

Sabbath School Lesson #3 – Light Shines in the Darkness – 13-19 April 2024

Christ is the Light of the world; so He is the true Light, “which lighteth every man that cometh into the world” (John 1:9). Thus, all do have the light and are without any excuse for living in the darkness. To them that sit in darkness light is sprung up. That life-giving light has shone upon all and is still shining. “By the righteousness of One the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life” (Romans 5:18). God’s love embraces all the world, and every man in it. To all He has given “His unspeakable gift” (2 Corinthians 9:15). What a sad awakening it will be at last when men realise what was within their grasp, what they let go. “Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth. While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light. These things spake Jesus, and departed, and did hide himself from them” (John 12:35-36).

Sunday: Compromise: Satan’s Subtle Strategy – How has Satan succeed in using compromises in our Seventh-day Adventist Church? We are told: “I was shown the startling fact that but a small portion of those who now profess the truth will be sanctified by it and be saved. Many will get above the simplicity of the work. They will conform to the world, cherish idols, and become spiritually dead” {1T 608.3}. We are told: “Soon God’s people will be tested by fiery trials, and the great proportion of those who now appear to be genuine and true will prove to be base metal. Instead of being strengthened and confirmed by opposition, threats, and abuse, they will cowardly take the side of the opposers” {5T 136.1}. As Sunday Law approaches, many who have been compromising step by step, will give up their faith altogether and be lost: “The time is not far distant when the test will come to every soul. The observance of the false sabbath will be urged upon us. The contest will be between the commandments of God and the commandments of men. Those who have yielded step by step to worldly demands and conformed to worldly customs will then yield to the powers that be, rather than subject themselves to derision, insult, threatened imprisonment, and death” {PK 188.1}. Notice, they “have yielded step by step to worldly demands and conformed to worldly customs” and they will “yield to the powers that be, rather than subject themselves to derision, insult, threatened imprisonment, and death.” Did we not see majority of our fellow Seventh-day Adventists, who profess to believe health reform, compromising in taking the vaccine? They proved to be base metal, yielded step by step, and at Sunday Law, they will give up their faith altogether and accept the mark, just as they accepted the vaccine. Many Adventists have head knowledge of the truth, but their actions show lack of power. “Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away” (2 Timothy 3:5). In their taking the vaccine in the recent crisis, many Adventists took the vaccines to keep their jobs or be able to travel and not because they believed vaccines to be healthy. As Sunday Law approaches, that is, “as the storm approaches, a large class who have professed faith in the third angel’s message, but have not been sanctified through obedience to the truth, abandon their position and join the ranks of the opposition” {GC 608.2}. It is not that people will “abandon their position” at Sunday Law, but when the “storm approaches”, and Sunday Law will only reveal that the professed Adventists had already abandoned their position, for they had head knowledge without power. Step by step, yielding to vaccine mandates, they have already abandoned their position. Many Adventists deceive themselves to think that they can get pressured by jobs and travel to get vaccinated, but when Sunday Law comes, they will refuse the mark of the beast. They will have no power to resist enormous satanic pressure, for “power belongeth unto God” (Psalm 62:11), yet many Adventists only have “a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof” are essentially without God and power.

Monday: Savage Wolves – What kind of compromises do we see entering the church today? More important, what compromises might you be making? Is it sometimes by blending truth and error? It is not today that compromises have started entering the church, but this has been going on for years in fulfilment of the prophecy made in 1904. “Let the reader understand” (Mark 13:14): “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 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}.

Tuesday: Safeguarded by the Word – With so many changes that have crept into our Seventh-day Adventists Church since after Ellen White gave the above prophecy, where can we find truth to be safeguarded from deception? Where was the truth in the days of Noah, when only eight souls were saved from the flood? Where was truth in the days of Abraham, when he was called to separate himself from his father's house and become a stranger in the earth? Where was it in the days of Christ and His little handful of disciples, scorned and persecuted by the sanctimonious Jews? Where was it in the days of Martin Luther, when he began his work amidst the opposition of popes and prelates, emperors and kings? And where is it today? Has the tide at length turned, so that truth is not to be found on the side of the majority? or is it still fighting the battle with error under similar circumstances to those which have prevailed in ages past? Is it not necessary that these queries should be made and answered in uncertainty. There is one certain source of truth, accessible to all, and upon which all may rely with absolute certainty. It is the word of God. "Sanctify them through Thy truth," said Jesus; "Thy word is truth" (John 17:17). This is the source which supplied Abraham, Noah, Elijah, the apostles, Luther, and all others in all ages who maintained the cause of truth against the opposition of the multitude; and it is the only reliable safeguard against deception today. Let us come to and take it as such, notwithstanding the opposition of men. Let us say with the apostle, "Let God be true, but every man a liar" (Romans 3:4).

Wednesday: Human Reasoning Apart From Scripture – Why is the human mind without the aid of the Holy Spirit incapable of discovering divine truth? Discuss the relationship between human reason and divine revelation. How does reason actually help us understand divine revelation? For example, look at Daniel 2, a prophecy that covers world history from the time of Babylon to the Second Coming. How does a prophecy like this powerfully appeal to human reason? If truth is to be vindicated, the best method is not by arguments made up from human reason, but by speaking forth the living word, fresh from the pages of inspiration. Human reasoning, debating, speculation, and philosophy are the weapons employed (through his agents) by the devil; and he knows better how to use them than any man. The armoury of God contains no such weapons, and the cause of truth can never be vindicated by their use. Our weapon is the word of God. By it we can overthrow all these, and successfully "contend for the faith once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3).

Thursday: Battle for the Mind – Read 2 Corinthians 4:3–6. What does "whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe" (2 Cor. 4:4) mean? Satan has largely succeeded in getting men to lay upon God the blame for his own work of destruction. They accuse God of doing nothing to prevent evil, when He might stop it. "The god of this world hath blinded the minds of them that believe not," and instead of recognising the infinite love of God in all His dealings with men, they impute to Him the attributes of Satan. If it shall appear that anyone has lost eternal life on account of God's negligence, it will make Him responsible for the loss of that soul, and He would then be the criminal. But when the secret things are made manifest, and the hidden things are brought to light, it will be made clear that God did everything that infinite love and wisdom could do, consistently with man's right of free choice, to turn men back from the paths of destruction, and no man's blood can be charged to Him. All will acknowledge that "Just and true are Thy ways, Thou King of saints. Who shall not fear Thee, O Lord, and glorify Thy name? for Thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before Thee, for Thy judgments fire wade manifest" (Rev 15:3-4).