister to one another with pure hearts, and with sanctified lives and let’s have all our thoughts, our words be closely connected with heaven, that each of us may receive the conviction of the Holy Spirit. We must have love for one another in the very root of habit, we must have it even when there is not a present occasion to show it, this is the distinguishing character of God’s people. The world says everyone for himself, we say everyone for one another.

May we ask of God to allow us to open up with a most powerful scripture reading today. And that all our learning hereafter, be deeply rooted in this most holiest of truths.

Deuteronomy 6:4, 5, 6

These verses contain the first principles of faith and obedience and are of the choicest portions of scripture. We are taught here that the God whom we serve is GOD, a being infinitely and eternally perfect, self-existent, and self-sufficient. He is the one only living and true God. He only is God. And He is but one. Knowing this is sufficient to arm us against anything that even hints of idolatry. And by this knowledge, there can never come to us the words ‘your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods.’ With this knowledge, we are past dispute! There is one God and there is no other but He! And there is no other for us to please than God alone. There is no other benefactor, no other savior. And in this scripture we are given the principle that is expressed in every word of the bible; thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart.

Hear the condescension of the divine Creator. He enjoins ‘us’ to love Him. And to show our willing choice to love Him, He makes it the first and great commandment of His law. In essence, He makes the way for us to demonstrate our obedience to Him by our love for Him. And it is from this principle of love that we highly esteem Him, we be well pleased that there is such a One as He, we reverence all His attributes, and we cherish His relations to us. Our every desire must be towards Him, we must find our delight in Him, our dependence for all things is upon Him, and to Him we must be entirely devoted. We must find in our very thought the constant pleasure to think of Him, we must long to hear from Him, to speak to Him, and to serve Him. We must love him, as the Lord, with an intelligent love, above any creature whatsoever; for He is the best of beings, eternally most excellent in Himself. He is our God, always for us. He is our Father. And so He says to us individually, as He is assured of our love for Him, when we follow His command as He says, ‘and these words’…!

Joshua 1:6-9

As we carry forward the word of God, it is the sureness of that ‘word’ that gives the promise as an inheritance to those who without us could not be made perfect. And if we so strive to be of that perfect number, then we bring in harmony, ourselves in everything to the law of God. God spiritually and literally puts His book into our hands. And He admonishes each of us to hear with great attention that we may cause the word of God to be heard. We must do what is written. There are many who love to hear the word and more who proclaim to read the word, millions commend the word and untold numbers admire it, multitudes claim to know the word and a substantial tally cite their remembrance of the word, populations talk about the word and combinations of books hold discourse of the word, but we must do it without exception or reserve, if we have a respect to all of God's commandments. We who love the Lord know of our weaknesses, our infirmities, and we are not dismayed for we know that God is all-sufficient. God owns us, and when we be God’s we be emboldened for we hear our God saying, "Have not I commanded thee”?

Galatians 3:29

I Chronicles 28:20

SOP - The Lord has signified that the atmosphere surrounding the souls of the students must change. The truths of the word of God demand the most serious attention. This truth is not to be lightly regarded or trifled with. Our duties and privileges are not to be measured by the lightness or frivolity of anyone. The Bible is to be followed as God’s word, inspired by heaven. Its revealed facts, which are of the most awful importance to teachers and students, are not to be lightly regarded. Its requirements are not to be tramped upon; for they impose the most weighty obligations. In the rich promises, the consolation of God is presented to those who wear the yoke of restraint and obedience; but those who refuse to wear this yoke will find their course of action bring its own punishment. {KC 98.2}

SOP - Let every church member carefully consider his responsibilities, and look himself in the face. Become acquainted with yourself. Urge home upon your own hearts that you are not to seek to make yourself a specialty, for effect, for praise, but a specialty in seeking first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, inquire seriously, “Am I faithful?” Be first a most faithful steward over yourself. Search your own heart, and often compare it with the great mirror of the word of God, until tried and searched by God, you will be approved of him, not having your own righteousness, but the righteousness of Jesus Christ. Strengthened by his might in the inner man you will be accepted as a vessel unto honor.

{The Kress Collection 155.4}

And we are here for just all these causes. And the word of God expresses to us what He wants us to know. And each passage of scripture that we read and study is eternally for our benefit. So, let not one of us think that we have all the truth and shut our mind from the wisdom of the knowledge of God. As the child grows nearer to his parents, as he learns more of them, so we grow nearer to God. And God is always near, yet his mind is so far from our understanding that we will be coming nearer and nearer for all eternity…endless joy.

Let’s listen to an extensive reading concerning a new testament writer who took his lessons from the old testament truths.

SOP - Paul made the prophecies in the Old Testament relating to the Messiah, and the agreement of those prophecies with the life and teachings of Christ, clear in the minds of all among his hearers who would accept evidence upon the subject. Christ in his ministry had opened the minds of his disciples to the Old-Testament scriptures; “beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.” Peter, in preaching Christ, produced his evidence from the Old-Testament scriptures, beginning with Moses and the prophets. Stephen pursued the same course, and Paul followed these examples, giving inspired proof in regard to the mission, suffering, death, resurrection, and ascension of Christ. He clearly proved his identity with the Messiah, through the testimony of Moses and the prophets; and showed that it was the voice of Christ which spoke through the prophets and patriarchs from the days of Adam to that time. {LP 82.1}

He showed how impossible it was for them to explain the passover without Christ as revealed in the Old Testament; and how the brazen serpent lifted up in the wilderness symbolized Jesus Christ, who was lifted up upon the cross. He taught them that all their religious services and ceremonies would have been valueless if they should now reject the Saviour, who was revealed to them, and who was represented in those ceremonies. He showed them that Christ was the key which unlocked the Old Testament, and gave access to its rich treasures. {LP 82.2}

Thus Paul preached to the Thessalonians three successive Sabbaths, reasoning with them from the Scriptures, upon the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. He showed them that the expectation of the Jews with regard to the Messiah was not according to prophecy, which had foretold a Saviour to come in humility and poverty, to be rejected, despised, and slain. {LP 83.1}

He declared that Christ would come a second time in power and great glory, and establish his kingdom upon the earth, subduing all authority, and ruling over all nations. Paul was an Adventist; he presented the important event of the second coming of Christ with such power and reasoning that a deep impression, which never wore away, was made upon the minds of the Thessalonians. {LP 83.2}

They had strong faith in the second coming of Christ, and greatly feared that they might not live to witness the event. Paul, however, did not give them the impression that Christ would come in their day. He referred them to coming events which must transpire before that time should arrive. Writing to them afterwards, he warned them that they should “be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means; for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition.” {LP 83.3}

Paul foresaw that there was danger of his words being misinterpreted, and that some would claim that he, by special revelation, warned the people of the immediate coming of Christ. This he knew would cause confusion of faith; for disappointment usually brings unbelief. He therefore cautioned the brethren to receive no such message as coming from him. {LP 83.4}

In his Epistle to the Thessalonians, Paul reminds them of his manner of laboring among them. 1 Thessalonians 2:1-4. He declares that he did not seek to win souls through flattery, deception, or guile. “But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.” Paul rebuked and warned his converts with the faithfulness of a father to his children, while, at the same time, he cherished them as tenderly as a fond mother would her child. {LP 84.1}

When the Jews saw that the apostles were successful in obtaining large congregations; that many were accepting their doctrines—among them the leading women of the city, and multitudes of Gentiles—they were filled with envy and jealousy. These Jews were not then in favor with the Roman power, because they had raised an insurrection in the metropolis not long previous to this time. They were regarded with suspicion, and their liberty was, in a measure, restricted. They now saw an opportunity to take advantage of circumstances to re-establish themselves in favor, and, at the same time, to throw reproach upon the apostles and the converts to Christianity. {LP 84.2}

This they set about doing by representing that the leaders in the new doctrine were raising a tumult among the people. They accordingly excited the passions of the worthless mob by cunningly devised falsehoods, and incited them to make an uproarious assault upon the house of Jason, the temporary home of the apostles. This they did with a fury more like that of wild beasts than of men. They had been instructed by the Jews to bring out Paul and Silas, and drag them to the authorities, accusing them of creating all this uproar, and of raising an insurrection. {LP 84.3}

When they had broken into the house, however, they found that the apostles were not there. Friends who had apprehended what was about to occur, had hastened them out of the city, and they had departed for Berea. In their mad disappointment at not finding Paul and Silas, the mob seized Jason and his brother, and dragged them before the authorities with the complaint: “These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also; whom Jason hath received; and these all do contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, one Jesus.” {LP 85.1}

The Jews interpreted the words of Paul to mean that Christ would come the second time in that generation, and reign upon the earth as king over all nations. The charge was brought against the apostles with so much determination that the magistrates credited it, and put Jason under bonds to keep the peace, as Paul and Silas were not to be found. The persecuting Jews flattered themselves that by their course toward the Christians they had regained the confidence of the magistrates, and had established their reputation as loyal citizens, while they had, at the same time, gratified their malice toward the apostles, and transferred to the converts to Christianity the suspicion which had heretofore rested upon themselves. {LP 85.2}

In his first Epistle to the Thessalonians, Paul says, “For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake. And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost; so that ye were ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia.” {LP 86.1}

Those who preach unpopular truth in our day meet with determined resistance, as did the apostles. They need expect no more favorable reception from a large majority of professed Christians than did Paul from his Jewish brethren. There will be a union of opposing elements against them; for however diverse from each other different organizations may be in their sentiments and religious faith, their forces are united in trampling under foot the fourth commandment in the law of God. {LP 86.2}

Those who will not themselves accept the truth are most zealous that others shall not receive it; and those are not wanting who perseveringly manufacture falsehoods, and stir up the base passions of the people to make the truth of God of none effect. But the messengers of Christ must arm themselves with watchfulness and prayer, and move forward with faith, firmness, and courage, and, in the name of Jesus, keep at their work, as did the apostles. They must sound the note of warning to the world, teaching the transgressors of the law what sin is, and pointing them to Jesus Christ as its great and only remedy. {LP 86.3}

There is no room for weakness or compromise in teaching the word of God as truth.

II Timothy 4:1, 2

Titus 2:1, 7, 8, 12, 15

We must present the word of God as we teach sound doctrine. For it is the word of God that can convince of sin and refute error, and bring reform to the life of a sinner.

II Timothy 2:15

When we rightly divide the word of God we find that God Himself demands an uncompromising firmness upon His word as the one unchanging basis of all scriptural discussions. Not even the decisions of church committees, the majority vote of church members, or results from public opinion polls should be promoted above the plain teaching of Scripture.

SOP - But God will have a people upon the earth to maintain the Bible, and the Bible only, as the standard of all doctrines and the basis of all reforms. The opinions of learned men, the deductions of science, the creeds or decisions of ecclesiastical councils, as numerous and discordant as are the churches which they represent, the voice of the majority—not one nor all of these should be regarded as evidence for or against any point of religious faith. Before accepting any doctrine or precept, we should demand a plain “Thus saith the Lord” in its support. {GC 595.1}

John 16:13

Psalms 91:11

God desires to help every bible student rightly to understand and apply its truths. Through the ministry of the Holy Spirit and the guidance of heavenly angels, those who study the Bible are to be led "to feel the importance of those things easy to be understood" and they are to be prevented "from wresting truths difficult of comprehension.”

Time was when decisions could be made over a longer period of time, but today important decisions must be made in split seconds. If our decisions are to be what we shall want them to be, we must know of a surety what we believe and why. We must decide, all the way, if we are faithful and true Seventh-day Adventists or not. That decision, which can be made fully only in the chambers of a man’s own mind and heart, and which will be recorded by the angels for God, who reads the hearts of all men, and who records every choice as they will determine one’s future— both the immediate and the eternal.

I Kings 18:21

Matthew 27:25

Luke 23:13, 18, 21

Halting between two opinions implies that sometimes the Israelites worshipped God and sometimes they worshipped Baal. These were deceived in that they worshipped God to please the prophets, but worshipped Baal to please Jezebel – they were under church-state deception.

II Kings17:33, 34

Who among us this day is halting between church and state, between God and Baal? Those who halt are unresolved under their convictions, unstable and unsteady in their purposes, professing, but not performing, they begin well, but do not hold on to truth, they are inconsistent with themselves, they are indifferent and lukewarm in that which is good. When you can speak to God’s goodness and say nothing, you justify the enemy’s words. When you answer in denial of Christ you condemn yourself.

The time will come when each of us, individually, will see the opportunity to voice God’s goodness. What effect might have been seen had but one voice cried out the words of Deuteronomy 10:17?

Do not think yourself right in your own mind when you refuse to humble yourself and acknowledge God’s truth. As you magnify your own wisdom you cannot receive the light and knowledge which God alone can give.

SOP - The only safety for any of us is to plant our feet upon the Word of God and study the Scriptures, making God’s Word our constant meditation. Tell the people to take no man’s word regarding the Testimonies, but to read them and study them for themselves, and then they will know that they are in harmony with the truth. The Word of God is the truth.—Letter 132, 1900. {3SM 359.4}

Ezekiel 7:5-7

Fair warning is given us in the word of God for the hastening of Jesus’ return and this fair warning is the mercy of God because like as was done unto Christ, the events that are now, and will intensify, find deaf ears, blind eyes, hardened hearts, unaffected lives, and seared consciences that will reject, deny, betray, forsake every word of God. The time is very near when these will, about the streets, with a loud and lamentable voice, unrepentantly speak their own condemnation.

Psalms 64:8

Ezekiel speaks to us in the word of God, of an evil, an only evil. It is an evil without precedent or parallel, it is an evil that stands alone; there cannot be produced such another instance. The time has come, God’s set time, for the inflicting of this only evil and the making of this full end; for to all God's purposes there is a time, a proper time, and that is determined, in which his purpose shall have its accomplishment; particularly the time of reckoning with the wicked, and rendering to them according to their desire, their time is fixed. How dense, and dull-witted, and foolish, and simpleminded, and idiotic, and imbecilic, and ignorant, and daft, and unthinking, and ill-advised, and asinine, and insane, and absurd, and ridiculous, and unintelligent, and cowardly these people are, that, though the day of their destruction has already begun, yet they are not aware of it, but must be therefore told of it again and again and they will not hear. The voice of God’s people will soon echo the sound of warning no more.

Acts 3:22-24

Are we prepared now for our last ‘hour’ on earth? What thoughts pass through the minds of the people when the earth first experienced water falling from heaven, when brimstone and fire was seen streaking out of heaven, the people of Pompeii in the shadow of Mt. Vesuvius, the 1500 people that sank on the Titanic, the astronauts on the shuttle that exploded, the MetroLink crash in California, the church in apostasy, the Sunday Law, the plagues, the sighting of Christ at his second coming. Each of these events had/have sufficient warning to be avoided.

One hundred-twenty years warning for the flood, two angels appearing in Sodom, the smoke of Vesuvius, the ignored warning from other ships to the Titanic, the engineer at NASA warned of the faulty O-Rings, the red signal light was ignored by the conductor of the train, GOD HIMSELF by HIS WORD and by HIS PROPHETS has been warning all upon this earth for six God-days. Many thousands times thousands will be almost persuaded.

Acts 26:24-29

The bible has some sobering things to tell us about the times we are in. This one thing is certain; we cannot wait for more convenient circumstances before we surrender to Christ and obey the truth as it is in the word of God. Who and how many will still be waiting when the door of probation closes?

II Corinthians 6:2

As we continue this study of the word of God, let’s minister to one another with pure hearts, and with sanctified lives and let’s have all our thoughts, our words be closely connected with heaven, that each of us may receive the conviction of the Holy Spirit. We must have love for one another in the very root of habit, we must have it even when there is not a present occasion to show it, this is the distinguishing character of God’s people. The world says everyone for himself, we say everyone for one another.

We have come to the “last days,” and, if we are to have a part in the new earth with the redeemed of all ages we must study the word of God to know how to live in times like these. Our everyday decisions must be founded in the wisdom of the word of God. It is by His word that we must live if we are His. Hear the question found in Ezekiel.

Ezekiel 33:10-20

Ezekiel 18:31, 32

Jesus Christ Himself provided the response to the above questions.

Matthew 4:4

Job 23:12

The health message is not isolated to foods, nature’s healing benefits, and country living alone. God’s health message is nourishment for our spiritual growth as provided in the bible. And brothers and sisters, we are afflicted with theological and biblical malnutrition.

SOP - The Bible has been robbed of its power, and the results are seen in a lowering of the tone of spiritual life. In the sermons from many pulpits of today there is not that divine manifestation which awakens the conscience and brings life to the soul. The hearers cannot say, “Did not our heart burn within us, while He talked with us by the way, and while He opened to us the Scriptures?” Luke 24:32. There are many who are crying out for the living God, longing for the divine presence. Philosophical theories or literary essays, however brilliant, cannot satisfy the heart. The assertions and inventions of men are of no value. Let the word of God speak to the people. Let those who have heard only traditions and human theories and maxims hear the voice of Him whose word can renew the soul unto everlasting life. {COL 40.1}

Romans 1:17

Romans 10:17

I Peter 1:23

This act of God brings the people of God into a new and a nearer relationship to one another. Prayerfully consider this fact of being born again, not as children of men, but as sons and daughters of the Most High God. We have the same Father, we are under the same government, we partake of the same privileges, and we undertake the same interest – vindicating the character of God in our lives.

The most intense thing we say is not the word we speak, but the thing we do!

Isaiah 8:20

We must make this our standard, we must conform to it, we must take advice from it, we must make our appeals to it, and in everything we must be overruled and determined by it, we must consent to it in all our dealings and speak of the things of God in the words which the Holy Ghost teaches us. It is not enough to say nothing against it, but we must speak according to it. Why must we make this use of the law and the testimony: because we shall be convicted of the greatest foolishness imaginable if we do not. Those that concur not with the word of God do give evidence that Christ is not with them*;* they have no right sense of things; they do not understand themselves, nor the difference between good and evil, truth and falsehood.

What is this light that must be in those who speak?

John 1:4

One sin in Jesus’ life would have marred his character and disqualified him as the world’s ONLY savior. He is the word of God. And through him we are granted mercy from God. And hear how God Himself expounds upon Isaiah 8, verse20…

Isaiah 48:16, 17

First God says ‘come’. How is it that we may come? What does ‘The Word’ say?

John 14:6

He says from the beginning He gave us insight into His ways that we might know.

Jeremiah 17:12

At the end of verse 16 in Isaiah 48 who is speaking? Is this how God commissions us to deliver his word? Whom God sends the Spirit sends. Those whom God commissions for any service, the Holy Spirit in some measure fixes up for it; and when we speak boldly for God, and when we are heard obediently, the Spirit is imparted to the one speaking and to the one hearing.

Two words in this promise are very significant. They are “teaches” and “leads.” The teaching precedes the leading. Many want to be led by God, but refuse to be taught the way of truth and righteousness. The Lord never leads those whom He cannot teach. The more one is willing to be taught by Him, the more God may claim divine leadership in the life of the believer.

Many, today, consider that 'unity' is more important than truth, and that, right or wrong, conformity to tradition and popular opinion, deceptively spoken, is the right course. Men so easily become yoked to others by vested interest in how things are, or with whom they have associated for a time and many will refuse to undertake the risk of honestly searching for the truth at the possible expense of weakening or even losing a friendship. Some will study that true word of God with an insatiable hunger and determination to see that all they do is unquestionably biblical. And some will stop pretending.

I John 2:19

Here is the truth…the bible becomes the word of God to us only when it becomes the voice of God to us. The voice of God does not suggest to us how to be saved, He gives us the very truth that we need to be saved, when we listen to, and hear what He says. Whose voice was it that spoke the ten commandments on mount Sinai?

Do we understand what He is saying as He voices the words “I AM THE LORD THY GOD”? Those words are a declaration of His divine sovereignty, an assertion of His supremacy and His everlasting dominion and His ruler ship. This declaration is the reason for and the intent of every divine promise, warning, precept, and proclamation recorded in His unquestionable word. Because He is the Lord of all, He has a right to command and to require obedience of all His creatures. "Thy God" indicates that obedience is an individual responsibility. No one can be a stand-in for our choices, not even Jesus. The moral law summons each person individually to the judgment bar of God. The obedience of one can never atone for the disobedience of another. God places us in every situation to test our faithfulness. Some seem small, some are crisis, but all are tests of faithfulness. It is a small thing to put your foot in the water, but to trust that the crisis of opening the sea, to pass through lies with God, is the faith that takes us over to dry land. When we come to a test and refuse to go forward, we have no faith in the word of God because we hear not His voice. This one thing is certain; the word of God will test our love of truth.

We too often treat the word of God too lightly. It is because we don’t understand the terror that will soon come forth from this very word because of our disloyalty.

Listen to some who witnessed His words.

Exodus 20:18

Now if we did not hear the power of God’s word as they gave witness to, then we might ought to read that verse again, asking the Holy Spirit to guide us. The bible did not say ‘and all the people heard’; it said all the people ‘saw’. How powerful must the word be for it to be ‘seen’? The word of God is so creative that it caused the people to have a vision regarding its intent. They saw the conclusion of its purpose.

Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14

Never was any thing delivered with such an awful and spectacular magnificense; every word spoken was accented with holy prominence, and every sentence paused to demonstrate the reverence due it and the dreadful effect of sin leading to the crucifixion of inspiration’s designated savior. The people, rather than desiring to come near to Christ, removed themselves.

The word of God should come to us as it came to John the Baptist.

Luke 3:2, 3

And, if the Holy Spirit convinces us, as we hear the word of God, we see The Word of God, we see Jesus. Listen to what Jesus says…

John 8:26, 28, 38

What had Jesus seen with his Father? The counsel of infinite wisdom, the counsel of peace between them both.

Zechariah 6:13

There was no guess or hearsay with what Jesus spoke. He was assured of the truth, of all he said, for all he said was what he heard from his Father.

Genesis 1:3

The word of God itself is the power of creation. Ask ourselves these questions…is Christ Jesus a visible being; was Jesus made for us? The first of all visible beings which God brought forth was light. The first of all things on this earth created was light and that light is for us. It was the full knowledge of Christ. And in that knowledge was divine power. That act alone was sufficient to save every person who ever lived on this earth. That act alone, supported by the power of choice enabled every person to overcome every temptation brought to them. In I Corinthians 10:13, the word of God says He will make a ‘way’. That ‘way’ is Jesus Christ. God did not need to see by light to work for He is the light and the physical darkness and light are both alike to him, but that by it we might see his works and his glory, and might work our works while it is day. For it is by Christ that we live and move and have our being. What a lesson for the people of God. Enter a dark room, turn on the light switch. How immediately does the light dispel the darkness? How immediately does truth destroy error when we believe ‘the word’? How pure and powerful and beneficial is the light? By the light we see things that were concealed in darkness. When we are born again, the exactness of the original thought in the Eternal Mind is answered, and that light is effectually created in our mind, and thus we have the mind of Christ. If God can turn a word into a world, He can turn a sinner into a saint. And as He divided the light from the darkness then, so too can He perpetually separate us from sin now. So this is what we are to speak…

I John 1:5-7

John 14:23

I Peter 2:21

Example is more convincing, more powerful, than words. Jesus did no sin. No guile was found in his mouth. We must look upon the life of Jesus and his character and not only speak what he would speak but we must do as he would do. Do we live what we preach? If our right words don’t reflect right actions do we lie? Have you ever professed to love any and turned to gossip concerning the same?

Revelation 3:8

Our testimonies will only be worthy as we yield our lives to be changed and are brought into conformity with His life. When we say let’s study the bible, let’s mean let’s study the word of God, let’s mean let’s study the life of Jesus Christ.

We are in challenging times and although we profess to believe in the word of God, let’s be straightforward; there is in the word of God explosive truths that impact our faith. Adventists are losing their identity and have forsaken their mission of proclaiming the three angels' messages and preparing a people for Christ's second coming and this in part is due to an erosion of confidence in the bible as God's inspired, trustworthy word, the church's sole norm of authority for doctrine and practice.

Let’s admit it – studying the word of God is oftentimes contentious and always there exists the danger of confrontation. We have come together, not as an organization, but as a people of God and for God, a body made without hands, His church. And because we are gathered by God we should accept His word as the sole authority for truth. With that, we should study the word of God with a loving spirit for one another and at the same time we should individually and familiarly probe for God’s distinctive truths for the last days. Please, let’s have thoughtful discussion that binds us together as one in Christ, our Lord God the Savior.

Does God make Himself small and pale in order that we may comprehend Him? Does He limit Himself, as it were, in order to make place for our free will?

Psalms 148

Psalms 145

Is it by His Divine wisdom that His magnificence is constrained in order to provide a sphere of space for human glory and honor?

Psalms 8:5

Genesis 45:13

Numbers 27:18-20

Proverbs 16:31

Proverbs 19:11

Exodus 33:18-23

There are aspects of God’s glory that are revealed to man and there are other aspects that are not manifested. The glory of God exists prior to and apart from any manifestation of it. We will never gather in the fullness of His glory and will for all eternity bask in its brightness.

Hebrews 1:3

John 1:14

He has glory as of the only begotten of the Father; he shows His glory in the performance of miracles.

John 2:11

And like the Father, He is the Lord of glory.

I Corinthians 2:8

Our thought balance is found in the word of God.

Proverbs 16:1-3

We are not sufficient of ourselves to think or speak anything of ourselves that is wise and good. Not only is the delivering of what we design to speak, but the issue and success of what we design to do, is of the Lord. Though we have freedom of thought and a freedom of will we can do nothing without the permissiveness and allowance of God. It is truly his mercy that cross men's purposes, and breaks our measures. There are events, trials, actions, agencies that if not for God would bring about our end. His word is pure and His mercy is everlasting.

Hebrews 4:12

If the word of God does not seize your conscience, if it does not cut you to the heart, and if it is not comforting to you and if it does not bind up the wounds of your soul, then you must be dead…dead to the letter. Those who know not the word of God, don’t know Jesus and Jesus’ word to these…

Luke 13:27

I Peter 1:24, 25

We tend to lean on man’s reasoning way too much. We take the word of God and attempt to make it what we want to believe rather than what it truly says.

God will not empower a compromise. He only empowers a total surrender. This may help us in understanding why we have so many people who fail at finding any consistent victory in their ‘professed’ walk. DON’T GET IT TWISTED. SATAN’S DECEPTION IS TO MAKE YOU THINK THAT SANCTIFICATION IS EVOLUTION. HEAR WHAT THE WORD OF GOD SAYS SANCTIFICATION IS.

II Thessalonians 2:13

Who is this that God has chosen from the beginning…not the beginning of the gospel, the beginning of the world? And to what end are we chosen; for complete and eternal salvation from sin. And what is the order by which we come to this salvation; sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth. We are not the very elect of God because we were holy, but that we might be holy. And we come to sanctification by the operation of the Holy Spirit and by looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. There can be no true sanctification without the belief of the truth as is found in the word of God. It is the way we persevere in grace.

I Peter 1:2

Hereby we are renewed after the image of God and made new creatures, and we carry on in the daily exercise of holiness, mortifying our sins more and more, and living to God in all the duties of a true believer’s life, which is here summed up in one word, obedience.

Those who try in their own strength to overcome by cutting down, taking one little step at a time, or trying each day to do just a little better, are doomed to failure because they are practicing salvation by evolution, man’s concept of becoming better. God is not a god of evolution; God is the Creator—He speaks and it is DONE!

SOP - The heavenly intelligences will work with the human agent who seeks with determined faith that perfection of character which will reach out to perfection in action. To everyone engaged in this work Christ says, I am at your right hand to help you. {COL 332.4}

As the will of man co-operates with the will of God, it becomes omnipotent. Whatever is to be done at His command may be accomplished in His strength. All His biddings are enablings. {COL 333.1}

It is by the word of God, through his mercy, that inspiration empowers us to work out our own salvation. And it is inspiration which tells us who is doing the work.

Philippians 2:12, 13

As we continue this study of the word of God, let’s minister to one another with pure hearts, and with sanctified lives and let’s have all our thoughts, our words be closely connected with heaven, that each of us may receive the conviction of the Holy Spirit. We must have love for one another in the very root of habit, we must have it even when there is not a present occasion to show it, this is the distinguishing character of God’s people. The world says everyone for himself, we say everyone for one another.

Please listen to this text and respond with what your understanding might be.

II Peter 1:21

This text spiritually present two situations in the word of God. The fact is that the inspiration of the Spirit lay in the writings and not in the writers. Some did not understand their own writings; and at times some prophecies were spoken without purposeful intention or desire.

Daniel 8:27

Daniel wrote out the details of a vision which pertained not to his day but to the future and he did not understand what he wrote.

John 11:49-52

Caiaphas uttered a prophecy of Christ without even discerning the fact.

Numbers chapters 22, 23, 24

Balaam, while determined in his heart to curse Israel, was, under the compulsion of the Spirit, led three times to pronounce a beautiful benediction upon them instead.

Daniel 4

Nebuchadnezzar had a disturbing dream, one unknown to him. As before when he did not understand his dreams he summoned Daniel. As he recounts the dream after seven years of illness we see his humbling. Nebuchadnezzar, in his second dream, saw God reveal to him that he was placed on the throne by God Himself, and that this One True God sets up kings and remove kings as He deems fit. In Nebuchadnezzar’s acknowledgement of God’s eternal dominion the bible records this prophetic dream and the sureness of the word of God. In this dream is provided precept for Leviticus 26, the conditional prophesy of the 2520. Nebuchadnezzar became converted and a true follower of God. At the end of seven years Nebuchadnezzar was "gathered" together, re-established and excellent majesty was added to him. Here we have an example again of the word of God and His mercy. How God in His mercy gives a warning, just like He gave the Israelites in the books of Moses.  He could have just removed Nebuchadnezzar for the sins and iniquities he had committed without any warning.  Even the punishment, though severe, was not permanent.  God's mercy surely does endureth for ever!

So, II Peter 1:21 tells us the word of God comes by the will of God and through the dictation of His Spirit. It is, therefore, the very word of God. This word may be clothed in human language; it may have come through human instruments; it may bear the style and reflect the peculiar characteristics of its writers, and all who present it may not be of a holy character, but still it is not of the earth, earthly; it is of heaven, heavenly.

God has ever been faithful. The word of God brings out the sins of His people and we should consider that it is written for our instruction, that we may avoid the evils recorded and imitate only the righteousness of those who served the Lord in spirit and in truth. It is the word of God that bids us to go forward. It shows our faith. Our Hebrew forefathers were weary and terrified; yet if they had held back when Moses, at the command of God, bade them go forward, if they had refused to move nearer to the Red Sea, God would never have opened the path for them.

SOP - Better than all other knowledge is an understanding of the word of God. In keeping His commandments there is great reward, and no earthly inducement should cause the Christian to waver for a moment in his allegiance. Riches, honor, and worldly pomp are but as dross that shall perish before the fire of God’s wrath. {4T 27.3}

When the Sacred Scriptures were studied and followed, the true and faithful believer would be fortified to meet every snare that the enemy may lay; but if the word of God is neglected, disaster and defeat is sure to follow. The truth of the word of God should not have to struggle for supremacy in our mind. We must not permit the cares of this life and the love of other things to gained the victory. Satan seeks always to enchain and paralyze our moral powers so that we should have no sense of God's claims upon us, and if we do not faithfully submit to God’s will, he will succeed.

SOP - Be not afraid of man, for My shield shall protect you. It is not you that speaketh: it is the Lord that giveth the messages of warning and reproof. Never deviate from the truth *under any circumstances*. Give the light I shall give you. The messages for these last days shall be written in books, and shall stand immortalized, to testify against those who have once rejoiced in the light, but who have been led to give it up because of the seductive influences of evil.” {1SM 32.3}

We should ask God to teach us to study character and manner that we may know how to deal judiciously with different minds, that we may use our best endeavors to help them to a correct understanding of the word of God and to a true life for Christ.

SOP - How easily the armies of heaven brought down the walls that had seemed so formidable to the spies who brought the false report! The word of God was the only weapon used. The Mighty One of Israel had said: “I have given into thine hand Jericho.” If a single warrior had brought his strength to bear against the walls, the glory of God would have been lessened and His will frustrated. But the work was left to the Almighty; and had the foundation of the battlements been laid in the center of the earth, and their summits reached the arch of heaven, the result would have been the same when the Captain of the Lord’s host led His legions of angels to the attack. {4T 161.3}

There are profound mysteries in the word of God; there are unexplainable mysteries in His providences; there are mysteries in the plan of salvation that man cannot fathom. But when we abide in the revealed will of God, our finite mind is strengthened in its desire to satisfy His every command. We have heard the word of God in reproofs, in counsels, in warnings, as well as in the entreaties of love. But hearing is not enough.

James 1:22-25

God’s mercy is founded in His glory.

Philippians 2:8

Are we wrong in saying that God took a tremendous risk when He determined to reveal the supreme secret of His glory? We know His glory is in Christ. And in Christ we see the glory of God being humbled. Let’s say it this way. We see the glory of God "going down". The CREATOR going down into CREATION. Brothers and sisters, this "going down", in terms of going into creation, is a matter of such momentum that man has no inkling of its far-reaching implications. Never could we devise such a wonderful plan as such is the plan of redemption. This is why the word of God will eternally be inexhaustible to us. Even now, as we are coming to know the love of God, we fail in our understanding the divine compliment of how and why the word of God, the bible, attaches such a unique significance to this very theme: our salvation. The human brain alone is utterly incompetent for this depth of wisdom. It is more a matter of the heart's perception than of the brain's perception. It is the faith that has no doubt, no question in the word of God. For the sense of acceptance demanded is the sense of love. And the surprising height of this love is humility. Can we see how God is the highest of the high in His becoming the lowliest of the low. It may offend many, but we must dare to state that God is, above all, this: He is humble. The practical unfolding of that quality in God was His going all the way down.

Romans 9:23

The happiness bestowed upon the saved remnant is the fruit, not of their merit, but of God's mercy. Remember Exodus 33:19 when God says He will make all His goodness pass before thee? God’s goodness is His greatest glory. Christ is the goodness and the glory of God. He will demonstrate the unsearchable riches of his goodness. Jesus does this in the salvation of his people, that will be to eternity glorious monuments of his divine grace.

II Thessalonians 2:13

What he does for us; sanctification is the preparation of the soul for glory, making it meet to partake of the inheritance. This is God's work.

II Corinthians 5:1-5

No more will we dwell in cottages of clay, burdened with the corruptions of sin. The word of God reveals to the faithful and true followers of Christ the design of being clothed in the righteousness of Christ; it is that in the will of God, we might not sleep, but be changed.

I Corinthians 15:51

Here again is a profound mystery in the word of God. What a blessing to hear the word of God admonish us to seek to be among those translated, the 144,000. The stones of that spiritual building and temple above are squared and fashioned here below. And God is doing this. Nothing less than a divine power can make a soul partaker of a divine nature; no hand less than the hand of God can work us for this thing. Of this we are assured by the earnest of the Spirit.

Ephesians 1:12-14

The Spirit is holy himself, and he makes us holy. He is called the Spirit of promise, as he is the promised Spirit of John 14. By him believers are sealed; separated and set apart for God, and distinguished and marked as belonging to him. The Spirit is the earnest of our inheritance. The earnest is part of payment, and it secures the full sum: so is the gift of the Holy Ghost; all his influences and operations, both as a sanctifier and a comforter, are heaven begun, glory in the seed and bud. The Spirit's illumination is an earnest of everlasting light; sanctification is an earnest of perfect holiness unto glorification; and his comforts are earnests of the joys of Jesus working for our salvation. He is said to be the earnest, until the redemption of the purchased possession.

Do we by faith sense the great end and design of God in bestowing all these spiritual privileges upon us; that we should be to the praise of his glory who first trusted in Christ. Now please understand that the word of God is not chronological truth, but rather it is always present truth. So, we to whom the gospel was first preached does not exclude us. Just as to Adam the gospel was first preached, so was the gospel preached unto Abraham, so was the gospel preached unto the children of Israel, and so when was the gospel first preached to you? And who were first converted to the faith of Christ, and to the placing of our hope and trust in him? Note, seniority in grace is a preferment, not a sureness.

Let’s hear how seniority is not the qualifier for Christ-likeness. The following texts from the word of God are read unitedly -

Hebrews 11:1, 2; 12:22, 23; 11:39, 40

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report. But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect. And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.

What is this better thing? It is revealed to those who study to show themselves approved. Let’s draw it out that we may be able to reason into this most wonderful thing. Consider when Lucifer first introduced rebellion to disturb the perfect harmony of all of God’s creation. We are informed that the inhabitants of the unfallen worlds and the angels became suspect as to the validity of Lucifer’s accusations. To these, the nature of his work had to be fully developed that all may see the evil thing for what it was. It was difficult for them to fully discern his character or to see to what his work was leading. It was necessary for God to demonstrate before the inhabitants of heaven and of all the worlds, that His government was just. All must see this deceiver unmasked. Service to God must be done in love and allegiance of His creatures must rest upon the conviction of His justice and His benevolence. All were unprepared to comprehend the nature and the consequences of sin, they could not have seen the justice of God in the destruction of Satan. The old testament witnesses experienced profound trials and great triumphs. The old testament witnesses experienced some revelations and some miracles. But the 144,000’s privileges far exceed their privileges. The writer of Hebrews invites us to consider their trials and their triumphs and their endurance and their anticipation of Christ.

SOP - Many do not realize what they must be in order to live in the sight of the Lord without a high priest in the sanctuary through the time of trouble. Those who receive the seal of the living God and are protected in the time of trouble must reflect the image of Jesus fully. {Mar 254.2}

Their robes must be spotless, their characters must be purified from sin by the blood of sprinkling. Through the grace of God and their own diligent effort, they must be conquerors in the battle with evil. While the investigative judgment is going forward in heaven, while the sins of penitent believers are being removed from the sanctuary, there is to be a special work of purification, of putting away of sin, among God’s people upon earth. {Mar 254.3}

Now, what of this better thing. Who are they that bear the signet of heaven? That reflect the image of God? That are full of the light and the glory of the Holy One? Who are they that will experience the most extreme circumstances on earth? Who will Satan’s wrath be extremely fierce against? The 144,000 will know what it means to live by faith, just as Jesus lived by faith. The 144,000 understand what it means to submit to the will of God completely and lovingly. The 144,000 would rather die than commit any sin. As Christ sought deliverance in the garden, the 144,000 will stand without an intercessor through the final outpouring of God’s judgments. As the mind of Christ when in heaven, was always one with the Father and needed no evidence of His justice and benevolence, so will the 144,000, with the mind of Christ possess the fullness of faith in God, needing no demonstration, for the life of Christ in them demonstrate their heirship to God. This better thing is the full reflection of that holy thing in the lives of the 144,000 and it is by being like Christ in this life, that the 144,000 can make the justified thereunto perfect in Christ.

Luke 1:35

It is not those who have for a longer time experienced the grace of Christ that are under more special obligations to glorify God; it is in those whom God has chosen to be like His son and who will in no wise hesitate in their obedience to his every instruction. These should be strong in faith, and more eminently glorify him; but this should be the common end of all. For this we were made, and for this we are redeemed; this is the great design of our patience, of our obedience to his commandments and of obtaining unto the faith of Jesus. God in all that he has done for us, unto the praise of his glory, intends that his grace and his power and his perfection should by this means become conspicuous and illustrious, and that the sons of men should magnify him.

Jesus Christ is The Word and the word of God should be to us as a conversation we have with the very presence of Christ in the soul, and our hearts, if we be true believers, we should be thrilled with that conscious presence of our ascended Lord. We speak the word of God boldly because he is with us always. We are, by the word of God, given inexhaustible truths to carry forward as we are taught.

Acts 4:31, 33

Satan has plotted and secured a treacherous aspect of his last day deception against the word of God. He has succeeded in directing the ‘called out movement of God’ to relinquishing their loyalty and reorganizing. This deception is rooted in state craft which is termed ‘501c3’. Listen to…no, hear what the spirit of prophesy says.

SOP - The enemy of souls has sought to bring in the supposition that a great reformation was to take place among Seventh-day Adventists, and that this reformation would consist in giving up the doctrines which stand as the pillars of our faith, and engaging in a process of reorganization. Were this reformation to take place, what would result? The principles of truth that God in His wisdom has given to the remnant church, would be discarded. Our religion would be changed. The fundamental principles that have sustained the work for the last fifty years would be accounted as error. A new organization would be established. Books of a new order would be written. A system of intellectual philosophy would be introduced. The founders of this system would go into the cities, and do a wonderful work. The Sabbath of course, would be lightly regarded, as also the God who created it. Nothing would be allowed to stand in the way of the new movement. The leaders would teach that virtue is better than vice, but God being removed, they would place their dependence on human power, which, without God, is worthless. Their foundation would be built on the sand, and storm and tempest would sweep away the structure. {1SM 204.2}

Who has authority to begin such a movement? We have our Bibles. We have our experience, attested to by the miraculous working of the Holy Spirit. We have a truth that admits of no compromise. Shall we not repudiate everything that is not in harmony with this truth? {1SM 205.1}

I hesitated and delayed about the sending out of that which the Spirit of the Lord impelled me to write. I did not want to be compelled to present the misleading influence of these sophistries. But in the providence of God, the errors that have been coming in *must be met*. {1SM 205.2}

SOP - The mingling of church craft and state craft is represented by the iron and the clay. This union is weakening all the power of the churches. This investing the church with the power of the state will bring evil results. Men have almost passed the point of God’s forbearance. They have invested their strength in politics, and have united with the papacy. But the time will come when God will punish those who have made void His law, and their evil work will recoil upon themselves.—Manuscript 63, 1899, 12, 13. (Untitled Manuscript, April 22, 1899.) {1MR 51.1}

But it is not a lack of skill in statecraft that makes the Church so weak, but rather the mixing of churchcraft with statecraft. God’s work is to separate the two, not combine them. The feet of the image represent God’s work in this respect—the clay and iron will not mix. It is God’s work to separate these two elements. Whoever tries to join them together is fighting against God. That is the reason why clay and iron cannot mix, and why the person who tries to combine them weakens himself so thoroughly.

Churchcraft wins the hearts of men, but statecraft forces men to abide by an external code of behavior. This is not the only difference between churchcraft and statecraft. An important aspect of statecraft is that it leaves God completely out of the picture. Instead, it depends on the application of natural law and the power of man to solve problems and build up the kingdom. This is really faith in God’s instruments rather than faith in God Himself. Faith in God is not required to become a master of statecraft, but what is required is a strong faith in the agencies He uses as His instruments, and an intimate knowledge of the same.

The rulers of the nations throughout all the ages have usually recognized that something hindered them from exercising absolute power. For this reason they employed the Church, which was supposed to understand churchcraft, to achieve their ultimate objectives. Conversely, whenever the Church has lost its divine skill, it saw, and still sees, the perfect supplement in the powers of the state. This is why mankind has tried again and again to join the forces of churchcraft and statecraft. The tools of statecraft - diplomatic, economic, and military - to advance the interests of the government.

The Word of God explains the root causes of all that threatens us, and it offers the good news that God has provided a means for saving us through the life, death, and resurrection of his Son, Jesus Christ. This is what we have to offer the world, the one thing it needs most: the word of God.

When we consider the extent of evil that is overcoming the world, our constant study of the word of God must be elevated.

Acts 17:11

The enemy and his co-workers found in the church must be uncloaked. There are too many of us weakened through feelings. Feeling-centered bible study is where the people discuss how they “feel” about scripture and the events related in scriptures, rather than learning the meaning of truth revealed and how to apply it. Many worship services are feeling-centered, with everything orchestrated and manipulated to pump up excitement and set each person on an emotional high.

When we surrender our every choice, as did Jesus, we will with a more diligent mind search out the scripture. There is too little trust in God’s revealing truth and too much doubt when that truth is revealed. It’s the heart, less upon the mind, less upon the intellectual prowess, than the submission of our hearts. How will we know the truth? How will we understand? The heart, when yielded, is given to God. The mind, guided by the Holy Spirit, detects error. But it is the heart that discovers deceit in spoken words, in deceptive actions.

SOP - The perception and appreciation of truth, He said, depends less upon the mind than upon the heart. Truth must be received into the soul; it claims the homage of the will. If truth could be submitted to the reason alone, pride would be no hindrance in the way of its reception. But it is to be received through the work of grace in the heart; and its reception depends upon the renunciation of every sin that the Spirit of God reveals. Man’s advantages for obtaining a knowledge of the truth, however great these may be, will prove of no benefit to him unless the heart is open to receive the truth, and there is a conscientious surrender of every habit and practice that is opposed to its principles. To those who thus yield themselves to God, having an honest desire to know and to do His will, the truth is revealed as the power of God for their salvation. These will be able to distinguish between him who speaks for God, and him who speaks merely from himself. The Pharisees had not put their will on the side of God’s will. They were not seeking to know the truth, but to find some excuse for evading it; Christ showed that this was why they did not understand His teaching. {DA 455.3}

How many of God’s people today, because of the silken cords of affection, are mistrusting the leadings of the Holy Spirit. Rejection of the righteousness by faith message put off the desired coming of Christ. Denial of the literal 144,000 in order to support the premise that we will be sinning until Jesus comes. The study of the conditional 2520 was falsely dismissed and caused many to stop their advancement in truth. The onslaught of the mandated rules instituted by the 501c3, which clearly indicates the forming of the image to the beast, was met with straight testimony and is even now bringing about the shaking among the people of God. Is there yet more light that God will send His people?

SOP - The question has been asked me, “Do you think that the Lord has any more light for us as a people?” I answer that He has light that is new to us, and yet it is precious old light that is to shine forth from the Word of truth. We have only the glimmerings of the rays of the light that is yet to come to us. We are not making the most of the light which the Lord has already given us, and thus we fail to receive the increased light; we do not walk in light already shed upon us. {1SM 401.2}

We call ourselves commandment-keeping people, but we do not comprehend the exceeding breadth of the far-reaching principles of the law of God; we do not understand its sacred character. Many who claim to be teachers of the truth, have no real conception of what they are doing in teaching the law of God, because they do not have a living knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. {1SM 402.1}

Now, listen to this rebuke…

SOP - The Lord does not now work to bring many souls into the truth, because of the church members who have never been converted and those who were once converted but who have backslidden. What influence would these unconsecrated members have on new converts? Would they not make of no effect the God-given message which His people are to bear? {6T 370.3}

SOP - The Message, Not the Messenger—When a new view is presented, the question is often asked, “Who are its advocates? What is the position or influence of the one who would teach us, who have been students of the Bible for many years?” God will send His words of warning by whom He will send. And the question to be settled is not what person is it who brings the message; this does not in any way affect the word spoken. “By their fruits ye shall know them.”

{5MR 351.1}

SOP - Every soul must look to God with contrition and humility, that He may guide and lead and bless. We must not trust to others to search the Scriptures for us. Some of our leading brethren have frequently taken their position on the wrong side; and if God would send a message and wait for these older brethren to open the way for its advancement, it would never reach the people. These brethren will be found in this position until they become partakers of the divine nature to a greater extent than ever they have been in the past. {GW 303.3}

James 1:25

How quickly should we demonstrate our belief in God? In His word? When we say we believe, yet do not continue, do we really believe? If then, we believe God's Word, we will then have NO hesitation in also doing what His Word says to do.

We by faith have belief in the word of God. An increase of faith and confidence in God is the result of an increased knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ, gained through studying His Word. Knowing truth gives us power to live the word of God.

John 17:17

Now, who is the epitome of the word of God? And who is the epitome of the truth of God?

John 14:6

So, if Jesus walked from point A to point B, we would see truth walking from A to B. If we saw Him ascend back to heaven, we would see truth ascending into heaven. When we see Him coming a second time we will see truth coming. So, if there is any deviation from God’s word, we must be deviating away from truth. Is the righteousness by faith message the word of God? Is the 2520 prophesy in the word of God. Does the word of God make plain the 501c3 and its role in aligning church and state?

Why have we studied these thousands of words? What is our purpose for searching out the mysteries of truth as they are in the word of God? That we may be able to answer this question: What is truth?

John 18:37, 38

Why is there an answer given in verse 37 but not in verse 38?

It is certain that ‘what is truth’ was a good question, and could not be put to one that was better able to answer it. Truth is that which the human understanding has a desire for and is always in search of; and the mind of the people of God cannot rest but to continually be in the apprehending of truth. When we search the word of God, it must be with this enquiry, What is truth? and with this prayer, Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day (Psalms 25:5).But many today have not the patience and constancy enough to persevere in their search after truth, or not humility and sincerity enough to receive it when they have found it. So the word of God answers for us not just what is truth but also who it is that can accept truth. And this answer, taken in the spiritual seriousness of the word of God, is why the elect of God is narrowing down to the few.

I John 4:6

We are born of God, taught of God, anointed of God, and so secured in the word of God that HE has blessed us with spiritual hearing.

I John 4:7, 8

Love is the way to tell truth from error. This principle is essential. If we want to know what the truth is, one way is to understand that truth and error are in contrast to each other. Love is the central key to everything, and if we want to know truth, we must know love.

The whole while we have been studying is for this cause; to love God. For that foremost is the whole reason why God gives us His word...that we love him in return. And He shows us how complete is His love for us.

John 3:16

By God giving us His Son, the great gospel mystery is revealed. God became man and this magnifies his love in giving himself for us, in giving his son to us; now know we that he loves us, when he has given his only-begotten Son for us*,* which expresses not only his dignity in himself, but his son’s dearness to his Father; he was always his delight*.*

I Timothy 3:16

God not only sent his son into the world with full and ample power to negotiate a peace between heaven and earth, but God ‘gave him’*,* that is, God gave his son up to suffer and die for us, as the only sacrifice commendable. This offering brings to us the reason why Jesus must be lifted up; for so it was determined and designed by the Father, who gave him for this purpose, and prepared him a body in order to perform. God’s enemies, who are not now just the fallen angels, but also men who love not the word of God, could not have taken Jesus if his Father had not given him. Though he was not yet crucified, yet in the determinate counsel of God he was given up, in order to the redemption and salvation of man.

Acts 2:23

Look how the love of God brought us from degradation to posterity.

Ezekiel 16: 6, 8

Even while we lapse into apostasy, God loves us.

Romans 5:8

I John 4:10

Do you remember the goodness of God’s love…

He called out the Hebrew who loved Him, these became enticed with the aspect of the world and became Israelites, who turned to man’s wisdom and hated God and became Jews and killed the Christ. But God had some apostles..

He called out the Adventist who love Christ, who became enticed with the aspect of the world and became Christians, who turned to man’s wisdom and hated Christ and became Catholic and seeks to crucify Christ again. But God has a remnant…and God has 144,000.

I Timothy 5:12

Matthew 24:12

Satan carries on his interest by force of arms. The profession of Christianity begins to cost men dearly, then shall many be offended*,* and shall first fall out with, and then fall off from, their profession as followers of Christ; they will begin to pick quarrels with religion’s truth, they will seek to broaden its understanding, and grow weary of it, and at length they will revolt from it entirely and worship the beast and his image and receive of the wrath of God.

But God knows His…

Isaiah 6:8 and Malachi 4:5 and I John 4:10 and Mark 3:14 and Joel 2:32. Answer this question of yourself. Can God send you?

SOP - The great feebleness of the church is the result of a failure on the part of the members to appropriate the Word of God as their spiritual food. The Word of God, inspired by the Spirit of God, is not fiction, but truth, and it preeminently deserves, and with positive assurance demands, our serious appreciation. We are to live by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God. We are in no danger of obtaining too much of the knowledge of God and Jesus Christ, who He has sent. We may find by a study of the Word that we are in danger, through our negligence, of losing the waymarks. Coming to the light of the Word, our duty is made plain and clear. {Lt76-1900.5}

The experience of God’s people would become rich with precious instruction if they would more earnestly study His Word. Here is found, plainly stated, the whole will of God, which will guide us in safe paths. The Bible is our light. It is not for us to turn from the Bible to the torchlight glimmer of human maxims. The interpretation of men is not needed to make the Word of God plain. Too often their interpretation confuses the mind. Men make of none effect the commandments of God by their traditions, teaching for doctrine the commandments of men. Let us have more Bible reading and less story reading. All may know how to understand what saith the Lord in regard to the gift of life in Christ Jesus. The Bible contains the science of salvation. “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.” {Lt76-1900.6}

Let’s conclude here with this wisdom; God makes the dearest of promise to His people and the word of God is the truth and the truth is this…God is love.

I John 2:25