

SPIRIT OF PROPHECY STATEMENTS

ON CHRISTIAN GROWTH

Presented by Arthur L. White

FAITH AND WORKSA Cheap Faith Unsupported by Works

If Christ is my Saviour, my sacrifice, my atonement, then I shall never perish. Believing on Him, I have life forevermore. Oh, that all who believe the truth would believe in Jesus as their own Saviour. I do not mean that cheap faith unsupported by works, but that earnest, living, constant, abiding faith, that eats the flesh and drinks the blood of the Son of God. I want not only to be pardoned for the transgression of God's holy law, but I want to be lifted into the sunshine of God's countenance. Not simply to be admitted to heaven, but to have an abundant entrance.--(Letter 55, 1886) 2 SM 381

Avoid Boastful Claims

We must have the right kind of faith, combined with good works. If we have saving faith, we shall indeed see of the salvation of God. Let none of us have a superficial faith which means nothing. Do not say, "This one was prayed for, and saved." This is misleading. This is not that saving faith which works by love and purifies the soul. Every soul will be tested and proved, and if in the proving any man draws back, he will fail to meet the standard of God. "The just shall live by faith." They will show their faith by their works. "If any man draw back," God says, "my soul shall have no pleasure in him." . . .

It is one thing to profess to be a follower of Christ; it is another thing to do honor to Him by sincere faith, standing with firm purpose of heart as His witnesses, bearing public testimony in His name. It is the application of practical godliness that will strengthen the ranks of the professors of the faith. With many the truth is at first enthusiastically received. Then there comes some statements from the Word which are needed for the purification of the soul, and Christ is abandoned by these false disciples. Pride is offended, and Satan's hellish shadow wraps them about. Thus it has been, and thus it will continue to be to the close of this earth's history.--Manuscript 111, 1898

Not Without Effort on Our Part

Let no one imagine that it is an easy thing to overcome the enemy, and through faith and perfect obedience gain eternal life. Not one can be borne aloft to an incorruptable inheritance without effort on his part. To look back is to grow dizzy, to let go is to perish. Few appreciate the importance of striving constantly to overcome. They relax their diligence, and as the result become selfish and self-indulgent, spiritual vigilance is not thought to be essential. Earnestness in human effort is not brought into the Christian life.--Letter 53, 1887.

When We Use Just One Oar.

The Lord calls upon all who think they know what faith is, to be sure that they are not putting, with only one oar, that their little bark is not going round and round, making no progress at all. Faith without intelligent works is dead, being alone. Faith in the healing power of God will not save unless it is combined with good works.--Manuscript 86, 1897.

Faith and Works, Two Oars

If we are faithful in doing our part in cooperating with Him, God will work through us [to do] the good pleasure of His will. But God cannot work through us if we make no effort. If we gain eternal life, we must work, and work earnestly. . . . Let us not be deceived by the oft-repeated assertion, "All you have to do is to believe." Faith and works are two oars which we must use equally if we [would] press our way up the stream against the current of unbelief. . . . By faith and good works he [the Christian] keeps his spirituality strong and healthy, and his spiritual strength increases as he strives to work the works of God.--Review and Herald June 11, 1901. (Revival and Beyond, p. 38)

"ONLY BELIEVE AND BE SAVED"

"Only Believe," the Cry

The faith in Christ which saves the soul is not what it is represented to be by many. "Believe, believe," is their cry; "only believe in Christ and you will be saved. It is all you have to do."

While true faith trusts wholly in Christ for salvation, it will lead to perfect conformity to the law of God. Faith is manifested by works. And the apostle John declares, "He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him."

It is unsafe to trust to feeling or impressions; these are unreliable guides. God's law is the only correct standard of holiness. It is by this law that character is to be judged. If an inquirer after salvation were to ask, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" the modern teachers of sanctification would answer, "Only believe that Jesus saves you." But when Christ was asked this question He said, "What is written in the law? How readest thou?"--Review and Herald, Oct. 5, 1886.

Sugar-Coated Spiritual Poison

Many are led to think that they are on the road to Heaven, because they profess to believe in Christ, while they reject the law of God. But they will find at last that they were on the way to perdition, instead of Heaven. Spiritual poison is sugar-coated with the doctrine of sanctification, and administered to the people. Thousands eagerly swallow it, feeling that if they are only honest in their belief they will be safe. But sincerity will not convert error to truth. A man may swallow poison, thinking it is food; but his sincerity will not save him from the effects of the dose.--Review and Herald, March 8, 1881

Only Trust in Christ

From the pulpits of today the words are uttered: "Believe, only believe. Have faith in Christ; you have nothing to do with the old law, only trust in Christ." How different is this from the words of the apostle, who declares that faith without works is dead.

He says, "But be ye doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." We must have that faith that works by love and purifies the soul.

Many seek to substitute a superficial faith for uprightness of life, and think through this to obtain salvation. The Lord requires at this time just what He required of Adam in Eden,--perfect obedience to the law of God. We must have righteousness without a flaw, without a blemish.

God gave His Son to die for the world, but He did not die to repeal the law which was holy and just and good. The sacrifice of Christ on Calvary is an unanswerable argument showing the immutability of the law. Its penalty was felt by the Son of God in behalf of guilty man, that through His merits the sinner might obtain the virtue of His spotless character by faith in His name.

The cross of Calvary forever condemns the idea that Satan has placed before the Christian world, that the death of Christ abolished not only the typical system of sacrifices and ceremonies but the unchangeable law of God, the foundation of His throne, the transcript of His character.--Signs of the Times, May 19, 1890.

An Early Experience

During family prayer that night, the Spirit of the Lord rested upon me, and I was shown many things in vision. These (two) men were presented to me as doing great injury to the cause of God. While professing sanctification, they were transgressing the sacred law. . . .

"Believe in Christ," was the cry of these claimants of sanctification. "Only believe; this is all that is required of you. Only have faith in Jesus."

The words of John came forcibly to my mind, "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."
--Life Sketches 83-4

Just What Are We To Believe?

There are many who cry, "Believe, only believe." Ask them what you are to believe. Are you to believe the lies forged by Satan against God's Holy, just, and good law? God does not use His great and precious grace to make of none effect His law, but to establish His law. What is the decision of Paul? He says: "What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law. . . . For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and [the commandment then ended?--No.] I [Paul] died. . . . Wherefore the law is [standing directly in the way of my having liberty and peace?--No.] Holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good." (Rom. 7:7-12)
--1 SM 347

Faith and Works Go Together

It is essential to have faith in Jesus, and to believe you are saved through Him; but there is danger in taking the position that many do take in saying, "I am saved." Many have said: "You must do good works, and you will live"; but apart from Christ no one can do good works. Many at the present day say, "Believe, only believe, and live." Faith and works go together, believing and doing are blended. The Lord requires no less of the soul now, than He required of Adam in Paradise before he fell--perfect obedience, unblemished righteousness.
--1 SM 373

-- See Revival pp. 15, 34, 43

GOD'S LAW THE TEST

The Terms of Salvation Outlined in God's Law.

The ten commandments, Thou shalt, and Thou shalt not, are ten promises, assured to us if we render obedience to the law governing the universe. "If ye love me, keep my commandments." Here is the sum and substance of the law of God. The terms of salvation for every son and daughter of Adam are here outlined.--Manuscript 41, 1896

The ten holy precepts spoken by Christ upon Sinai's mount were the revelation of the character of God, and made known to the world the fact that He had jurisdiction over the whole human heritage. That law of ten precepts of the greatest love that can be presented to man is the voice of God from heaven speaking to the soul in promise, "This do, and you will not come under the dominion and control of Satan." There is not a negative in that law, although it may appear thus. It is DO, and live.--Letter 89, 1898. (1 BC p. 1105)

Faith of No Avail Without Obedience

Every day our faith should increase. While we say, "I know that I am a sinner," we can say also, "I know I have a Saviour." Jesus died for sinners, and He will pardon my sins, if I sincerely repent. It is of no avail to claim to believe on Christ unless we acknowledge the claims of God's law and daily strive to obey its precepts.--Manuscript 25, 1886

The Bible is the standard by which to test the claims of all who profess sanctification. . . . God requires at this time what He required of the holy pair in Eden, perfect obedience to His requirements. His law remains the same in all ages. The great standard of righteousness presented in the Old Testament is not lowered in the New. It is not the work of the gospel to weaken the claims of God's holy law; but to bring men up where they can keep its precepts. . . .

It is unsafe to trust to feelings or impressions; these are unreliable guides. God's law is the only correct standard of holiness. It is by this law that character is to be judged. If an inquirer after salvation were to ask, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" the modern teachers of sanctification would answer, "Only believe that Jesus saves you." But when Christ was asked this question He said, "What is written in the law? How readest thou?" . . .

True sanctification will be evidenced by a conscientious regard for all the commandments of God, by a careful improvement of every talent, by a circumspect conversation, by revealing in every act the meekness of Christ. . . .

While they profess to be sinless, and boast of their righteousness, the claimants of sanctification teach that men are at liberty to transgress the law of God, and that those who obey its precepts have fallen from grace. A presentation of its claims arouses their opposition, and excites anger and contempt. . . . It is by the law of God that the sinner is convicted.--Review and Herald, October 5, 1886

Bible Sanctification Leads to God's Law.

Bible sanctification will lead its possessors to know the requirements of God and to obey them. There is a pure and holy heaven in store for those who keep God's commandments. It is worth lifelong, persevering, untiring effort.--Manuscript 58, 1897. Review and Herald, Feb. 8, 1898

In order to be saved, we must know by experience the meaning of true conversion. It is a fearful mistake for men and women to go on day by day professing to be Christians yet having no right to the name. In God's sight profession is nothing, position is nothing. He asks, Is the life in harmony with My precepts? There are many who suppose that they are converted but who are not able to bear the test of character presented in the Word of God. . . .

Let us not forget that in his conversion and sanctification man must cooperate with God. "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling," the word declared. "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure." (Phil. 2:12,13) Man cannot transform himself by the exercise of his will. He possesses no power by which this change may be effected. The renewing energy must come from God. The change can be made only by the Holy Spirit. He who would be saved, high or low, rich or poor, must submit to the working of this power.--Review and Herald, July 7, 1904. (In Heavenly Places, p. 20)

THE SABBATH AND SANCTIFICATION

Sabbathkeeping and True Sanctification. Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant. It is a sign between me and the children of Israel forever; for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, and on the seventh He rested and was refreshed."

True sanctification comes through willing obedience. We are distinctly and decidedly taught that the proper observance of the Sabbath brings a knowledge of what constituted true sanctification. Reputation and even life itself might better be sacrificed than the truth of the word of God. God declares that when His Sabbath is honored as sacred and holy, it is to His people a sign between Him and them, whereby

they may know that He is that doth sanctify them. "Ye shall keep the Sabbath therefore; for it is holy unto you." God has set it apart to be devoted to holy service. It is His memorial of creation. By His creative power God is distinguished from all other gods that are worshipped. The Sabbath is a public token by which the world may recognize the true and living God. - If they obey Him and reverence His holy day, the Sabbath is a continual sign between Him and them, a pledge that He that He will recognize and fulfill His covenant.

We are to render implicit obedience to the commandments of God. Let us remember that by keeping the Sabbath holy, we are honoring God. And those that honor Him, He will honor.--Letter 66, 1900.

Sabbathkeeping the only Scriptural Sanctification. I spoke on Sabbath. These men [non-Adventists holding responsible positions whose wives were church members] were all there, no less than three of them hanging in the balance. The wind blew so that the pulpit had to be moved near to the people to preserve me from taking cold. I had great freedom in speaking, and told them plainly that the Lord Jesus was in our midst. I asked them to turn to Ezekiel 31--"And the Lord spake unto Moses saying, (Now, said I, listen attentively to what the Lord is saying unto you this day), speak thou unto the children of Israel saying, Verily my Sabbaths ye shall keep, for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations that ye may know that I am the Lord that did sanctify you. Ye shall keep the Sabbath therefore, for it is holy unto you. Every one that defileth it shall surely be put to death. For whosoever doeth any work therein that soul shall be cut off from among his people." I read to the close of the chapter. Then I asked them if they would turn away from a plain "Thus saith the Lord," for the sayings of men, when they see that their assertions are entirely contrary to the Word of God. The Word has made the statement "I am the Lord that do sanctify you" if you observe the Sabbath. This is the only true sanctification in the Scriptures--that which comes from God because of obedience to His commandments. Then we may know that the little companies assembled together to worship the Lord on the day which He has blessed and made holy, have a right to claim the rich blessings of Jehovah. He who has declared that His words are spirit and life, should have their faith in strong exercise that the Lord Jesus is an honored guest in their assemblies.--Letter 8, 1898.

ONE OF SATAN'S GREAT DELUSIONS

One of the Veriest Delusions

During the meetings at Orebro, I was urged by the Spirit of the Spirit of the Lord to present His law as the great standard of righteousness, and to warn our people against the modern counterfeit sanctification which has its origin in will-worship rather than in submission to the will of God. This error is fast flooding the world, and as God's witnesses we shall be called to bear a decided testimony against it. It is one of the veriest delusions of the last days, and will prove a temptation to all who believe present truth.

Those who have not their faith firmly established upon the Word of God will be misled. The saddest part of it all is that so few who are deceived by this error ever find their way to the light again.

The Bible is the standard by which to test the claims of all who profess sanctification.--Review and Herald, October 5, 1886.

One of Satan's Most Successful Deceptions

Let us look well to it that Satan does not allure and deceive us through false representations. Eternal interests are here involved. God's claims should come first; His requirements should receive our first attention.

Every child of fallen Adam must through the transforming grace of Christ, become obedient to all God's requirements. . . Satan is ever ready, and he presents plausible reasons why it would not be best to obey the word of God just as it reads. Thus souls are fatally deceived.

One of Satan's most successful deceptions is to lead men to claim to be sanctified, while at the same time they are living in disobedience to God's commandments. These are described by Jesus as those who will say, "Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?"

Yes, those who claim to be sanctified have a great deal to say about being saved by the blood of Jesus; but their sanctification is not through the truth as it is in Jesus. While claiming to believe in Him, and apparently doing wonderful works in His name, they ignore His Father's law, and serve as agents of the great adversary of souls to carry forward the work which he began in Eden, that of making plausible excuses for not obeying God implicitly. Their work of leading men to dishonor God by ignoring His law, will one day be unfolded before them with its true results. . . .

None who have had the light of truth will enter the city of God as commandment-breakers. His law lies at the foundation of His government in earth and in heaven. If they have knowingly trampled upon and despised His law on earth, they will not be taken to heaven to do the same work there; there is no change of character when Christ comes. . . .

Those who make a raid against God's law are warring against God Himself. . . .

There are to be but two classes upon the earth, the obedient children of God and the disobedient.--Review and Herald, Aug. 25, 1885.

Satan has come down in these last days to work with all deceptiveness of unrighteousness in them that perish. His Satanic majesty works miracles in the sight of false prophets, in the sight of men, claiming that he is indeed Christ himself. Satan gives his power to those who are aiding him in his deceptions; there those who claim to have the great power of God can only be discerned by the great detector, the law

of Jehovah. The Lord tells us if it were possible they would deceive the very elect. The sheep's clothing seems so real, so genuine, that the wolf cannot be discerned only as we go to God's great moral standard and there find that they are transgressors of the law of Jehovah.--
Review & Herald, August 25, 1885. (5BC 1087-8)

AFFILIATING WITH SABBATH-BREAKING CHRISTIANS

Not to Unite With the Rebellious

The epistles of John breathe the spirit of love. It seems as if he wrote with a pen dipped in love. But when he came in contact with those who were breaking the law of God, yet claiming that they were living without sin, he did not hesitate to warn them of their fearful deception. . . .

We are authorized to hold in the same estimation as did the beloved disciple those who claim to abide in Christ while living in transgression of God's law. There exist in these last days evils similar to those that threatened the prosperity of the early church; and the teachings of the apostle John on these points should be carefully heeded.

. . . .

While we are to love the souls for whom Christ died, we are to make no compromise with evil. We are not to unite with the rebellious and call this charity. God requires His people in this age of the world to stand for the right as unflinchingly as did John in opposition to soul-destroying errors.

The apostle teaches that while we should manifest Christian courtesy, we are authorized to deal in plain terms with sin and sinners; that this is not inconsistent with true charity.--Acts of the Apostles, pp. 554-5

Cannot Harmonize in Worship

Those who love the law of God cannot harmonize in worship or in spirit with the determined transgressors of that law, who are filled with bitterness and malice when the plainly revealed truths of the Bible are taught. We have a detector which discriminates between the true and the false. "To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them."--Signs of the Times, February 26, 1885

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