

# THE TEACHINGS OF MORRIS VENDEN

## HARVEST INSPIRATION DISCOVERIES LECTURE SERIES

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### CHAPTER TEN- SOME ADVENTIST DOCTRINES ARE WRONG

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## **LISTING OF VENDEN'S BOOKS-MAGAZINES-CAMPMEETING TRANSCRIPTS**

### **BOOKS INCLUDED IN THIS TOPICAL STUDY**

- [SBF] - "Salvation by Faith and Your Will," Morris L. Venden, Southern Publishing Association, 1978, 128 pages, paperback.
- [FTW] - "Faith that Works," Morris L. Venden, Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1980, 375 pages, hardback.
- [ROE] - "The Return of Elijah," Morris L. Venden, Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1982, 110 pages, paperback.
- [DO] - "Defeated Demons," Morris L. Venden, Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1982, 16 pages, paperback booklet.
- [GN] - "Good News and Bad News About the Judgment," Morris L. Venden, Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1982, 96 pages, paperback.
- [TP] - "The Pillars," Morris L. Venden, Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1982, 109 pages, paperback.
- [MCR] - "How to Make Christianity Real," Morris Venden, Concerned Communications, 1982, 168 pages, paperback.
- [OOF] - "Obedience of Faith," Morris Venden, Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1983, 95 pages, paperback.
- [TKG] - "To Know God," Morris Venden, Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1983, 125 pages, paperback.
- [NWI]- "Never Without an Intercesspr." (Boise, ID: Pacific Press Publishing Assn, 1996).

**I've added the review of this book at the end of this document.**

### **MAGAZINE ARTICLES INCLUDED IN THIS TOPICAL STUDY**

- [TTI-1] - "Morris Venden Talks to Insight, Part 1," Morris Venden and Editor, "Insight" Magazine, May 8, 1979, pages 7-11.
- [TTI-2] - "Morris Venden Talks to Insight, Part 2," Morris Venden and Editor, "Insight" Magazine, May 15, 1979, pages 6-11.
- [TCT] - "The Christmas Tree," Morris L. Venden, "Adventist Review," December 24, 1981, pages 4-5.

[SAS] - "What Jesus said about sanctification," Morris L. Venden, "Ministry" Magazine, January, 1982, pages 6-7.

[SAFR] - "What Jesus said about faith and relationship," Morris L. Venden, "Ministry" Magazine, March, 1982, pages 8-9.

[SAH] - "What Jesus said about Himself," Morris L. Venden, "Ministry" Magazine, May, 1982, pages 18-19.

[JSAP] - "What Jesus said about perfection," Morris L. Venden, "Ministry" Magazine, July, 1982, pages 8-9.

[SAPJ] - "What Jesus said about a pre-Advent judgment," Morris L. Venden, "Ministry" Magazine, September, 1982, pages 14-16.

[SITP] - "What Jesus said about the prophets," Morris L. Venden, "Ministry" Magazine, November, 1982, pages 22-23.

### **CAMPMEETING SERIES TRANSCRIPTS INCLUDED IN THIS TOPICAL STUDY**

[1-7 AUC CM] - Sermon Series at Atlantic Union Conference Campmeeting, Summer, 1979. (This was a seven-part lecture series, and each sermon is numbered: 1 AUC CM, 2 AUC CM, etc.)

Of the above materials, "Good News and Bad News About the Judgment," and "The Pillars," are among Venden's best books, for they tend to deal with doctrinal aspects on which he is more in agreement with traditional Adventism. To these two books should be added nearly all of the August through December sections of "Faith that Works." By the end of July, Venden had covered the means of salvation and had turned to other topics. Thinking, doubtless, that his audience was smaller, he gave some unusual material in his "Insight" articles and AUC Camp meeting Series. Seven of his nine published books were issued since 1981.

# CHAPTER TEN- SOME ADVENTIST DOCTRINES ARE WRONG

## NOT WHAT YOU BELIEVE (Doctrinal Content)

### NOT WHAT YOU BELIEVE

"In the first place, belief is not based on what, it is based on whom. It isn't what set of doctrines or creeds you consider to be correct. I know in whom I have believed, not in what I have believed." FTW, 138.

**[Morrie's problem very often is pitting one truth against another. We are saved by what we believe and "in whom" (Christ) we believe; not one vs. the other.]**

## SPIRIT OF PROPHECY WRITINGS

### A BASIC PROBLEM

"Because of the evidence that Jesus' coming is right upon us, people are getting panicky. One of our biggest temptations is to adjust our theology to match our experience, instead of finding out how to change our experience to match our theology. And in spite of our attempts to hide our real concern, we would have to admit that it isn't so much what Ellen White said about the geological formation of volcanoes, for instance, that we're having trouble with. The problem is what she said about sin and righteousness. I don't think that people are so worried about whether she borrowed material from Hanna or Edersheim or Uriah Smith. I think they are worried about what she had to say concerning sin and righteousness." GN, 21.

### SPIRIT OF PROPHECY STUDY-READING IN THE "TESTIMONIES" FOR STUDY TIME

"In all our devotional experience, the need is to study for the purpose of communication or fellowship with Jesus. Time alone at the beginning of every day to seek Jesus is the goal.

"If I am seeking fellowship with Jesus, am I going to spend more time studying the four Gospels or some point of history or prophecy? If I'm seeking fellowship with Jesus, would I choose a volume of rebuke and reproof or 'The Desire of Ages'? Let's make a distinction here. There are many people who have turned away from Ellen G. White and her writings because someone has majored in what we might call the instructional writings. There are entire books that are primarily for the purpose of instruction, counsel, reproof."

"There are other books that we might call inspirational writings. This doesn't mean that you can't find some instructions in the inspirational, and some inspiration in the instructional. But there are these two general types of writings."

"A person who studies only in the instructional often becomes the type of person who goes around with a special testimony for his neighbor across the aisle. He has a reproof and rebuke for every occasion." FTW, 113.

### [MY RESPONSE]

[5T 67--You might say that this communication was only a letter. Yes, it was a letter, but prompted by the Spirit of God, to bring before your minds things that had been shown me. In these letters which I write, in the testimonies I bear, I am presenting to you that which the Lord has presented to me. I do not write one article in the paper expressing merely my own ideas. They are what God has opened before me in vision--the precious rays of light shining from the throne.]

4T 230--God is either teaching His church, reproofing their wrongs and strengthening their faith, or He is not. This work is of God, or it is not. God does nothing in partnership with Satan. My work for the past thirty years bears the stamp of God or the stamp of the enemy. There is no halfway work in the matter. The Testimonies are of the Spirit of God, or of the devil.

3SM 68--Many times in my experience I have been called upon to meet the attitude of a certain class, who acknowledged that the testimonies were from God, but took the position that this matter and that matter were Sister White's opinion and judgment. This suits those who do not love reproof and correction, and who, if their ideas are crossed, have occasion to explain the difference between the human and the divine.

If the preconceived opinions or particular ideas of some are crossed in being reproved by testimonies, they have a burden at once to make plain their position to discriminate between the testimonies, defining what is Sister White's human judgment, and what is the word of the Lord. Everything that sustains their cherished ideas is divine, and the testimonies to correct their errors are human--Sister White's opinions. They make of none effect the counsel of God by their tradition.-- Manuscript 16, 1889.

5T 691--Do not by your criticisms take out all the force, all the point and power, from the Testimonies. Do not feel that you can dissect them to suit your own ideas, claiming that God has given you ability to discern what is light from heaven and what is the expression of mere human wisdom. If the Testimonies speak not according to the word of God, reject them. Christ and Belial cannot be united.

ISM 42,43-- It does not become anyone to drop a word of doubt here and there that shall work like poison in other minds, shaking their confidence in the messages which God has given, which have aided in laying the foundation of this work, and have attended it to the present day, in reproofs, warnings, corrections, and encouragements. To all who have stood in the way of the Testimonies, I would say, God has given a message to His people, and His voice will be heard, whether you hear or forbear. Your opposition has not injured me; but you must give an account to the God of heaven, who has sent these warnings and instructions to keep His people in the right way. You will have to answer to Him for your blindness, for being a stumbling block in the way of sinners.

Here is a great website if you have any doubts about the Spirit of Prophecy and it's authority:

<http://dedication.www3.50megs.com/Home.html>

END OF MY RESPONSE]

## **STANDARDS - DEALING WITH SPECIFIC SINS**

### **DEVIL HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH ROCK MUSIC?**

"Perhaps some speaker tells our young people that the devil has something to do with rock music, and they get rid of their rock records. But those who have given up their rock music for any reason other than a love for Jesus, and letting Jesus come into their lives, have not really given up their rock music." FTW, 169

### **IF YOU GIVE UP ROCK MUSIC**

"Whenever someone tries to eject sin by his own backbone and will power, he's going to end up in a worse condition than when he started. A teenager who has given up rock music may not go back to it, but he may take up something else. Or he may succumb to pride because of his accomplishment, and pride is the worst sin of all." -00 F, 36, 37.

### **JESUS HAS TO DO IT ALL**

"When it comes to my attempts to overcome smoking or temper, He has to do it all." 00 F, 42.

### **DRINKING AND SMOKING AND WITH JESUS**

"The weakest person, who can't stop his drinking or smoking or anything else, who also fears that he cannot enter into a meaningful private life with God, has hope too, because God will meet him more than halfway. When it comes to overcoming sins, God doesn't meet me more than halfway, He has to do it all." FTW, 173.

## THE ELIJAH MESSAGE

### SELF-WORSHIP

"The first part [of the Elijah Message] 'Ye have forsaken the commandments of the Lord. The second part 'Thou has followed Baalim.' And the third part, a call for decision, 'How long halt ye between two opinions?' . So the second part of Elijah's message is a warning against self-worship, a warning against trying to save ourselves by our own efforts. Therefore Baal worship is one of our greatest dangers. All you have to do to worship Baal is to try in some way, to save yourself, instead of relying upon the Lamb of God." RET, 16, 17,38.

## THE FIRST ANGEL'S MESSAGE

### THE FIRST ANGEL'S MESSAGE

"The second part is "Give glory to Him." There is no room for the glory of man in the work of the gospel. The human problem is the tendency to center on the glory, the achievements, the ability of man. In the Christian setting, even if we get it straight that we're not going to be able to add anything at all to the work of the cross, we still hang on like bulldogs to the idea that we can do something to help God out in the work He wants to do in us. But whether it's in what God has done for us [at Calvary], or whether it's in what God wants to do in us [now], there is no glory for man in the work of the gospel, because all we can do is come to Jesus and keep coming to Him, just as we are." RET, 51.

## THE SECOND ANGEL'S MESSAGE

### SPIRITUAL FORNICATION

"Right at the end of the second angel's message is something else we need to consider. It says that Babylon 'made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.' What is her 'fornication'? In a spiritual sense this would be the merging of two principles that are not mergeable. The two principles that cannot merge are salvation by faith and salvation by works. Theologians have a word for the attempt to merge two incompatible, antagonistic principles. Syncretism. Babylon is syncretism or spiritual fornication. For since salvation by faith and salvation by works are totally incompatible, they cannot be combined. They are mutually exclusive. Salvation is either totally through faith in Christ alone or totally through your own works. There is no middle ground. To attempt combining the two is to attempt the impossible." ROE, 64.

### OUT OF BABYLON

"Thank God He has power to free us from the captivity of Babylon and everything it involves and to bring us to our knees with Nebuchadnezzar in praise and honor of Him away from the worship of ourselves, away from glorifying ourselves, away from trying to save ourselves in any way, to worship Him, the Creator, the King of heaven." ROE, 68.

## THE SECOND ANGEL'S MESSAGE

" 'I want to do it myself!' We find it not only in children but in older people as well and it is found right in the middle of these three angels' messages. It is the very essence of all false religion, 'Do it myself, God, I'll do it myself.' " ROC, 60.

## THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE

### REST FROM LABOR

" 'No rest for the wicked' is a common phrase. But sometimes there has been no rest for the 'righteous' either, and that's one of the things we would like to notice particularly as we study the third angel's message. Finally, we are told that the ones who die in the Lord rest from their labors, and their works follow them. Jesus invites you today to rest from your labors, to be crucified with Christ, to be dead to self and self-worship. One of the things that happens at the very end with Elijah people is that we come to understand that we are invited to Jesus to find rest, not only in terms of our hope of heaven, but also in terms of obedience and our living now." ROE, 69, 80, 81.

## THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE



"The last warning message of Elijah the Third includes both the work of God for us and the work of God in us. These works of God take place only by faith, by the acceptance of His pardon and power. And this is what constitutes the third angel's message." ROE, 71.

## **THE PATIENCE OF THE SAINTS**

### **THE SAINTS ARE PATIENT WITH THEIR BEHAVIOR**

"Interestingly, the book of Revelation describes the commandment keeping saints as patient. If you are going to be one of those who have the faith of Jesus, enduring to the end and keeping God's commandments, you will have patience as well. Have you ever found yourself impatient with your behavior and performance? It's an easy thing to do. And yet surely we can afford to be as patient with ourselves as God is with us." OOF, 18.

## **THE BEAST**

### **THE BEAST OF REVELATION-SELF-WORSHIP**

"The beast represents a form of self-worship. And if there's anything worse than one person worshipping himself, it's two people worshipping themselves. And if there's anything worse than that, it's two million people worshipping themselves. And if there's anything worse than that, it's organized self-worship. So if you are familiar with this beast in the historical or prophetic sense at all, you know that it is a system of organized self-worship on the part of millions, a system of works as a basis of salvation. And self-worship is called blasphemy in the Bible."

"But do you have to become a part of this giant, worldwide, organized system of self-worship in order to worship yourself? Would it be possible to be a member of the 'remnant church' and still be worshipping yourself? It might be wise to stop focusing on people 'out there' whom we consider to be worshipping' themselves and begin looking closer to home." ROE, 72.

## **THE MARK AND THE SEAL**

### **THE MARK OF THE BEAST AND THE SEAL OF GOD**

"The mark of the beast is more than simply which day you go to church. Do you accept that? In fact, the seal of God, which you understand to be the opposite of the mark of the beast, involves more than just keeping Saturday. So the mark of the beast involves something more than just going to church on Sunday. These days can become symbols of works or faith. The first day of the week represents salvation by works." ROE, 73.

## **THE IMAGE OF THE BEAST-JANUARY 1 RESOLUTIONS EXAMPLE**

"So the image to the beast is enforcing a religious duty by human power. Will you personalize that, please? Have you ever tried to enforce a religious duty by human power in your life? Have you ever tried to enforce a religious duty by human power on January 1, righteousness by resolution. Human nature has long come up with psychological and humanistic gimmicks to try and force itself to obey. The combination of belief in God, in a theoretical sense, and trying to obey through your own efforts, is the image to the beast. But God's power plus man's power equals NO power." ROE, 77. [Emphasis his.].

## **BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY- TO BECOME A SLAVE TO THE IDEA THAT I CAN SAVE MYSELF**

"The only thing necessary to become a captive of Babylon is to become a slave to the idea that I can save myself or that I can 'do it myself,' in terms of living the Christian life or of getting to heaven. The person who is going through life trying to become good enough and stay good enough to 'make it' through the gates of the Holy City is a captive to Babylon. The religious person who does not take time for a meaningful devotional life has partaken of the essence of Babylon. He is trying to save himself. That's what Babylon is all about. Although its origin was at Babel, it has continued through the centuries to this very day. And it is possible, even at the very end of earth's history, to be a captive to Babylon." ROE, 61, 62.

## **[MY RESPONSE TO THE ABOVE]**

[ The three angels messages, the mark of the beast, the seal of God, etc. I have put just a few statements but there are hundreds.

Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins. Isaiah 58:1. {CTr 350.1}

This is our work. The light that we have upon the third angel's message is the true light. The mark of the beast is exactly what it has been proclaimed to be. All in regard to this matter is not yet understood, and will not be understood until the unrolling of the scroll, but a most solemn work is to be accomplished in our world. The Lord's command to His servants is "Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins." {CTr 350.4}

There is to be no change in the features of our work. It is to stand as clear and distinct as prophecy has made it. We are to enter into no confederacy with the world, supposing that by so doing we could accomplish more. If any stand in the way, to hinder the advancement of the work in the lines that God has appointed, they will displease God. No line of our faith that has made us what we are is to be weakened. We have the old landmarks of truth, experience, and duty; we are to stand firmly in defense of our principles, in full view of the world. {CTr 350.5}

What are you doing, brethren, in the great work of preparation? Those who are uniting with the world, are receiving the worldly mold, and preparing for the mark of the beast. Those who are distrustful of self, who are humbling themselves before God and purifying their souls by obeying the truth,—these are receiving the heavenly mold, and preparing for the seal of God in their foreheads. When the decree goes forth, and the stamp is impressed, their character will remain pure and spotless for eternity. {CET 191.1}

Now is the time to prepare. The seal of God will never be placed upon the forehead of an impure man or woman. It will never be placed upon the forehead of the ambitious, world-loving man or woman. It will never be placed upon the forehead of men or women of false tongues or deceitful hearts. All who receive the seal must be without spot before God,—candidates for heaven. Search the Scriptures for yourselves, that you may understand the fearful solemnity of the present hour. {CET 191.2}

The prophecy of Revelation 13 declares that the power represented by the beast with lamblike horns shall cause "the earth and them which dwell therein" to worship the papacy—there symbolized by the beast "like unto a leopard." The beast with two horns is also to say "to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast;" and, furthermore, it is to command all, "both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond," to receive the mark of the beast. Revelation 13:11-16. It has been shown that the United States is the power represented by the beast with lamblike horns, and that this prophecy will be fulfilled when the United States shall enforce Sunday observance, which Rome claims as the special acknowledgment of her supremacy.

When God sends to men warnings so important that they are represented as proclaimed by holy angels flying in the midst of heaven, He requires every person endowed with reasoning powers to heed the message. The fearful judgments denounced against the worship of the beast and his image (Revelation 14:9-11), should lead all to a diligent study of the prophecies to learn what the mark of the beast is, and how they are to avoid receiving it. But the masses of the people turn away their ears from hearing the truth and are turned unto fables. The apostle Paul declared, looking down to the last days: "The time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine." 2 Timothy 4:3. That time has fully come. The multitudes do not want Bible truth, because it interferes with the desires of the sinful, world-loving heart; and Satan supplies the deceptions which they love. {DD 37.1}

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.** {DD 37.2}

**Satan is constantly endeavoring to attract attention to man in the place of God. He leads the people to look to bishops, to pastors, to professors of theology, as their guides, instead of searching the Scriptures to learn their duty for themselves. Then, by controlling the minds of these leaders, he can influence the multitudes according to his will...** {DD 38.1}

### The Search for Salvation

God has given us His word that we may become acquainted with its teachings and know for ourselves what He requires of us. When the lawyer came to Jesus with the inquiry, "What shall I do to inherit eternal life?" the Saviour referred him to the Scriptures, saying: "What is written in the law? how readest thou?" Ignorance will not excuse young or old, nor release them from the punishment due for the transgression of God's law; because there is in their hands a faithful presentation of that law and of its principles and claims. **It is not enough to have good intentions; it is not enough to do what a man thinks is right or what the minister tells him is right. His soul's salvation is at stake, and he should search the Scriptures for himself. However strong may be his convictions, however confident he may be that the minister knows what is truth, this is not his foundation. He has a chart pointing out every waymark on the heavenward journey, and he ought not to guess at anything.** {DD 38.2}

**It is the first and highest duty of every rational being to learn from the Scriptures what is truth, and then to walk in the light and encourage others to follow his example. We should day by day study the Bible diligently, weighing every thought and comparing scripture with scripture. With divine help we are to form our opinions for ourselves as we are to answer for ourselves before God.** {DD 38.3}

**The truths most plainly revealed in the Bible have been involved in doubt and darkness by learned men, who, with a pretense of great wisdom, teach that the Scriptures have a mystical, a secret, spiritual meaning not apparent in the language employed. These men are false teachers.** It was to such a class that Jesus declared: "Ye know not the Scriptures, neither the power of God." Mark 12:24. The language of the Bible should be explained according to its obvious meaning, unless a symbol or figure is employed. Christ has given the promise: "If any man will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine." John 7:17. If men would but take the Bible as it reads, **if there were no false teachers to mislead and confuse their minds,** a work would be accomplished that would make angels glad and that would bring into the fold of Christ thousands upon thousands who are now wandering in error.... {DD 38.4} END MY RESPONSE]

## MEANING OF THE SABBATH

### REST FROM OVERCOMING-SYMBOLIZED BY SABBATH

"Of what is the Sabbath a sign? Sanctification. Exodus 31:13 talks about it. Ezekiel 20:12, 20 talks about it. The Sabbath is a sign of the God who sanctifies His people. The truth about God's day of rest and the truth about rest from our own efforts to overcome are closely connected." TKG, 100.

### ENTER THE REST OF NO LONGER TRYING.

"But I invite you today to enter into God's rest, to cease from your own works in trying to obey and overcome and be victorious. If we will continue to seek personal fellowship with Him, God will lead us to the rest that is symbolized by the Sabbath rest. I will try to put all this in the simplest possible terms. If you enter into a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ and continue that relationship with Him from now until He comes again, He will do the rest. That's the simplest answer to the question of how to obey. Forgiveness is a gift, salvation is a gift, and obedience is a gift, all to be received through continuing fellowship and communion with the One who is the giver." TKG, 100-101. .

### THIS EMPHASIS IS THE LAST MESSAGE TO MANKIND

"At the time of His coming there will be only two groups. This emphasis upon the righteousness of Christ by faith alone has been rising steadily, and nothing is stopping it. It's the last message just before Jesus returns, and it causes the last events just before He comes again. We can rejoice that we see it happening, for it tells us that Jesus' coming is very, very near." TKG, 124.

## [MY RESPONSE]

[See Hebrews 4. “The rest here spoken of is the rest of grace” (EGW Supplementary Material on Heb. 4:9; cf. GC 253). It is “the true rest of faith” (MB 1).

We enter into God’s “rest” when we “consider” Jesus (ch. 3:1) and listen to His voice (chs. 3:7, 15; 4:7), when we exercise faith in Him (ch. 4:2, 3), when we cease from our own efforts to earn salvation (v. 10), when we “hold fast our profession” (v. 14), and when we draw near to the throne of grace (v. 16). Those who would enter into this experience must beware of “an evil heart of unbelief” (ch. 3:12), of hardening their hearts (chs. 3:8, 15; 4:7). They must strive to enter into God’s “rest” (ch. 4:11).

Those who enter into God’s “rest” will “hold fast” their “profession” (v. 14). They will “come boldly unto the throne of grace” to “obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need” (v. 16).

“The importance of the Sabbath as the memorial of creation is that it keeps ever present the true reason why worship is due to God,” because he is the Creator, and we his creatures. “The Sabbath therefore lies at the very foundation of divine worship; for it teaches this great truth in the most impressive manner, and no other institution does this.

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The true ground of divine worship, not of that on the seventh day merely, but of all worship, is found in the distinction between the Creator and his creatures. This great fact can never become obsolete, and must never be forgotten.” It was to keep this truth ever before the minds of men, that God instituted the Sabbath in Eden; and so long as the fact that he is our Creator continues to be a reason why we should worship him, so long the Sabbath will continue as its sign and memorial. Had the Sabbath been universally kept, man's thoughts and affections would have been led to the Creator as the object of reverence and worship, and there would never have been an idolater, an atheist, or an infidel. The keeping of the Sabbath is a sign of loyalty to the true God, “him that made heaven and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.” It follows that the message which commands men to worship God and keep his commandments, will especially call upon them to keep the fourth commandment. {GC88 437.2}

In contrast to those who keep the commandments of God and have the faith of Jesus, the third angel points to another class, against whose errors a solemn and fearful warning is uttered: “If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God.” [Revelation 14:9, 10.] A correct interpretation of the symbols employed is necessary to an understanding of this message. {GC88 438.1}

Why are so many so slow in recognizing the work they ought to do in seeking to save that which is lost. Consider prayerfully what is to be done. Kill indolence. Lay hold of personal labor. Too much labor is done by those who minister in word and doctrine in behalf of churches that should be set to work themselves. The church members should carry a weight of responsibility. They should keep their own souls in the love of God by exercising all the powers they have. By precept and example they should bear witness of the power of the truth and grace of Christ upon human hearts. This will commend the truth that the seventh-day Sabbath is a sign between them and their God. Obedience in the observance of the Sabbath testifies of the sanctification received through its observance. {19MR 173.1}

The Rest Obtained by Labor.-- [Hebrews 4:9, 11 quoted.] The rest here spoken of is the rest of grace, obtained by following the prescription, Labor diligently. Those who learn of Jesus His meekness and lowliness find rest in the experience of practicing His lessons. It is not in indolence, in selfish ease and pleasure-seeking, that rest is obtained. Those who are unwilling to give the Lord faithful, earnest, loving service will not find spiritual rest in this life or in the life to come. Only from earnest labor comes peace and joy in the Holy Spirit--happiness on earth and glory hereafter. {7BC 928.7}

There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. Hebrews 4:9. {SD 76.1}

If you are willing to learn meekness and lowliness of heart in Christ's school, He will surely give you rest and peace. It is a terribly hard struggle to give up your own will and your own way. But this lesson learned,

you will find rest and peace. Pride, selfishness, and ambition, must be overcome; your will must be swallowed up in the will of Christ. The whole life may become one constant love sacrifice, every action a manifestation, and every word an utterance of love. As the life of the vine circulates through stem and cluster, descends into the lower fibres, and reaches to the topmost leaf, so will the grace and love of Christ burn and abound in the soul, sending its virtues to every part of the being, and pervading every exercise of body and mind. {SD 76.2}

In being co-workers with Christ in the great work for which He gave His life, we shall find true rest. When we were sinners, He gave His life for us. He wants us to come to Him and learn of Him. Thus we are to find rest. He says He will give us rest. "Learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart." In doing this you will find in your own experience the rest that Christ gives, the rest that comes from wearing His yoke and lifting His burdens. {SD 76.3}

A form of godliness without the power is a weariness and burden; but when the whole heart is enlisted in the service of Christ, there is rest to the soul; for God causeth such to triumph daily over the powers of darkness. God helps him who commits his soul unto the Lord as unto a faithful Creator. {SD 76.4}

To learn the lessons Christ teaches is the greatest treasure students can find. Rest comes to them in the consciousness that they are trying to please the Lord. 77 {SD 76.5} END MY RESPONSE]

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