SABBATH SCHOOL LESSONS

SECOND HALF 2019
July — December

The First Angel's Message

ADVENT PILGRIMS FELLOWSHIP
SABBATH SCHOOL LESSONS
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SECTION 1

JUDGMENT-BOUND EVERLASTING GOSPEL
Introduction

WHAT should be our study so close to the termination of our probationary time? Should it not be that which will secure for us the very condition Jesus declares upon those saved at the close of probation? “He that is righteous, let him be righteous still; and he that is holy let him be holy still.” Revelation 22:11.

Do we assuredly know what it means to be righteous and holy? Is it not incumbent upon us to know it and to be just that? Therefore the Sabbath School Lessons for Advent Pilgrims for the next six months will encompass just such a study; a study into the first angel’s message of Revelation 14.

In this first section we will make a close study into the first part of this angel’s message; to understand what the everlasting gospel actually is in practical reality and what it is designed to achieve in the lives of those who receive it. In our research we will prepare our minds to benefit from the study of the second section by examining the provision of God by which we may reach the condition this section will clearly show the gospel to achieve.

Let us do just what the Bible admonishes in 2 Peter 1:10, 11:

“Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: for so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.”

Our diligent study of this lesson will be used of God to gain His design for us.

Amen.
The Everlasting Covenant

But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. Jeremiah 31:33

OBJECTIVES

- To let Scripture link the everlasting covenant with the everlasting gospel.
- To examine the content that the two expressions hold.
- To observe the living engagement Scripture demonstrates in the application of the everlasting covenant/gospel.

COVENANT AND GOSPEL INTEGRATION

1. Were the Hebrews in the wilderness wanderings exposed to the gospel of Jesus Christ? Hebrews 4:2; 1 Corinthians 10:1-4

“There is no such contrast as is often claimed to exist between the Old and the New Testament, the law of God and the gospel of Christ, the requirements of the Jewish and those of the Christian dispensation. Every soul saved in the former dispensation was saved by Christ as verily as we are saved by Him today. Patriarchs and prophets were Christians. The gospel promise was given to the first pair in Eden, when they had by transgression separated themselves from God. The gospel was preached to
Abraham. The Hebrews all drank of that spiritual Rock, which was Christ.”

“Shrouded in the pillar of cloud, the world’s Redeemer held communion with Israel. Let us not say, then, that they had not Christ. When the people thirsted in the wilderness, and gave themselves up to murmuring and complaint, Christ was to them what He is to us—a Saviour full of tender compassion, the Mediator between them and God. After we have done our part to cleanse the soul temple from the defilement of sin, Christ’s blood avails for us, as it did for ancient Israel.” —S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 6, p. 1061.

2. How were the Hebrews made aware of the gospel? Jeremiah 31:31-33; Hebrews 8:7, 8

“The Israelites had been specially charged not to lose sight of the commandments of God, in obedience to which they would find strength and blessing.

“They had witnessed the proclamation of the law in awful majesty, and had trembled with terror before the mount; and yet only a few weeks passed before they broke their covenant with God, and bowed down to worship a graven image. They could not hope for the favor of God through a covenant which they had broken; and now, seeing their sinfulness and their need of pardon, they were brought to feel their need of the Saviour revealed in the Abrahamic covenant and shadowed forth in the sacrificial offerings. Now by faith and love they were bound to God as their deliverer from the bondage of sin. Now they were prepared to appreciate the blessings of the new covenant.” —God’s Amazing Grace, p. 136.

3. Does Inspiration link the everlasting covenant with the gospel? Galatians 3:8; Genesis 17:7
“The Abrahamic covenant was ratified by the blood of Christ, and it is called the "second," or "new," covenant, because the blood by which it was sealed was shed after the blood of the first covenant.

“The covenant of grace is not a new truth, for it existed in the mind of God from all eternity. This is why it is called the everlasting covenant.

“There is hope for us only as we come under the Abrahamic covenant, which is the covenant of grace by faith in Christ Jesus. The gospel preached to Abraham, through which he had hope, was the same gospel that is preached to us today. . . . Abraham looked unto Jesus, who is also the author and the finisher of our faith.” —The Faith I Live By, p. 77.

“The salvation of the human race has ever been the object of the councils of heaven. The covenant of mercy was made before the foundation of the world. It has existed from all eternity, and is called the everlasting covenant. So surely as there never was a time when God was not, so surely there never was a moment when it was not the delight of the eternal mind to manifest His grace to humanity.” —The Faith I Live By, p. 76.

SAVING INGREDIENTS

4. Upon examination of this new or everlasting covenant, what are the saving elements it contains? Isaiah 55:3, 4; Hebrews 9:10, 12; Ezekiel 36:26, 27

5. As this is equally the gospel of Jesus Christ, can we discern the linkage of the law inscribed into the heart by Jesus? 2 Corinthians 4:6, 7; 3:3
“The same law that was engraved upon the tables of stone, is written by the Holy Spirit upon the tables of the heart. Instead of going about to establish our own righteousness we accept the righteousness of Christ. His blood atones for our sins. His obedience is accepted for us. Then the heart renewed by the Holy Spirit will bring forth "the fruits of the Spirit." Through the grace of Christ we shall live in obedience to the law of God written upon our hearts. Having the Spirit of Christ, we shall walk even as He walked.”

“Where there is not only a belief in God’s Word, but a submission of the will to Him; where the heart is yielded to Him, the affections fixed upon Him, there is faith--faith that works by love, and purifies the soul. Through this faith the heart is renewed in the image of God. And the heart that in its unrenewed state is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be, now delights in its holy precepts, exclaiming with the psalmist, "O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day" (Psalm 119:97). And the righteousness of the law is fulfilled in us, "who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit" (Romans 8:1).” —God’s Amazing Grace, p. 137.

**COVENANT, GOSPEL ENGAGEMENT**

6. In exercising ourselves with the covenant-making God, will our experience be much the same as the Hebrews’ in question two? Matthew 19:17 (last part); Exodus 19:5, 6, 8; Deuteronomy 26:16-18; Exodus 24:7

“The covenant that God made with His people at Sinai is to be our refuge and defense…. This covenant is of just as much force today as it was when the Lord made it with ancient Israel…. “This is the pledge that God’s people are to make in these last days. Their acceptance with God depends on a faithful fulfillment of the terms of their
agreement with Him. God includes in His covenant all who will obey Him.” —*God’s Amazing Grace*, p. 142.

7. As we make solemn commitments with God to keep His commandments, what will we find? Romans 7:7-11, 22-24

“He who is trying to become holy by his own works in keeping the law, is attempting an impossibility. All that man can do without Christ is polluted with selfishness and sin. It is the grace of Christ alone, through faith, that can make us holy.” —*Steps to Christ*, p. 59.

8. As we fail so miserably to be true to our promise, what does Scripture reveal as the reason for Christ’s death?

Hebrews 9:14, 15

“It is true that men sometimes become ashamed of their sinful ways, and give up some of their evil habits, before they are conscious that they are being drawn to Christ. But whenever they make an effort to reform, from a sincere desire to do right, it is the power of Christ that is drawing them. An influence of which they are unconscious works upon the soul, and the conscience is quickened, and the outward life is amended. And as Christ draws them to look upon His cross, to behold Him whom their sins have pierced, the commandment comes home to the conscience. The wickedness of their life, the deep-seated sin of the soul, is revealed to them. They begin to comprehend something of the righteousness of Christ, and exclaim, "What is sin, that it should require such a sacrifice for the redemption of its victim? Was all this love, all this suffering, all this humiliation, demanded, that we might not perish, but have everlasting life?"” —*Steps to Christ*, p. 27.
9. In that conscious condition of helpless unworthiness, and God’s amazing grace, is the heart now a receptacle of God’s law? Romans 8:1-4; Galatians 2:19, 20

“By the offering made in our behalf we are placed on vantage-ground. The sinner, drawn by the power of Christ from the confederacy of sin, approaches the uplifted cross, and prostrates himself before it. Then there is a new creature in Christ Jesus. The sinner is cleansed and purified. A new heart is given to him.” —Sons and Daughters of God, p. 243.

NOTES
Gospel Fruition

*For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*  
*Ephesians 2:10*

**OBJECTIVES**

- To research in the word what the gospel is designed to produce.
- To meditate upon the gospel in order to discover the power by which this design is reached.
- To let Scripture display the manifestation of a people formed by the gospel.

**GOSPEL DESIGN**

1. How does the word express what the gospel of Jesus Christ is designed to do? Matthew 1:21; Titus 2:11-14

“Those who believe on Christ and obey His commandments are not under bondage to God’s law; for to those who believe and obey, His law is not a law of bondage, but of liberty. Everyone who believes on Christ, everyone who relies on the keeping power of a risen Saviour that has suffered the penalty pronounced upon the transgressor, everyone who resists temptation and in the midst of evil copies the pattern given in the Christ life, will through faith in the atoning sacrifice of Christ become a partaker of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through
lust. Everyone who by faith obeys God’s commandments will reach the condition of sinlessness in which Adam lived before his transgression.”
—In Heavenly Places, p. 146.

“Through the plan of redemption, a way has been provided whereby the sinner may be led from the depths of ruin upward to the paradise of God. This provision has been wrought out through an infinite sacrifice on the part of the Father and the Son. The love of God is expressed to man in the priceless gift of his Son; but Christ was given to a lost world, that we might be saved, not in our sins, but from our sins.” —The Review and Herald, February 10, 1891.

2. Do the Scriptures expand on the meaning of salvation from sin?
1 Peter 4:1, 2; Jude 1:24; Hebrews 13:20, 21; Ephesians 2:10

“God’s purpose is . . . to save from sin. . . . The soul, corrupted and deformed, is to be purified, transformed.” —The Faith I Live By, p. 88.

COMPELLING POWER

3. How did Apostle Paul express his appreciation of the gospel?
Romans 1:16, 17; 1 Corinthians 1:18

“Under the inspiration of the Spirit, the apostle Paul represents Christians as those who have purified their souls in obeying the truth. Just in accordance with the faith and love we bring into our work will be the power brought into it. No man can create faith. The Spirit operating upon and enlightening the human mind, creates faith in God. In the Scriptures faith is stated to be the gift of God, powerful unto salvation, enlightening the hearts of those who search for truth as for hidden treasure. The Spirit of
God impresses the truth on the heart. The gospel is called the power of God unto salvation, because God alone can make the truth a power which sanctifies the soul. He alone can render the cross of Christ triumphant.” —The General Conference Bulletin, April 1, 1899.

4. What in reality is this power that transforms a sinner into willing submission to the will of God? 1 John 4:16, 17; 2 Corinthians 5:14, 15

“It is no part of Christ’s mission to compel men to receive Him. It is Satan, and men actuated by his spirit, who seek to compel the conscience. Under a pretense of zeal for righteousness, men who are confederated with evil angels sometimes bring suffering upon their fellow men in order to convert them to their ideas of religion; but Christ is ever showing mercy, ever seeking to win by the revealing of His love. He can admit no rival in the soul, nor accept of partial service; but He desires only voluntary service, the willing surrender of the heart under the constraint of love.” —The Acts of the Apostles, p. 541.

5. Does Inspiration prompt us to behold and consider this love? 1 John 3:1

“John cannot find adequate words wherein to describe the amazing love of God to sinful man, but he calls upon all to behold the love of God revealed in the gift of His only begotten Son. Through the perfection of the sacrifice given for the guilty race, those who believe in Christ . . . may be saved from eternal ruin. Christ was one with the Father, yet when sin entered our world through Adam’s transgression, He was willing to step down from the exaltation of One who was equal with God, who dwelt in light unapproachable by humanity, so full of glory that no man could behold His face and live, and submit to insult, mockery, suffering, pain, and death, in order to answer the claims of the immutable law of God, and make a way
of escape for the transgressor by His death and righteousness. This was the work which His Father gave Him to do, and those who accept Christ, relying wholly upon His merits, are made the adopted sons and daughters of God--are heirs of God, and joint heirs with Jesus Christ.” —That I May Know Him, p. 60.

6. By the suggestion posed in the note of question five, what is the detail of God’s love that our meditation should focus on? 1 John 4:9, 10; Hebrews 12:2, 3; Lamentations 1:12-14

“Jesus was the majesty of heaven, the beloved commander of the angels, who delighted to do His pleasure. He was one with God, "in the bosom of the Father" (John 1:18), yet He thought it not a thing to be desired to be equal with God while man was lost in sin and misery. He stepped down from His throne, He left His crown and royal scepter, and clothed His divinity with humanity. He humbled Himself even to the death of the cross, that man might be exalted to a seat with Him upon His throne. In Him we have a complete offering, an infinite sacrifice, a mighty Saviour, who is able to save unto the uttermost all that come unto God by Him. In love He comes to reveal the Father, to reconcile man to God, to make him a new creature renewed after the image of Him who created him.” —God’s Amazing Grace, p. 160.

“Such love is without a parallel. Children of the heavenly King! Precious promise! Theme for the most profound meditation! The matchless love of God for a world that did not love Him! The thought has a subduing power upon the soul and brings the mind into captivity to the will of God. The more we study the divine character in the light of the cross, the more we see mercy, tenderness, and forgiveness blended with equity and justice, and the more clearly we discern innumerable evidences of a love that is infinite and a tender pity surpassing a mother’s yearning sympathy for her wayward child.” —Steps to Christ, p. 15.
A MANIFEST PEOPLE

7. Contemplating the love of God, how far will a believer go in response to this love? John 14:15; 1 John 5:1-4; 2 Corinthians 3:18

“The contemplation of the love of God manifested in the gift of His Son for the salvation of fallen men will stir the heart and arouse the powers of the soul as nothing else will.” —That I May Know Him, p. 168.

“By contemplation of God’s matchless love, we take upon us His nature. Christ was a representative before men and before angels, of the character of the God of heaven. He demonstrated the fact that when humanity depends wholly upon God, men may keep God’s commandments and live, and His law be as the apple of the eye.” —Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers, p. 226.

8. Does the Bible display a people who are fully transformed by the power of the gospel of love? 2 Corinthians 3:3; Revelation 14:12 i.e. verse 5

“The 144,000 were all sealed and perfectly united. On their foreheads was written, God, New Jerusalem, and a glorious star containing Jesus’ new name. At our happy, holy state the wicked were enraged, and would rush violently up to lay hands on us to thrust us into prison, when we would stretch forth the hand in the name of the Lord, and they would fall helpless to the ground. Then it was that the synagogue of Satan knew that God had loved us who could wash one another’s feet and salute the brethren with a holy kiss, and they worshiped at our feet.” —Early Writings, p. 15.
NOTES
Embracing Jesus – The Seed

Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ. Galatians 3:16

OBJECTIVES

- To explore Inspiration in reference to the woman’s seed of Galatians 3:16.
- To contemplate upon the Biblical revelation of the singularity of the seed.
- To gain an appreciation of the assimilation of the seed by believers.

THE WOMAN’S SEED

1. What does Inspiration reveal regarding the curse God declared upon the serpent in Eden? Genesis 3:15

“To Abraham was given the promise that of his line the Saviour of the world should come: "In thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed." "He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ." Genesis 22:18; Galatians 3:16.” —The Acts of the Apostles, p. 222.

“He who does not seek each day to be more like Christ cannot know the character of God. Living a pure life through faith in Christ as a personal Saviour brings the believer into a clearer, higher conception of God. No man whose character is not noble and Christlike can set forth God in a
correct light. He may preach Christ but he does not show his hearers that Christ is an abiding guest in his heart.

"This do, and thou shalt live," Christ said to the lawyer who had answered His question in the words, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself." Eternal life is the reward that will be given to all who obey the two great principles of God’s law—love to God and love to man. The first four commandments define and enjoin love to God; the last six, love to our fellow men. Obedience to God’s commands is the only evidence man can give that he possesses a genuine, saving knowledge of God. And supreme love for God is demonstrated by love for those for whom Christ has died.” —*Manuscript Releases Vol. 21*, p. 410.

2. **Is there a line of generations that can be traced from Adam and Eve to the birth of Christ designated as the woman’s seed?**

Matthew 1:1-6

“If Adam had not transgressed the law of God, the ceremonial law would never have been instituted. The gospel of good news was first given to Adam in the declaration made to him that the seed of the woman should bruise the serpent’s head; and it was handed down through successive generations to Noah, Abraham, and Moses. The knowledge of God’s law, and the plan of salvation were imparted to Adam and Eve by Christ Himself. They carefully treasured the important lesson, and transmitted it by word of mouth, to their children, and children’s children. Thus the knowledge of God’s law was preserved.” —*Selected Messages Book 1*, p. 230.

“Of Enoch it is written that he lived sixty-five years, and begat a son. After that he walked with God three hundred years. During these earlier years Enoch had loved and feared God and had kept His commandments. He was one of the holy line, the preservers of the true faith, the progenitors of the promised seed.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 84.
3. How does Inspiration confirm the holy line of the woman’s seed down from Adam to Abraham to Christ? Genesis 22:17, 18

“To Abraham was given the promise that of his line the Saviour of the world should come: "In thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed." "He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ." Genesis 22:18; Galatians 3:16.” —The Acts of the Apostles, p. 222.

**SINGULAR SEED**

4. If the seed of the woman represented a plurality of generations, is there a significance in Apostle Paul emphasising the singular rendition of the term “seed”? Galatians 3:16; Luke 8:11; Ephesians 4:4-6; i.e. Galatians 3:28, 29

5. What do the holy line of the woman’s seed have in common?
   Hebrews 11:1, 2. Scan the entire chapter, i.e. verses 39, 40

**ASSIMILATING THE SEED**

6. What do we know of Christ in association with the word of God?
   John 1:1, 2, 14; Revelation 19:13
“Jesus is called the Word of God. He accepted His Father’s law, wrought out its principles in His life, manifested its spirit, and showed its beneficent power in the heart. Says John: "The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."

“All that man needs to know or can know of God has been revealed in the life and character of His Son.” —The Faith I Live By, p. 17.

7. As in parable terms the seed is the word, how does Scripture amalgamate Christ the Word and the holy line of believers? Matthew 13:37, 38; 1 Peter 1:23; John 6:53-56, 63; Colossians 1:27

“In the study of the Bible the converted souls eats the flesh and drinks the blood of the Son of God, which He Himself interprets as the receiving and doing of His words, that are spirit and life. The Word is made flesh, and dwells among us, in those who receive the holy precepts of the Word of God. The Saviour of the world has left a holy, pure example for all men. It illuminates, uplifts, and brings immortality to all who obey the divine requirement.” —The Faith I Live By, p. 17.

8. As Abraham’s seed equates with the woman’s seed and this seed bruises the serpent’s head, are all believers included in doing this? Romans 16:20

“The Lord said to Satan, that old serpent, “It [the Seed of the woman] shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel” (Genesis 3:15). Christ in a
special manner bruised the head of the serpent, but the prophecy is far-reaching. It is a declaration of an unwearied conflict between Christ and His followers, and Satan and his angels and human agencies on this earth, to the close of time.

“This conflict was opened upon the Son of God. He was afflicted; He was despised and rejected of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. The Majesty of heaven had to leave the scene of His labor again and again because of Satan’s bruising His heel, and finally Satan’s malignity reached its utmost power when Satan inspired and controlled the minds of wicked men to crucify Him. He has followed the children of God, causing them disaster and death. . . . Isaiah, Daniel, and John have in prophecy announced these very struggles and conquests that God’s people would pass through, and the triumph of Satan in his supposed victories.” —Christ Triumphant, p. 322.

NOTES
Germination of the Seed

But speaking the truth in love, many grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ. Ephesians 4:15

OBJECTIVES

- To follow up from the previous lesson on the natural expectation of seed sowing.
- To draw the lessons intended by receiving the word/seed in our hearts.
- To gain the lesson of seed time and barvest.

AFTER THE SOWING

1. Having seen that Jesus is the word of God and the seed which is sown into our hearts, how did Jesus expand on this? Mark 4:26, 27

“There is life in the seed, there is power in the soil; but unless infinite power is exercised day and night, the seed will yield no return. The showers of rain must refresh the thirsty fields; the sun must impart warmth; electricity must be conveyed to the buried seed. The life which the Creator has implanted, He alone can call forth. Every seed grows, every plant develops, by the power of God.

""The seed is the word of God." "As the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth." Luke 8:11;
Isaiah 61:11. As in the natural, so in the spiritual sowing; the power that alone can produce life is from God.” —*Education*, p. 104.

2. Do the Scriptures speak of this in other references? Isaiah 55:10, 11; 61:11

“There is life in the seed, there is power in the soil; but unless an infinite power is exercised day and night, the seed will yield no returns. The showers of rain must be sent to give moisture to the thirsty fields, the sun must impart heat, electricity must be conveyed to the buried seed. The life which the Creator has implanted, He alone can call forth. Every seed grows, every plant develops, by the power of God.” —*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 63.

**LESSONS FROM NATURE**

3. Appreciating then that Jesus is the seed which is received by the believer in the word, does Jesus describe the germination of the seed and its growth? Mark 4:28

“The good seed may for a time lie unnoticed in a cold, selfish, worldly heart, giving no evidence that it has taken root; but afterward, as the Spirit of God breathes on the soul, the hidden seed springs up, and at last bears fruit to the glory of God.”

“The germination of the seed represents the beginning of spiritual life, and the development of the plant is a beautiful figure of Christian growth. As in nature, so in grace; there can be no life without growth. The plant must either grow or die. As its growth is silent and imperceptible, but continuous, so is the development of the Christian life.” —*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 65.
4. With Christ the seed in us, does Inspiration describe the growth principle? Ephesians 4:15; Hosea 14:5, 7

“The germination of the seed represents the beginning of spiritual life, and the development of the plant is a figure of the development of character. There can be no life without growth. The plant must either grow or die. As its growth is silent and imperceptible, but continuous, so is the growth of character. At every stage of development our life may be perfect; yet if God’s purpose for us is fulfilled, there will be constant advancement.

“The plant grows by receiving that which God has provided to sustain its life. So spiritual growth is attained through co-operation with divine agencies. As the plant takes root in the soil, so we are to take root in Christ. As the plant receives the sunshine, the dew, and the rain, so are we to receive the Holy Spirit. If our hearts are stayed upon Christ, He will come unto us "as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth." As the Sun of Righteousness, He will arise upon us "with healing in His wings." We shall "grow as the lily." We "shall revive as the corn, and grow as the vine."” —Education, pp. 105, 106.

5. As germination and growth represents character development, what encouraging comfort is found in this concerning our faulty characters aspects? Proverbs 4:18

“The growth of Christian character is gradual-- like the advancement of the natural plant through its various stages of development. But nevertheless, the progress is continual. As in nature, so it is in grace, the plant must either grow or die.” —The Spirit of Prophesy Vol. 2, p. 243.

“It takes time to transform the human to the divine…” —God’s Amazing Grace, p. 224.
“Under the influence of divine grace, every good quality would be gaining strength, while evil traits would steadily lose their power. This is the work which the Lord proposes to do for all who consecrate themselves to Him.” —Conflict and Courage, p. 149.

SEEDTIME TO HARVEST

6. After the seed has germinated and reached full maturity, what spiritual lesson is found at this stage? Mark 4:29

""When the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come." Christ is waiting with longing desire for the manifestation of Himself in His church. When the character of Christ shall be perfectly reproduced in His people, then He will come to claim them as His own.” —Sons and Daughters of God, p. 32.

7. Does Scripture manifest a people reflecting the image of Christ, the faithful seed in the time of the harvest? Revelation 12:17; 14:12

“From every nation, kindred, tongue, and people is to be gathered out a people who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus. This is the work to be accomplished in these last days. Since Satan’s rebellion in heaven against the commandments of God, he has kept up a continual warfare against these commandments, and he will continue to carry on his work relentlessly to the end. To counteract the effects of the enemy, the Lord desires His servants who have grown gray in the advocacy of truth, to stand faithful and true, bearing their testimony in favor of the law.

“God’s tried servants must not be put in hard places. Those who served their Master when the work went hard, those who endured poverty and
remained faithful in the love of the truth when our numbers were small, are ever to be honored and respected. Let those who have come into the truth in later years, take heed to these words. God desires all to heed this caution.” —Manuscript Releases, Vol. 20, pp. 221, 222.

NOTES
Examination of the Seed

Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; try my reins and my heart.
Psalm 26:2

OBJECTIVES

- To follow the growth of the seed to its maturity.
- To behold the scriptural expectations of maturity.
- To study the investigation of the mature seed.

GROWTH TO PERFECTION

1. Seeing that Jesus is the woman’s seed and we are to grow up into Him, how is this growth articulated in Scripture? Ephesians 4:13, 16

“Let us not endure the thought of being religious dwarfs. . . . We must ever be growing unto the full stature of men and women in Christ Jesus, till we are complete in Him. Christ will come and abide with every soul who will say from the heart, Come in. He loves every one who has a desire to follow Him.” —*In Heavenly Places*, p. 185.

2. What other description of growth can we find in the word?
   2 Corinthians 3:18; 1 Peter 2:2; Hebrews 5:13, 14
“Progression, not stagnation, is the law of heaven. Progression is the law of every faculty of mind and body. The things of nature obey this law. In the field there is seen first the blade, then the ear, then the full corn in the ear. In the spiritual life, as in the physical life, there is to be growth. Step by step we are to advance, ever receiving and imparting, ever gaining a more complete knowledge of Christ, daily approaching more closely the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

“The Christian is first a babe in Christ. Then he becomes a child. Constantly he is to make advancement proportionate to the opportunities and privileges granted him. Ever he is to remember that he is not his own, that he has been bought with a price, and that he must make the best possible use of the talents entrusted to him. Even in the infancy of his spiritual understanding, the Christian is to do his best, making steady advancement toward the higher, holier life. He is to realize that he is a laborer together with God. . . .

“He is never to become self-sufficient, but is to count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus his Lord. He is to walk and work in the Saviour’s companionship. As he does this, his faith will increase. Constantly beholding Christ, he will be changed into the same image from character to character.” —In Heavenly Places, p. 183.

**FULL MATURITY**

3. **When believers reach full maturity in Christ, does Inspiration clearly describe what that means in effect?** Colossians 1:21-23; Hebrews 3:14; Jude 1:24

“Some of us have a nervous temperament, and are naturally as quick as a flash to think and to act; but let no one think that he cannot learn to become patient. Patience is a plant that will make rapid growth if carefully cultivated. By becoming thoroughly acquainted with ourselves, and then
combining with the grace of God a firm determination on our part, we may be conquerors, and become perfect in all things, wanting in nothing.” —My Life Today, p. 97.

“Christ was a perfect overcomer; and we must be perfect and entire, wanting nothing, without spot or blemish.” —Testimonies for the Church Vol. 4, p. 39.

4. Are there other descriptions of that maturity? 2 Corinthians 5:21; Ephesians 5:26, 27

“Christ unites in His person the fullness and perfection of the Godhead and the fullness and perfection of sinless humanity. He met all the temptations by which Adam was assailed, and overcame these temptations because in His humanity He relied upon divine power. This subject demands far more contemplation than it receives. Christians strike too low. They are content with a superficial spiritual experience, and therefore they have only the glimmerings of light, when ... they might discern more clearly the wonderful perfection of Christ’s humanity, which rises far above all human greatness, all human power. Christ’s life is a revelation of what fallen human beings may become through union and fellowship with the divine nature.” —The Faith I Live By, p. 219.

“This world is not the Christian’s heaven; but merely the workshop of God, where we are to be fitted up to unite with sinless angels in a holy heaven.” —Christian Service, p. 102.

“Nothing but purity, sacred purity, will stand the grand review, abide the day of God, and be received into a pure and holy heaven.” —Counsels on Health, p. 611.

THE GRAND REVIEW

5. What is meant by “the grand review” cited in the previous note? Daniel 7:9, 10
“The work of God is to be carried on to completion by the co-operation of divine and human agencies. Those who are self-sufficient may be apparently active in the work of God; but if they are prayerless, their activity is of no avail. Could they look into the censer of the angel that stands at the golden altar before the rainbow-circled throne, they would see that the merit of Jesus must be mingled with our prayers and efforts, or they are as worthless as was the offering of Cain. Could we see all the activity of human instrumentality, as it appears before God, we would see that only the work accomplished by much prayer, which is sanctified by the merit of Christ, will stand the test of the judgment. When the grand review shall take place, then shall ye return and discern between him that serveth God and him that serveth Him not.” —Christian Service, p. 263.

6. Whom does God review in this judgement? 1 Timothy 5:24, 25; 1 Peter 4:17

“In the great day of final atonement and investigative judgment, the only cases considered are those of the professed people of God. The judgment of the wicked is a distinct and separate work, and takes place at a later period. . . . The books of record in heaven, in which the names and the deeds of men are registered, are to determine the decisions of the judgment.” —The Faith I Live By, p. 210.

“It is while men are still dwelling upon the earth that the work of investigative judgment takes place in the courts of heaven. The lives of all His professed followers pass in review before God. All are examined according to the record of the books of heaven, and according to his deeds the destiny of each is forever fixed.” —Christ’s Object Lessons, p. 310.

7. What is the call given to God’s people during this review? Revelation 14:7
“Not a thread of selfishness is to be drawn into the web. But this has been done, and will continue to be done unless God’s professing people receive the new heart that makes the actions holy. Unless they reform, unless their characters are changed, they will be left outside the City of God; for within its gates can enter nothing that defiles. Only those who are without spot or wrinkle or any such thing will pass in the grand review. Unholy ambition will prove the ruin of many souls. This is the word that I am instructed to give to all who claim to believe present truth.”—Medical Ministry, p. 155.

“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.”—The Faith I Live By, p. 213.

8. Does Inspiration describe the result of this Grand Review? Malachi 3:16-18; Daniel 12:3; Revelation 14:12

“Christ designs that heaven’s order, heaven’s plan of government, heaven’s divine harmony, shall be represented in His church on earth. Thus in His people He is glorified. Through them the Sun of righteousness will shine in undimmed luster to the world. Christ has given to His church ample facilities, that He may receive a large revenue of glory from His redeemed, purchased possession. He has bestowed upon His people capabilities and blessings that they may represent His own sufficiency. The church, endowed with the righteousness of Christ, is His depositary, in which the riches of His mercy, His grace, and His love are to appear in full and final display. Christ looks upon His people in their purity and perfection, as the reward of His humiliation, and the supplement of His glory—Christ, the great Center, from whom radiates all glory.”—Lift Him Up, p. 290.

NOTES
Manifestation of the Seed

And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever. Daniel 12:3

OBJECTIVES

• To expand on the effect of the gospel in the lives of humanity.
• To explore in Scripture for the revelation of such persons.
• To behold a description of a company emerging as a replication of Jesus, the seed.

GOSPEL PRODUCTION

1. For those who fully receive Jesus in His gospel work, does Inspiration designate their final condition? John 1:12,13; 1 John 3:2, 3

"Man, who has defaced the image of God in his soul by a corrupt life, cannot, by mere human effort, effect a radical change in himself. He must accept the provisions of the gospel; he must be reconciled to God through obedience to His law and faith in Jesus Christ. His life from thenceforth must be governed by a new principle. Through repentance, faith, and good works he may perfect a righteous character, and claim, through the merits of Christ, the privileges of the sons of God. The principles of divine truth, received and cherished in the heart, will carry us to a height of moral excellence that we had not deemed it possible for us to reach. "And it doth
not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is. And every man that hath this hope in Him purifieth himself, even as He is pure.” —Testimonies for the Church Vol. 4, p. 294.

2. Are such a people described in the Bible as the centre of attention? 1 Corinthians 4:9 (last half)

“The Lord Jesus is making experiments on human hearts through the exhibition of His mercy and abundant grace. He is effecting transformations so amazing that Satan, with all his triumphant boasting, with all his confederacy of evil united against God and the laws of His government, stands viewing them as a fortress impregnable to his sophistries and delusions. They are to him an incomprehensible mystery. The angels of God, seraphim and cherubim, the powers commissioned to cooperate with human agencies, look on with astonishment and joy, that fallen men, once children of wrath, are through the training of Christ developing characters after the divine similitude, to be sons and daughters of God, to act an important part in the occupations and pleasure of heaven.” —God’s Amazing Grace, p. 222.

CASE HISTORIES

3. In searching for a human example of gospel productivity, who comes rapidly to mind? Hebrews 11:5

“Enoch walked with God three hundred years previous to his translation to heaven, and the state of the world was not then more favorable for the perfection of Christian character than it is today. And how did Enoch walk with God? He educated his mind and heart to ever feel that he was in the presence of God, and when in perplexity his prayers would ascend to God to keep him. He refused to take any course that would offend His God. He kept the Lord continually before Him. He would pray, "Teach me Thy way, that I may not err. What is thy pleasure concerning me? What shall I
do to honor Thee, my God?” Thus he was constantly shaping his way and course in accordance with God’s commandments, and he had perfect confidence and trust in his heavenly Father, that He would help him. He had no thought or will of his own; it was all submerged in the will of his Father.” —*Sermons and Talks Vol. 1*, p. 32.

4. **Are there other Bible characters like Enoch that can be found as gospel products?** *Mark 9:2-4*

“Christ’s character was exemplified in Abel, Noah, Seth, Enoch, Abraham, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, Samuel, David, and all the host of those recorded as having characters that God could approve.” —*Christ Triumphant*, p. 188.

“Jesus loves those who represent the Father, and John could talk of the Father’s love as no other of the disciples could. He revealed to his fellow men that which he felt in his own soul, representing in his character the attributes of God. The glory of the Lord was expressed in his face. The beauty of holiness which had transformed him shone with a Christlike radiance from his countenance. In adoration and love he beheld the Saviour until likeness to Christ and fellowship with Him became his one desire, and in his character was reflected the character of his Master.” —*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 545.

**FULL AND FINAL DISPLAY**

5. **What declaration does Inspiration make in reference to Christ’s church in its final state?** *Revelation 14:12*

“To His church, Christ has given ample facilities, that He may receive a large revenue of glory from His redeemed, purchased possession. The church, being endowed with the righteousness of Christ, is His depository, in which the wealth of His mercy, His love, His grace, is to appear in full and final display. The declaration in His intercessory prayer, that the
Father’s love is as great toward us as toward Himself, the only-begotten Son, and that we shall be with Him where He is, forever one with Christ and the Father, is a marvel to the heavenly host, and it is their great joy. The gift of His Holy Spirit, rich, full, and abundant, is to be to His church as an encompassing wall of fire, which the powers of hell shall not prevail against. In their untainted purity and spotless perfection, Christ looks upon His people as the reward of all His suffering, His humiliation, and His love, and the supplement of His glory—Christ, the great center from which radiates all glory. "Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb.” —Testimonies to Ministers, p. 18.

6. **How is Enoch implicated in reference to this final company?**

   **Hebrews 11:5 (first part)**

   “Enoch had temptations as well as we. He was surrounded with society no more friendly to righteousness than is that which surrounds us. The atmosphere he breathed was tainted with sin and corruption, the same as ours; yet he lived a life of holiness. He was unsullied with the prevailing sins of the age in which he lived. So may we remain pure and uncorrupted. He was a representative of the saints who live amid the perils and corruptions of the last days. For his faithful obedience to God he was translated. So, also, the faithful, who are alive and remain, will be translated. They will be removed from a sinful and corrupt world to the pure joys of heaven.” —Conflict and Courage, p. 29.

7. **As the faithful of the past constituted the faithful woman’s seed, is this faithful company also declared to be that seed? Revelation 12:17**

   “Who are these?--God’s denominated people--those who on this earth have witnessed to their loyalty. Who are they?--Those who have kept the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus; those who have owned the Crucified One as their Saviour.” —Our High Calling, p. 345.
“Those who love and keep the commandments of God are most obnoxious to the synagogue of Satan, and the powers of evil will manifest their hatred toward them to the fullest extent possible. John foresaw the conflict between the remnant church and the power of evil, and said, "The dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." —Bible Commentary Vol. 7, p. 974

8. What is that company admonished to do? Isaiah 60:1-3

“The world is in need of a demonstration of practical Christianity. In view of the fact that those who claim to be followers of Christ are a spectacle to an unbelieving world, it behooves them to make sure that they are in right relation to God. . . . In order to stand as lights in the world, they need to have the clear light of the Sun of Righteousness constantly shining upon them. . .

“When God’s people so fully separate themselves from evil that He can let the light of heaven rest upon them in rich measure, and shine forth from them to the world, then there will be fulfilled more fully than it has ever been fulfilled in the past the prophecy of Isaiah, . . . "The Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising. . . . The abundance of the sea shall be converted unto thee, and the force of the Gentiles shall come unto thee"” —In Heavenly Places, p. 313.

NOTES
Commandments and the Testimony of Jesus

*I am thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.* Revelation 19:10

**OBJECTIVES**

- To focus specifically on the attributes by which the remnant of the woman’s seed are distinguished.
- To seek an understanding of the meaning of the Testimony of Jesus.
- To examine the keeping of the commandments.

**ATTRIBUTES OF THE FAITHFUL SEED**

1. As the remnant of the woman’s seed emerge through the work of the gospel, how is their condition described? Revelation 17:14; 12:17

“To His faithful followers Christ has been a daily companion and familiar friend. They have lived in close contact, in constant communion with God. Upon them the glory of the Lord has risen. In them the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ has been reflected. Now they rejoice in the undimmed rays of the brightness and glory of the King in His majesty. They are prepared for the communion of heaven; for they have heaven in their hearts.
“...And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. . . . And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb" (Revelation 19:6-9). "He is Lord of lords, and King of kings; and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful"” —Reflecting Christ, p. 212.

2. Of what value is it that they have the Testimony of Jesus? 1 Corinthians 1:6-8

“We have some understanding of what this waiting means. In the messages given me to bear, we are constantly seeking to confirm the faith of our people. The testimony of the Spirit of God today harmonizes with that given through the apostle Paul: "God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord." I want you to read this chapter carefully, for it has been a great comfort to me.” —Manuscript Releases Vol. 21, p. 102.

THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS

3. If the Testimony of Christ is a gift by which we are confirmed to be blameless in the day of the Lord, what is meant by the Testimony of Christ? Revelation 19:10

“We must follow the directions given through the Spirit of prophecy. We must love and obey the truth for this time. This will save us from accepting strong delusions. God has spoken to us through His Word. He has spoken to us through the Testimonies to the church, and through the books that have helped to make plain our present duty and the position that we should now occupy.--Testimonies, vol. 8, p. 298. (1904)” —Evangelism, p. 260.
4. Is there a specific clarification given that the writings of Sister White are truly Jesus speaking to us? 2 Peter 1:19-21; Malachi 4:5

“"Your work," He instructed me, "is to bear My word. Strange things will arise, and in your youth I set you apart to bear the message to the erring ones, to carry the word before unbelievers, and with pen and voice to reprove from the Word actions that are not right. Exhort from the Word. I will make My Word open to you. It shall not be as a strange language. In the true eloquence of simplicity, with voice and pen, the messages that I give shall be heard from one who has never learned in the schools. My Spirit and My power shall be with you.

"'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’” —Selected Messages Book 1, p. 32.

5. What do the writings of Sister White achieve in those who take them as the voice of Jesus to them? 1 Corinthians 1:8

“Your success is in your simplicity. As soon as you depart from this and fashion your testimony to meet the minds of any, your power is gone. Almost everything in this age is glossed and unreal. The world abounds in testimonies given to please and charm for the moment and to exalt self. Your testimony is of a different character. It is to come down to the minutiae of life, keeping the feeble faith from dying and pressing home upon believers the necessity of shining as lights in the world.
“God has given you your testimony, to set before the backslider and the sinner his true condition and the immense loss he is sustaining by continuing a life of sin. God has impressed this upon you by opening it before your vision as He has to no other one now living, and according to the light He has given you will He hold you responsible. "Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts." "Lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and show My people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sin."” —Testimonies for the Church Vol. 5, p. 667.

**KEEPING OF THE COMMANDMENTS**

6. In that this faithful seed are moulded and fashioned by the Testimony of Jesus, does that have something to do with their keeping of the commandments of God? Hosea 6:5; 12:13

“In ancient times God spoke to men by the mouth of prophets and apostles. In these days He speaks to them by the testimonies of His Spirit. There was never a time when God instructed His people more earnestly than He instructs them now concerning His will and the course that He would have them pursue.

“Warnings and reproofs are not given to the erring among Seventh-day Adventists because their lives are more blameworthy than are the lives of professed Christians of the nominal churches…but because they have great light, and have by their profession taken their position as God’s special, chosen people, having the law of God written in their hearts.” —Counsels for the Church, p. 91.

7. Where are the commandments of God written in reference to this faithful seed? Jeremiah 31:33; 32:40
“I saw that it is our duty in every case to obey the laws of our land, unless they conflict with the higher law which God spoke with an audible voice from Sinai, and afterward engraved on stone with His own finger. "I will put My laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to Me a people." He who has God’s law written in the heart will obey God rather than men, and will sooner disobey all men than deviate in the least from the commandment of God. God’s people, taught by the inspiration of truth, and led by a good conscience to live by every word of God, will take His law, written in their hearts, as the only authority which they can acknowledge or consent to obey. The wisdom and authority of the divine law are supreme.” —Counsels for the Church, p. 314

8. Which of the commandments are they especially distinguished by? Exodus 31:13, 16, 17

“As the Sabbath was the sign that distinguished Israel when they came out of Egypt to enter the earthly Canaan, so it is the sign that now distinguishes God's people as they come out from the world to enter the heavenly rest.

“The observance of the Sabbath is the means ordained by God of preserving a knowledge of Himself and of distinguishing between His loyal subjects and the transgressors of His law.

“The Sabbath is a golden clasp that unites God and His people.” —The Faith I Live By, p. 33.

NOTES
Testing the Prophet

Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. 1 John 4:1

OBJECTIVES

- To heed the Bible counsel to discern the true prophet from the false.
- To research Scripture for the tests to be applied.
- To apply the tests to Sister Ellen G. White.

WARNINGS TO DISCERN

1. Does God show in the Bible that we should expect a prophet in the last days before Christ’s second advent? Malachi 4:5, 6

“In this age, just prior to the second coming of Christ in the clouds of heaven, God calls for men who will prepare a people to stand in the great day of the Lord. Just such a work as that which John did, is to be carried on in these last days. The Lord is giving messages to His people, through the instruments He has chosen, and He would have all heed the admonitions and warnings He sends. The message preceding the public ministry of Christ was, Repent, publicans and sinners; repent, Pharisees and Sadducees; "for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Our message is not to be one of peace and safety. As a people who believe in Christ’s soon appearing, we have a definite message to bear,—"Prepare to meet thy God.""
“In this time of well-nigh universal apostasy, God calls upon His messengers to proclaim His law in the spirit and power of Elias. As John the Baptist, in preparing a people for Christ’s first advent, called their attention to the Ten Commandments, so we are to give, with no uncertain sound, the message: "Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come." With the earnestness that characterized Elijah the prophet and John the Baptist, we are to strive to prepare the way for Christ’s second advent (SW March 21, 1905).” —S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 4, p. 1184.

2. How do the warnings of Jesus for these times call for special discernment to recognise the true from the false? Matthew 24:23, 24; 1 John 4:1

“The Spirit was not given—nor can it ever be bestowed—to supersede the Bible; for the Scriptures explicitly state that the word of God is the standard by which all teaching and experience must be tested. Says the apostle John, "Believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world." 1 John 4:1. And Isaiah declares, "To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them."

—Counsels for the Church, p. 92.

**BIBLE TESTS**

3. What are the spiritual tests by which to examine a prophet?
   Isaiah 8:16, 19, 20; 1 John 4:2, 3; Deuteronomy 18:21, 22;
   Matthew 7:15-20
4. Are there also physical manifestations by which we discern the true prophet when in vision? Daniel 10:8, 17, 18; Numbers 24:2-4; 2 Corinthians 12:3, 4

EXAMINATION OF ELLEN G. WHITE


“We can see in the cross of Calvary what it has cost the Son of God to bring salvation to a fallen race. As the sacrifice in behalf of man was complete, so the restoration of man from the defilement of sin must be thorough and complete. The law of God has been given to us, that we may have rules to govern our conduct. There is no act of wickedness that the law will excuse; there is no unrighteousness that will escape its condemnation. The life of Christ is a perfect fulfillment of every precept of this law. He says, "I have kept my Father’s commandments." [John 15:10.] The knowledge of the law would condemn the sinner, and crush hope from his breast, if he did not see Jesus as his substitute and surety, ready to pardon his transgression, and to forgive his sin. When, through faith in Jesus Christ, man does according to the very best of his ability, and seeks to keep the way of the Lord by obedience to the ten commandments, the perfection of Christ is imputed to cover the transgression of the repentant and obedient soul.” —Christian Education, p. 112.

“Let the Testimonies be judged by their fruits. What is the spirit of their teaching? What has been the result of their influence? All who desire to do so can acquaint themselves with the fruits of these visions. For seventeen
years God has seen fit to let them survive and strengthen against the opposition of Satan’s forces and the influence of human agencies that have aided Satan in his work.” —Counsels for the Church, p. 93.

6. What does Sister White declare regarding the nature of Christ?
1 John 4:2, 3

“In what contrast is the second Adam as He entered the gloomy wilderness to cope with Satan single-handed. Since the fall the race had been decreasing in size and physical strength, and sinking lower in the scale of moral worth, up to the period of Christ’s advent to the earth. And in order to elevate fallen man, Christ must reach him where he was. He took human nature, and bore the infirmities and degeneracy of the race. He, who knew no sin, became sin for us. He humiliated Himself to the lowest depths of human woe, that He might be qualified to reach man, and bring him up from the degradation in which sin had plunged him.” —S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 5, p. 1081.

7. Are the predictions in Sister White’s writings true? Deuteronomy 18:21, 22

“Four mighty angels hold back the powers of this earth till the servants of God are sealed in their foreheads. The nations of the world are eager for conflict; but they are held in check by the angels. When this restraining power is removed, there will come a time of trouble and anguish. Deadly instuments of warfare will be invented. Vessels, with their living cargo, will be entombed in the great deep. All who have not the spirit of truth will unite under the leadership of Satanic agencies. But they are to be kept under control till the time shall come for the great battle of Armageddon. … (To William Kerr, May 10, 1900.)” —Manuscript Releases Vol. 1, p. 145.

“I was shown the inhabitants of the earth in the utmost confusion. War, bloodshed, privation, want, famine, and pestilence were abroad in the land.
... My attention was then called from the scene. There seemed to be a little time of peace. Once more the inhabitants of the earth were presented before me; and again everything was in the utmost confusion. Strife, war, and bloodshed, with famine and pestilence, raged everywhere. Other nations were engaged in this war and confusion. War caused famine. Want and bloodshed caused pestilence. And then men’s hearts failed them for fear, "and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth."”

8. Did Sister White manifest the same physical expressions as the prophets of the Bible while in vision?

“In passing into vision she gives three enrapturing shouts of "Glory!" which echo and re-echo, the second, and especially the third, fainter, but more thrilling than the first, the voice resembling that of one quite a distance from you, and just going out of hearing. For about four or five seconds she seems to drop down like a person in a swoon, or one having lost his strength; she then seems to be instantly filled with superhuman strength, sometimes rising at once to her feet and walking about the room. There are frequent movements of the hands and arms, pointing to the right or left as her head turns. All these movements are made in a most graceful manner. In whatever position the hand or arm may be placed, it is impossible for any one to move it. Her eyes are always open, but she does not wink; her head is raised, and she is looking upward, not with a vacant stare, but with a pleasant expression, only differing from the normal in that she appears to be looking intently at some distant object. She does not breathe, yet her pulse beats regularly. Her countenance is pleasant, and the color of her face florid as in her natural state.” —John N. Loughborough, The Great Second Advent Movement, p. 204.

NOTES
Submitting to the Prophet

*Believe in the Lord your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper. 2 Chronicles 20:20*

**OBJECTIVES**

- To conclude the veracity of Ellen G. White’s writings.
- To confirm our resolve to submit to all the counsels given.
- To realise the results of such submission.

**TRUE MESSENGER**

1. What challenge meets the reader of Ellen G. White’s writings?

   1 Kings 18:36

   “God is either teaching His church, reproving 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 . . . 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. As the Lord has manifested Himself through the Spirit of prophecy, past, present, and future have passed before me. I have been shown faces that I had never seen, and years afterward I knew them when I saw them. I have been aroused from my sleep with a vivid sense of subjects previously presented to my mind; and I have written, at midnight, letters that have gone across the continent and, arriving at a crisis, have saved great disaster to the cause of God. This has been my work for many years. A power has impelled me to reprove and rebuke wrongs that I had not thought of. Is this work from above or from beneath.” —*Counsels for the Church*, p. 93.
2. **Having tested the prophet, can we safely conclude that the Lord is speaking through her writings?** Numbers 22:38; 23:12; 2 Samuel 23:2

""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...."" —*Selected Messages Book 1*, p. 32.

**TOTAL SUBMISSION**

3. **If we recognise that Ellen G. White in her writings communicates the words of Jesus to us, is it incumbent upon us to yield ourselves to all the messages given?** Matthew 4:4; 2 Peter 1:19

“Do those who claim to believe the Testimonies read and practise their teachings? All the light given in the living oracles and in the Testimonies, which all may read and apply, can condemn them in the day of God if they do not heed the instruction given.” —*Special Testimony to the Managers and Workers in our Institutions*, p. 23.

“I inquire: Do you believe that the testimonies of reproof which have been given you are of God? If you really believe that the voice of God has spoken to you, pointing out your dangers, do you heed the counsels given? Do you keep these testimonies of warning fresh in your minds by reading them often with prayerful hearts?” —*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 3*, p. 362.

4. **Is submission to the Spirit of Prophecy enlarged to us by Inspiration?** Proverbs 3:5, 6
“I know your danger. If you lose confidence in the testimonies you will drift away from Bible truth. I have been fearful that many would take a questioning, doubting position, and in my distress for your souls I would warn you. How many will heed the warning? As you now hold the testimonies, should one be given crossing your track, correcting your errors, would you feel at perfect liberty to accept or reject any part or the whole? That which you will be least inclined to receive is the very part most needed. God and Satan never work in copartnership. The testimonies either bear the signet of God or that of Satan. A good tree cannot bring forth corrupt fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. By their fruit ye shall know them. God has spoken. Who has trembled at His word?”

“My brethren, beware of the evil heart of unbelief. The word of God is plain and close in its restrictions; it interferes with your selfish indulgence; therefore you do not obey it. The testimonies of His Spirit call your attention to the Scriptures, point out your defects of character, and rebuke your sins; therefore you do not heed them. And to justify your carnal, ease-loving course you begin to doubt whether the testimonies are from God. If you would obey their teachings you would be assured of their divine origin. Remember, your unbelief does not affect their truthfulness. If they are from God they will stand. Those who seek to lessen the faith of God’s people in these testimonies, which have been in the church for the last thirty-six years, are fighting against God. It is not the instrument whom you slight and insult, but God, who has spoken to you in these warnings and reproofs.” —Testimonies for the Church Vol. 5, pp. 98, 234.

**REWARDS OF SUBMISSION**

5. **How does Inspiration describe the outcome of embracing all the counsel of the Spirit of Prophecy? 2 Chronicles 20:20**

“If those who have received the light will appreciate and respect the testimonies of the Lord, they will see the religious life in a new light. They will be convicted. They will see the key that unlocks the mysteries that they have never understood. They will lay hold of the precious things that
God has given them to profit withal and will be translated from the kingdom of darkness into God’s marvelous light.

“Those who despise the warning will be left in blindness to become self-deceived. But those who heed it, and zealously go about the work of separating their sins from them in order to have the needed graces, will be opening the door of their hearts that the dear Saviour may come in and dwell with them.”

“We are accountable only for the light that shines upon us. The commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus are testing us. If we are faithful and obedient, God will delight in us, and bless us as His own chosen, peculiar people. When perfect faith and perfect love and obedience abound, working in the hearts of those who are Christ’s followers, they will have a powerful influence.” —My Life Today, p. 42.

6. In believing and acting on God’s counsels in the Spirit of Prophecy, what spiritual condition will be attained?

1 Corinthians 1:6-8

“Abundant light has been given to our people in these last days. Whether or not my life is spared, my writings will constantly speak, and their work will go forward as long as time shall last. My writings are kept on file in the office, and even though I should not live, these words that have been given to me by the Lord will still have life and will speak to the people. But my strength is yet spared, and I hope to continue to do much useful work. I may live until the coming of the Lord; but if I should not, I trust it may be said of me, "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them." . . .

“I thank God for the assurance of His love, and that I have daily His leading and guidance. I am very busy with my writing. Early and late, I am writing out the matters that the Lord opens before me. The burden of my work is to prepare a people to stand in the day of the Lord.” —Ye Shall Receive Power, p. 251.
7. Do the Scriptures identify those who will submit to the counsels of the Testimony of Jesus? Daniel 12:10, 3; Proverbs 4:18, 19

“And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." This prophecy points out clearly that the remnant church will acknowledge God in His law and will have the prophetic gift. Obedience to the law of God, and the spirit of prophecy has always distinguished the true people of God, and the test is usually given on present manifestations.” —Loma Linda Messages, p. 33.

NOTES
The Wise Will Understand

*Keep therefore and do them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations. Deuteronomy 4:6*

**OBJECTIVES**

- To enlarge on the effect of the obedience to all the testimonies of the Spirit of Prophecy.
- To appreciate our privilege to be included among the wise of Daniel 12.
- To see the connection of the wise virgins of Matthew 25 with the Spirit of Prophecy.

**WISE UNTO SALVATION**

1. **Why should we pay close heed to the counsel of Ellen G. White’s writings?** 1 Thessalonians 5:19-23

“Perilous times are before us. Everyone who has a knowledge of the truth should awake and place himself, body, soul, and spirit, under the discipline of God. The enemy is on our track. We must be wide awake, on our guard against him. We must put on the whole armor of God. We must follow the directions given through the spirit of prophecy. We must love and obey the truth for this time. This will save us from accepting strong delusions. God has spoken to us through His word. He has spoken to us through the testimonies to the church and through the books that have helped to make
plain our present duty and the position that we should now occupy. The warnings that have been given, line upon line, precept upon precept, should be heeded. If we disregard them, what excuse can we offer?”
—Testimonies for the Church Vol. 8, p. 298.

2. How emphatically does God clarify the importance of heeding the counsels of the Spirit of Prophecy? Amos 3:7; Proverbs 29:18

“Thus are revealed the snares and devices of Satan, the importance of perfecting Christian character, and the means by which this result may be obtained. Thus God indicates what is necessary to secure His blessing. There is a disposition on the part of many to let rebellious feelings arise if their peculiar sins are reproved. The spirit of this generation is: "Speak unto us smooth things." But the spirit of prophecy speaks only the truth. Iniquity abounds, and the love of many who profess to follow Christ waxes cold. They are blind to the wickedness of their own hearts and do not feel their weak and helpless condition. God in mercy lifts the veil and shows them that there is an eye behind the scenes that discerns their hidden guilt and the motives of their actions.” —Testimonies for the Church Vol. 4, p. 13.

“I am instructed to say to our churches, Study the Testimonies. They are written for our admonition and encouragement upon whom the ends of the world are come. If God’s people will not study these messages that are sent to them from time to time, they are guilty of rejecting light. Line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little and there a little, God is sending instruction to His people. Heed the instruction; follow the light. The Lord has a controversy with His people because in the past they have not heeded His instruction and [not] followed His guidance. --Letter 292, 1907.”
—Manuscript Releases Vol. 4, p. 93.
3. As Sister White’s writings simply expand and make clear the Bible, what will therefore be the outcome for those who obey?

2 Timothy 3:15-17

“The written testimonies are not to give new light, but to impress vividly upon the heart the truths of inspiration already revealed. Man’s duty to God and to his fellow man has been distinctly specified in God’s word, yet but few of you are obedient to the light given. Additional truth is not brought out; but God has through the Testimonies simplified the great truths already given and in His own chosen way brought them before the people to awaken and impress the mind with them, that all may be left without excuse. The Testimonies are not to belittle the word of God, but to exalt it and attract minds to it, that the beautiful simplicity of truth may impress all.” —Counsels for the Church, p. 92.

THE WISE SHALL SHINE

4. How does Scripture prompt to the gaining of wisdom?

Deuteronomy 4:6; Proverbs 2:6, 9-11

“Text: 2 Chronicles 20:20. "Believe in the Lord your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper." Isaiah 8:20. "To the law and to the testimony; if they speak not according to this work, it is because there is no light in them." Two texts are here set before God’s people: two conditions for success. The law spoken by Jehovah himself, and the spirit of prophecy, are the two sources of wisdom to guide His people in every experience. Deuteronomy 4:6. "This is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations, who shall say, Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people."” —Loma Linda Messages, p. 33.
5. Does Inspiration make this a distinguishing point? Daniel 12:3

“Revelation 12:17. "And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." This prophecy points out clearly that the remnant church will acknowledge God in His law and will have the prophetic gift. Obedience to the law of God, and the spirit of prophecy has always distinguished the true people of God, and the test is usually given on present manifestations.” —Loma Linda Messages, p. 33.

6. What is imparted to the wise who obey the Spirit of Prophecy? Psalm 107:43; Daniel 12:10

“Those who do the will of God shall know of His doctrine. The wise shall understand;" but "the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand."” —Testimonies for the Church Vol. 4, p. 527.

“The law of God and the Spirit of Prophecy go hand in hand to guide and counsel the church, and whenever the church has recognized this by obeying His law, the spirit of prophecy has been sent to guide her in the way of truth.” —Loma Linda Messages, p. 33.

THE WISE VIRGINS

7. Where does this wisdom and understanding originate from? 1 Corinthians 12:7, 8 i.e Exodus 31:3

“One scripture is the key to unlock other scriptures. The rich and hidden meaning is unfolded by the Holy Spirit of God, making plain the word to

8. Can we correctly conclude that the wise of Daniel chapter twelve are in fact the wise virgins who have oil, the Holy Spirit, both in their lamps and in their vessels? Matthew 25:1-4

“The two classes of watchers [in the parable of the ten virgins] represent the two classes who profess to be waiting for their Lord. They are called virgins because they profess a pure faith. By the lamps is represented the Word of God. . . . The oil is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. . . .

“In the parable, all the ten virgins went out to meet the bridegroom. All had lamps and vessels for oil. For a time there was seen no difference between them. So with the church that lives just before Christ’s second coming. All have a knowledge of the Scriptures. All have heard the message of Christ’s near approach, and confidently expect His appearing. But as in the parable, so it is now. A time of waiting intervenes, faith is tried; and when the cry is heard, "Behold, the Bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him," many are unready. . . . They are destitute of the Holy Spirit. Without the Spirit of God a knowledge of His Word is of no avail. The theory of truth, unaccompanied by the Holy Spirit, cannot quicken the soul or sanctify the heart. . . . Without the enlightenment of the Spirit, men will not be able to distinguish truth from error, and they will fall under the masterful temptations of Satan.”

“Through the Holy Spirit, God’s word is a light as it becomes a transforming power in the life of the receiver. By implanting in their hearts the principles of His word, the Holy Spirit develops in men the attributes of God. The light of His glory--His character--is to shine forth in His followers.” —God’s Amazing Grace, p. 214.

NOTES
Stumbling of the Foolish

But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. 1 Corinthians 2:14

OBJECTIVES

- To examine the meaning of the term “foolish” applied to the foolish virgins of Matthew 25.
- To understand the reason of stumbling in spiritual matters.
- To observe the lifestyle of foolish believers.

THE WISE AND FOOLISH

1. If the wise have oil in their vessels, what functions in the vessels of the foolish? 1 Corinthians 2:14

“In the parable of the ten virgins, five of them are described as wise, and five as foolish. The foolish virgins took no oil in their vessels with their lamps. They did not obtain the grace of Christ. They were just like the wise virgins as far as theory and appearances were concerned. They had their lamps, but they had no oil. They made a profession, but they did not know what genuine conversion meant; and when the bridegroom came, they that were ready went in with him to the marriage, and the door was shut” —The Signs of the Times, February 17, 1890.

“Halfhearted Christians obscure the glory of God, misinterpret piety, and cause men to receive false ideas as to what constitutes vital godliness. Others think that they, also, can be Christians and yet consult their own tastes and make provision for the flesh, if these falsehearted professors can
do so. On many a professed Christian’s banner the motto is written, "You can serve God and please self--you can serve God and mammon." They profess to be wise virgins, but not having the oil of grace in their vessels with their lamps, they shed forth no light to the glory of God and for the salvation of men. They seek to do what the world’s Redeemer said was impossible to do; He has declared, "Ye cannot serve God and mammon."

—Reflecting Christ, p. 65.

2. How does Inspiration help us to understand the problem of the foolish virgins? 2 Timothy 2:19-21; 1 Thessalonians 4:4

“Satan is working with all his hellish power to quench that light which should burn brightly in the soul and shine forth in good works. The words of God to Zechariah show from whence the holy golden oil comes, and its bright light which the Lord kindles in the chambers of the soul gives light through good works to the world. Satan will work to quench the light God has for every soul, by casting his shadow across the pathway to intercept every ray of heavenly light. He knows that his time is short. The people of God must cleave to God, else they will lose their bearings. If they cherish hereditary and cultivated traits of character that misrepresent Christ, while professedly His disciples, they are represented by the man coming to the gospel feast without having on the wedding garment, and by the foolish virgins which had no oil in their vessels with their lamps. We must cleave to that which God pronounces to be truth, though the whole world may be arrayed against it.” —S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 4, p. 1179.

STUMBLING

3. Because the foolish do not have the light of the oil within, does Scripture describe their experience when tested? Proverbs 4:18, 19
“Wherever the intercourse between heaven and earth has been free and abundant, and God’s gifts [have] been unappreciated, the long-forbearance and patience of God will finally be exhausted. Then the once blessed and once favored are abandoned and forsaken of God. It is a terrible thing to exhaust the divine patience. God today is as surely speaking by His servants as in past ages. He has His messengers today as in ancient times, but those souls who have not had divine enlightenment, [who] have had no deep and rich experience in the things of God, know not by experimental knowledge at what they stumble. They are infatuated; deluded by the enemy; rejecting offered mercy, when the Eternal Father is seeking to save them by the cross of Calvary. Oh, that hearts might be touched by the love of Jesus!” —Manuscript Releases Vol. 19, p. 220.

4. Does Inspiration expand on the matter of the foolish virgins in their darkened understanding? Galatians 3:1-3

“Jesus desires to efface the image of the earthly from the minds of his followers, and to impress upon them the image of the heavenly, that they may become one with himself, reflecting his character, and showing forth the praises of him who hath called them out of darkness into his marvelous light. If you have been permitted to stand in the presence of the Sun of Righteousness, it is not that you may absorb and conceal the bright beams of Christ’s righteousness, but that you may become a light to others. The enemy has men in our ranks through whom he works, that the light which God has permitted to shine upon the heart and illuminate the chambers of the mind may be darkened. There are persons who have received the precious light of the righteousness of Christ, but they do not act upon it; they are foolish virgins. They prefer the sophistry of the enemy rather than the plain "Thus saith the Lord." When the blessing of God rested upon them in order that they might become channels of light, they did not go forward from light to a greater light; they permitted doubt and unbelief to come in, so that the truth which they had seen, became an uncertainty to them.” —The Review and Herald, August 19, 1890.
STUMBLING IN LIFESTYLE

5. Due to the foolish virgins’ aversion to a plain “Thus saith the Lord”, do their life practices reveal this? Titus 1:16; Matthew 7:20-22

“In the judgment it will be revealed that those who slept and had not the oil of grace in their vessels with their lamps, who have gone on in careless indifference, in a self-satisfied state, in negligence of spiritual opportunities and privileges, have led others in the selfsame path, and have caused those whom they had no power to redeem, to imperil their eternal destiny at the cost of the soul’s salvation.”

“Those who say, Lord, Lord, and outwardly appear to rejoice in the Saviour, while they do not the works of Christ, are not what they appear to be, and unless they are truly converted, will be numbered with the foolish virgins. "This is the love of God, that we keep his commandments." "He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him." The Lord will not save men in disobedience. His perfection of character binds him to deal justly, and the penalty will certainly fall upon all who are found guilty of the transgression of the law in thought, word, or action.” —The Review and Herald, March 27, 1894.

6. Having learnt that the faithful are identified by the commandments of God and the Testimony of Jesus, can this be said of the foolish virgins? Ezekiel 33:31, 32

“Today a large part of those who compose our congregations are dead in trespasses and sins. They come and go like the door upon its hinges. For years they have complacently listened to the most solemn, soul-stirring
truths, but they have not put them in practice. Therefore they are less and less sensible of the preciousness of truth. The stirring testimonies of reproof and warning do not arouse them to repentance. The sweetest melodies that come from God through human lips—justification by faith, and the righteousness of Christ—do not call forth from them a response of love and gratitude. Though the heavenly Merchantman displays before them the richest jewels of faith and love, though He invites them to buy of Him "gold tried in the fire," and white raiment" that they may be clothed, and "eyesalve" that they may see, they steel their hearts against Him, and fail to exchange their lukewarmness for love and zeal. While making a profession, they deny the power of godliness. If they continue in this state, God will reject them. They are unfitting themselves to be members of His family.” —Counsels for the Church, p. 67. (c. 1901)

“Many are singing beautiful songs in the meetings, songs of what they will do, and what they mean to do; but some do not do these things; they do not sing with the spirit and the understanding also. So in the reading of the Word of God, some are not benefited, because they do not take it into their very life, they do not practice it.” —Evangelism, p. 508.

7. What is the future of those who refuse to adopt the life practices given by the Spirit of Prophecy? Isaiah 8:15

“A wealth of moral influence has been brought to us in the last half century. Through His Holy Spirit the voice of God has come to us continually in warning and instruction, to confirm the faith of the believers in the Spirit of prophecy. Repeatedly the word has come, Write the things that I have given you to confirm the faith of My people in the position they have taken. Time and trial have not made void the instruction given, but through years of suffering and self-sacrifice have established the truth of the testimony given. The instruction that was given in the early days of the message is to be held as safe instruction to follow in these its closing days. Those who are indifferent to this light and instruction must not expect to escape the snares which we have been plainly told will cause the rejecters of light to stumble, and fall, and be snared, and be taken. If we study
carefully the second chapter of Hebrews, we shall learn how important it is that we hold steadfastly to every principle of truth that has been given.” —Selected Messages Book 1, p. 41.

**8. In contrast, how can those who submit to the testimonies be encouraged? John 11:9**

“"If any man walk in the day," He continued, "he stumbleth not, because he seeth the light of this world." He who does the will of God, who walks in the path that God has marked out, cannot stumble and fall.” —The Desire of Ages, p. 527.

**NOTES**
Pursuing Perfection

Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord. Hebrews 12:14

OBJECTIVES

- To revisit scriptures that declare ultimate sinless perfection for saints.
- To realise the need of applying ourselves to reach such perfection.
- To study the Bible instruction on how to reach this perfection.

DECLARATIONS OF PERFECTION

1. Did Jesus address God’s ideal for His children? Matthew 5:44-48

“Our Saviour understood all about human nature, and He says to every human being. "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." As God is perfect in His sphere, so man is to be perfect in his sphere. Those who receive Christ are among the number to whom the words so full of hope are spoken. "As many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name." These words declare to us that we should be content with nothing less than the best and highest character, a character formed after the divine similitude. When such a character is possessed, the life, the faith, the purity of the religion, is an instructive example to others.” —Maranatha, p. 227.
2. Does Inspiration enlarge on the meaning of this perfection? Jude 1:24; James 1:4; Titus 2:11, 12

“Higher than the highest human thought can reach is God’s ideal for His children. Godliness—godlikeness—is the goal to be reached. Before the student there is opened a path of continual progress. He has an object to achieve, a standard to attain, that includes everything good, and pure, and noble. He will advance as fast and as far as possible in every branch of true knowledge. But his efforts will be directed to objects as much higher than mere selfish and temporal interests as the heavens are higher than the earth.” —Education, p. 18.

3. Is this perfection one of sinlessness? 1 John 3:9; 5:18

“Those only who through faith in Christ obey all of God’s commandments will reach the condition of sinlessness in which Adam lived before his transgression. They testify to their love of Christ by obeying all His precepts.” —S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 6, p. 1118.

“'Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin.' He feels that he is the purchase of the blood of Christ and bound by the most solemn vows to glorify God in his body and in his spirit, which are God’s. The love of sin and the love of self are subdued in him. He daily asks: "What shall I render unto the Lord for all His benefits toward me?" 'Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?' The true Christian will never complain that the yoke of Christ is galling to the neck. He accounts the service of Jesus as the truest freedom. The law of God is his delight. Instead of seeking to bring down the divine commands, to accord with his deficiencies, he is constantly striving to rise to the level of their perfection.” —Testimonies for the Church Vol. 5, p. 220.
PRESSING ON TO THE IDEAL

4. How does Apostle Paul deal with this high calling? Philippians 3:12-16; Hebrews 12:14

“The Scriptures plainly show that the work of sanctification is progressive. When in conversion the sinner finds peace with God through the blood of the atonement, the Christian life has but just begun. Now he is to "go on unto perfection;" to grow up "unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." Says the apostle Paul: "This one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:13, 14. And Peter sets before us the steps by which Bible sanctification is to be attained: "Giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. . . . If ye do these things, ye shall never fall." 2 Peter 1:5-10.” —The Great Controversy, p. 470.


“Such transformation of character as is seen in the life of John is ever the result of communion with Christ. There may be marked defects in the character of an individual, yet when he becomes a true disciple of Christ, the power of divine grace transforms and sanctifies him. Beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, he is changed from glory to glory, until he is like Him whom he adores.

“John was a teacher of holiness, and in his letters to the church he laid down unerring rules for the conduct of Christians. "Every man that hath
this hope in him," he wrote, "purifieth himself, even as He is pure." "He that saith he abideth in Him ought himself also so to walk, even as He walked." 1 John 3:3; 2:6. He taught that the Christian must be pure in heart and life. Never should he be satisfied with an empty profession. As God is holy in His sphere, so fallen man, through faith in Christ, is to be holy in his sphere.” —The Acts of the Apostles, p. 559.

6. Does Apostle Peter present more detail? 2 Peter 1:4-7, 10, 11

“These words are full of instruction, and strike the keynote of victory. The apostle presents before the believers the ladder of Christian progress, every step of which represents advancement in the knowledge of God, and in the climbing of which there is to be no standstill. Faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity are the rounds of the ladder. We are saved by climbing round after round, mounting step after step, to the height of Christ’s ideal for us. Thus He is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption.”

“The apostle Peter had had a long experience in the things of God. His faith in God’s power to save had strengthened with the years, until he had proved beyond question that there is no possibility of failure before the one who, advancing by faith, ascends round by round, ever upward and onward, to the topmost round of the ladder that reaches even to the portals of heaven.” —The Acts of the Apostles, pp. 530, 533.

THE HOW

7. What is the method given in Scripture by which this perfection may be reached? 2 Corinthians 3:18
“Beholding Christ means studying His life as given in His Word. We are to dig for truth as for hidden treasure. We are to fix our eyes upon Christ. When we take Him as our personal Saviour, this gives us boldness to approach the throne of grace. By beholding we become changed, morally assimilated to the One who is perfect in character. By receiving His imputed righteousness, through the transforming power of the Holy Spirit, we become like Him. The image of Christ is cherished, and it captivates the whole being.” —S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 6, p. 1098.

“No man, woman, or youth can attain to Christian perfection and neglect the study of the Word of God. By carefully and closely searching His Word we shall obey the injunction of Christ, "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me." John 5:39. This search enables the student to observe closely the divine Model. . . . The Pattern must be inspected often and closely in order to imitate it. As one becomes acquainted with the history of the Redeemer, he discovers in himself defects of character; his unlikeness to Christ is so great that he sees he cannot be a follower without a very great change in his life. Still he studies, with a desire to be like his great Exemplar; he catches the looks, the spirit, of his beloved Master; by beholding he becomes changed.” —The Faith I Live By, p. 223.

8. In the study of the example of Jesus, is there a key principle we need to know and practise? 1 Peter 4:1, 2; Hebrews 5:7-9

“None need fail of attaining, in his sphere, to perfection of Christian character. By the sacrifice of Christ, provision has been made for the believer to receive all things that pertain to life and godliness. God calls upon us to reach the standard of perfection and places before us the example of Christ’s character. In His humanity, perfected by a life of constant resistance of evil, the Saviour showed that through co-operation with Divinity, human beings may in this life attain to perfection of character. This is God’s assurance to us that we, too, may obtain complete victory.” —The Acts of the Apostles, p. 531.
9. Is there a practical engagement described by Inspiration by which we may reach perfection? Philippians 2:12, 13

“The work of gaining salvation is one of copartnership, a joint operation. There is to be co-operation between God and the repentant sinner. This is necessary for the formation of right principles in the character. Man is to make earnest efforts to overcome that which hinders him from attaining to perfection. But he is wholly dependent upon God for success. Human effort of itself is not sufficient. Without the aid of divine power it avails nothing. God works and man works. Resistance of temptation must come from man, who must draw his power from God. On the one side there is infinite wisdom, compassion, and power; on the other, weakness, sinfulness, absolute helplessness.”

“The work of transformation from unholiness to holiness is a continuous one. Day by day God labors for man’s sanctification, and man is to co-operate with Him, putting forth persevering efforts in the cultivation of right habits. He is to add grace to grace; and as he thus works on the plan of addition, God works for him on the plan of multiplication. Our Saviour is always ready to hear and answer the prayer of the contrite heart, and grace and peace are multiplied to His faithful ones. Gladly He grants them the blessings they need in their struggle against the evils that beset them.”


NOTES
Ultimately Blameless

Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless. 2 Peter 3:14

OBJECTIVES

- To summarise the studies of this lesson.
- To appreciate the ultimate product of gospel religion.
- To dedicate our efforts to apply ourselves to the counsel of the Spirit of Prophecy.

GOSPEL DESIGN

1. In the study of the past twelve lessons, have we come to appreciate the practical activity of the everlasting gospel?
   Jeremiah 31:33; Romans 8:1-4

   “This should be the Christian’s consolation. Christ, as man’s representative, has overcome the world, the flesh and the devil.” —The Signs of the Times, January 24, 1878.

2. As the seed of this truth is planted in the heart, what is the natural process that will take place if it is not resisted? Mark 4:26-28; Proverbs 4:18
“The truth is to be planted in the heart. It is to control the mind and regulate the affections. The whole character must be stamped with the divine utterances. Every jot and tittle of the word of God is to be brought into the daily practice.” —Christ’s Object Lessons, p. 314.

“To be sanctified is to become a partaker of the divine nature, catching the spirit and mind of Jesus, ever learning in the school of Christ. "But we all with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as of the Lord the Spirit." It is impossible for any of us by our power or our own efforts to work this change in ourselves. It is the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, which Jesus said he would send into the world, that changes our character into the image of Christ; and when this is accomplished, we reflect, as in a mirror, the glory of the Lord. That is, the character of the one who thus beholds Christ is so like his, that one looking at his sees Christ’s own character shining out as from a mirror. Imperceptibly to ourselves, we are changed day by day from our own ways and will into the ways and will of Christ, into the loveliness of his character. Thus we grow up into Christ, and unconsciously reflect his image.” —The Review and Herald, April 28, 1891.

**GOSPEL PRODUCT**

3. If the gospel of Jesus Christ is thus embraced, does Inspiration portray the final outcome? 2 Peter 3:14; Philippians 2:12-15

“Among earth’s inhabitants, scattered in every land, there are those who have not bowed the knee to Baal. Like the stars of heaven, which appear only at night, these faithful ones will shine forth when darkness covers the earth and gross darkness the people. In heathen Africa, in the Catholic lands of Europe and of South America, in China, in India, in the islands of the sea, and in all the dark corners of the earth, God has in reserve a firmament of chosen ones that will yet shine forth amidst the darkness, revealing clearly to an apostate world the transforming power of obedience
to His law. Even now they are appearing in every nation, among every
tongue and people; and in the hour of deepest apostasy, when Satan’s
supreme effort is made to cause "all, both small and great, rich and poor,
free and bond," to receive, under penalty of death, the sign of allegiance to
a false rest-day, these faithful ones, "blameless and harmless, the sons of
God, without rebuke," will "shine as lights in the world."’” —Sons and
Daughters of God, p. 363.

4. What is the gift of heaven by which this outcome is secured?
   1 Corinthians 1:6-8

“I am very busy with my writing. Early and late, I am writing out the
matters that the Lord opens before me. The burden of my work is to
prepare a people to stand in the day of the Lord.--Letter 371, 1907.”
—Selected Messages Book 3, p. 49.

APPLYING THE GIFT

5. If the Testimony of Christ, the Spirit of Prophecy, is the gift by
   which we are to become blameless, does this impact us with a firm
   resolve to apply ourselves to it? 2 Chronicles 20:20 (last part)

“In ancient times God spoke to men by the mouth of prophets and apostles.
In these days He speaks to them by the testimonies of His Spirit. There was
never a time when God instructed His people more earnestly than He
instructs them now concerning His will and the course that He would have
them pursue. But will they profit by His teachings? will they receive His
reproofs and heed His warnings? God will accept of no partial obedience;
He will sanction no compromise with self.” —Testimonies for the Church
Vol. 4, p. 147.

6. Recognising it to be the words of Jesus to us, how does the Bible
   admonish us to act on it? Deuteronomy 8:3
“I inquire: Do you believe that the testimonies of reproof which have been given you are of God? If you really believe that the voice of God has spoken to you, pointing out your dangers, do you heed the counsels given? Do you keep these testimonies of warning fresh in your minds by reading them often with prayerful hearts?” —Testimonies for the Church Vol. 3, p. 362.

7. Of what value are the testimonies of the Spirit of Prophecy written for individual cases? Proverbs 22:17-21

“Your case has frequently burdened my mind, but I have not felt clear to write to you. I have written out very many testimonies which have been given for others, some of which, in many particulars, would apply to you. The object of publishing the testimonies is that those who are not singled out personally, yet who are as much in fault as those who are reproved, may be warned through the reproofs given to others. I thought it would not be my duty to address you personally. Yet, as I write out individual testimonies to those who are in danger of neglecting their duty to the cause of God, and thus of sustaining an injury, a loss, to their own souls, I do not feel clear to leave your case without writing to you.

“The last view given me was above two years ago. I was then directed to bring out general principles, in speaking and in writing, and at the same time specify the dangers, errors, and sins of some individuals, that all might be warned, reproved, and counseled. I saw that all should search their own hearts and lives closely to see if they had not made the same mistakes for which others were corrected and if the warnings given for others did not apply to their own cases. If so, they should feel that the counsel and reproofs were given especially for them and should make as practical an application of them as though they were especially addressed to themselves.” —Testimonies for the Church Vol. 2, p. 687.
SECTION 2

GIVE GLORY TO HIM
Introduction

For the past three months we have been studying in reference to the everlasting gospel and its design to produce a pure blameless life. We have seen that God gave the gift of the Testimony of Jesus to intelligently pursue the guidance by which to reach such blameless perfection.

This section of our lesson is now devoted to the research of the writings of the Spirit of Prophecy in order to understand what is meant by the words of the first angel’s message: “Fear God and give glory to Him”. We will examine specific testimonies applicable to specific life practices which God wants us to glorify Him by.

The leading Bible reference by which our study is to be effected is 1 Corinthians 10:31: “Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.” In order to do this we have been given detailed counsel in the Spirit of Prophecy suggested in the following quote:

“But how are the professed people of God today maintaining the honor of His name? How could the world infer that they are a peculiar people? What evidence do they give of citizenship in heaven? . . . Puritan plainness and simplicity should mark the dwellings and apparel of all who believe the solemn truths for this time. ... Our dress, our dwellings, our conversation, should testify of our consecration to God. What power would attend those who thus evinced that they had given up all for Christ.” —God’s Amazing Grace, p. 344.

May God give us diligent minds to study carefully in order to put the counsel given into faithful practice.

“Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: for so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the
everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.” 2 Peter 1:10, 11.
Hallowing God’s Name

Neither shall ye profane my holy name; but I will be hallowed among the children of Israel: I am the LORD which hallow you. Leviticus 22:32

OBJECTIVES

- To study the meaning of the word “hallowed”.
- To enlarge on God’s holiness.
- To understand how we can hallow God’s name.

HALLOWED BE THY NAME

1. When Jesus gave a sample of acceptable prayer, what opening phrases did He use? Matthew 6:9

“Jesus, the divine Master, ever exalted the name of His heavenly Father. He taught His disciples to pray, "Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name" (Matthew 6:9, A.R.V.). and they were not to forget to acknowledge, "Thine is . . . the glory."” —God’s Amazing Grace, p. 105.

2. Does Inspiration give the meaning of “hallowed”? Isaiah 6:1-3; Exodus 40:9
“To hallow the name of the Lord requires that the words in which we speak of the Supreme Being be uttered with reverence. "Holy and reverend is his name" (Psalm 111:9). We are never in any manner to treat lightly the titles or appellations of the Deity. In prayer we enter the audience chamber of the Most High; and we should come before Him with holy awe. The angels veil their faces in His presence. The cherubim and the bright and holy seraphim approach His throne with solemn reverence. How much more should we, finite, sinful beings, come in a reverent manner before the Lord, our Maker!” —God’s Amazing Grace, p. 94.

**HOLINESS OF GOD**

3. Thinking upon the note of the previous question, how does Inspiration intimate a description of God’s holiness in commenting on the repetitive expression “Holy” by the heavenly beings? Revelation 4:8-11

“The angel showed me those who ceased not day nor night to cry, "Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty." "Continued repetition," said the angel, "yet God is glorified by it." Although we may tell the same story over and over, it honors God, and shows that we are not unmindful of His goodness and mercies to us.” —Early Writings, p. 115.

“The seraphim around the throne are so filled with reverential awe as they behold the glory of God, that they do not for an instant look upon themselves with admiration. Their praise is for the Lord of hosts. As they look into the future, when the whole earth shall be filled with His glory, the triumphant song is echoed from one to another in melodious chant, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts." They are fully satisfied to glorify God; abiding in His presence, beneath His smile of approbation, they wish for nothing more.” —God’s Amazing Grace, p. 72.
4. What is the glory that prompts the repetitive expressions “Holy”? Exodus 33:18, 19; 34:6-8

“Angelic voices day and night cry before him: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.... Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created." "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and glory, and blessing." "Great and marvelous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; 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." But although God only is holy and worthy to be praised, human tongues are perverted to praise and glorify man rather than God.” —The Signs of the Times, December 30, 1889.

“To Moses, the character of God was revealed as His glory. In like manner, we behold the glory of Christ by beholding His character. Paul says: "We all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory [from character to character] even as by the Spirit of the Lord"” —Manuscript Releases Vol. 9, p. 296.

TO HALLOW GOD’S NAME

5. What does God say regarding His holiness in His children? Leviticus 19:2; 1 Peter 1:15, 16

“The time has come when the righteous should understand that God’s judgments are to fall on all who transgress His law, and that those who walk humbly with Him will triumph with holy gladness. As Jehovah is
holy He requires His people to be holy, pure, undefiled. For without holiness no man shall see the Lord. Those who worship Him in sincerity and truth will be accepted by Him. If church members will put away all self worship, and will receive in their hearts the love for God and for one another that filled Christ’s heart, our heavenly Father will constantly manifest His power through them. Let His people be drawn together with the cords of divine love. Then the world will recognize the miracle working power of God, and will acknowledge that He is the Strength and the Helper of His commandment-keeping people.” —The Paulson Collection of Ellen G. White Letters, p. 65.

6. Does it follow then that to hallow God’s name is more than uttering reverence in prayer and worship? Isaiah 29:13

“But to hallow the name of the Lord means much more than this. We may, like the Jews in Christ’s day, manifest the greatest outward reverence for God, and yet profane His name continually. "The name of the Lord" is "merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, . . . forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin" (Exodus 34:5-7). Of the church of Christ it is written, "This is the name wherewith she shall be called, The Lord our Righteousness" (Jeremiah 33:16). This name is put upon every follower of Christ. It is the heritage of the child of God. The family are called after the Father. The prophet Jeremiah, in the time of Israel’s sore distress and tribulation, prayed, "We are called by thy name; leave us not" (Jeremiah 14:9).” —God’s Amazing Grace, p. 94.

7. How far does the meaning of hallowing God’s name extend? Romans 6:19 (last part), 22; Hebrews 12:14
“This name is hallowed by the angels of heaven, by the inhabitants of unfallen worlds. When you pray, "Hallowed be thy name," you ask that it may be hallowed in this world, hallowed in you. God has acknowledged you before men and angels as His child; pray that you may do no dishonor to the "worthy name by which ye are called" (James 2:7). God sends you into the world as His representatives. In every act of life you are to make manifest the name of God. This petition calls upon you to possess His character. You cannot hallow His name, you cannot represent Him to the world, unless in life and character you represent the very life and character of God. This you can do only through the acceptance of the grace and righteousness of Christ.” —God’s Amazing Grace, p. 94.

NOTES
The Meaning of Worship

And worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters. Revelation 14:7

OBJECTIVES

- To give further attention to the message of the first angel of Revelation fourteen.
- To explore the meaning of the worship of God.
- To study the practical ingredients included in worship.

PROMPTINGS OF THE FIRST ANGEL

1. Having studied the meaning behind the call to give God the glory, what else does the first angel call for? Revelation 14:7; 4:10, 11

“In the first angel’s message men are called upon to worship God, our Creator, who made the world and all things that are therein. They have paid homage to an institution of the Papacy, making of no effect the law of Jehovah, but there is to be an increase of knowledge on this subject.”

2. In the specifications of who it is we are to worship, does Scripture enlarge on these? Psalm 86:8-10; 95:4-6
"The first angel of Revelation 14 calls upon men to "fear God, and give glory to him," and to worship Him as the Creator of the heavens and the earth. In order to do this, they must obey His law.... Without obedience to His commandments, no worship can be pleasing to God; for "this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments" (1 John 5:3).” —Reflecting Christ, p. 62.

3. Why is such a call given, and such specifications made? Isaiah 2:8; Psalm 97:5-7, 9

“The duty to worship God is based upon the fact that He is the Creator and that to Him all other beings owe their existence. And wherever, in the Bible, His claim to reverence and worship, above the gods of the heathen, is presented, there is cited the evidence of His creative power. "All the gods of the nations are idols: but the Lord made the heavens." Psalm 96:5. "To whom then will ye liken Me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things." "Thus saith the Lord that created the heavens; God Himself that formed the earth and made it: . . . I am the Lord; and there is none else." Isaiah 40:25, 26; 45:18. Says the psalmist: "Know ye that the Lord He is God: it is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves." "O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the Lord our Maker." Psalm 100:3; 95:6. And the holy beings who worship God in heaven state, as the reason why their homage is due to Him: "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for Thou hast created all things." Revelation 4:11.” —The Great Controversy, p. 436.

MEANING OF WORSHIP

4. What is the first form of worship that naturally comes to mind? Psalm 95:6; 2 Chronicles 7:3
“Both in public and private worship it is our duty to bow down upon our knees before God when we offer our petitions to Him. This act shows our dependence upon God.” —Selected Messages Book 2, p. 312.

5. Is there anything else included in worship? Psalm 66:2-4

“Music was made to serve a holy purpose, to lift the thoughts to that which is pure, noble, and elevating, and to awaken in the soul devotion and gratitude to God.”

“Music forms a part of God’s worship in the courts above, and we should endeavor, in our songs of praise, to approach as nearly as possible to the harmony of the heavenly choirs. The proper training of the voice is an important feature in education, and should not be neglected. Singing, as a part of religious service, is as much an act of worship as is prayer.” —Reflecting Christ, p. 255.

“God is high and holy; and to the humble, believing soul, His house on earth, the place where His people meet for worship, is as the gate of heaven. The song of praise, the words spoken by Christ’s ministers, are God’s appointed agencies to prepare a people for the church above, for that loftier worship.” —The Voice in Speech and Song, p. 432.

DEEPER MEANING YET

6. While the people of God may be engaging in the forms of worship addressed in questions 4 & 5, is there more to it than that? Ezekiel 33:31

“The tremendous issues of eternity demand of us something more than an imaginary religion. A stately form of worship and high devotional ceremonies do not constitute a light to the world, and yet truth that is looked upon and admired in the same way as a beautiful picture or lovely
flower, and not brought into the inner sanctuary of the soul, is thought by many to be all that is required in a worshiper.” —That I May Know Him, p. 162.

“The people seemed to have the impression that there was virtue in the appearance of humility. But it is only when the soul is, spiritually speaking, naturally inclined to humility before God, that the forms of worship are acceptable.” —Sermons and Talks Vol. 2, p. 249.

7. How did Jesus address the deeper meaning of worship? John 4:23, 24

“The message that the Lord has given me for the church in Los Angeles, is, Through faith and diligent service you are to become one with Christ. You are to eat His flesh and drink His blood, making His words a part of the daily life. The great Teacher will accept only the purest integrity, the most distinct representation of His words and His Spirit. Spiritual-mindedness must not be allowed to become a strange thing among us. We are to become more and more nearly conformed to Christ. The joy of the Lord, the praise of God, is to be on our lips and in our hearts. The character is to be transformed from the mist and cloud of uncertainty into the radiance of the light proceeding from heaven. The world is to be eclipsed by the contemplation of heavenly things.

“I ask the believers in Los Angeles to seek for a deeper, higher experience in the things of God. The Father seeketh such to worship Him.” —Loma Linda Messages, p. 103.

8. Does Inspiration magnify the deeper meaning of worship still further? Psalm 96:7-9
“Those who assemble to worship Him should put away every evil thing. Unless they worship Him in spirit and truth and in the beauty of holiness, their coming together will be of no avail.” —*The Faith I Live By*, p. 189.

“The gospel of Christ has been dishonored by being handled with sin-stained hands. Professed Christians act and speak in a way that is no honor to God. What men and women need now is thorough conversion. Every part of their intelligence should go out to meet Christ, and every part of their spiritual nature should yearn for more of Him. The Father seeketh such to worship Him,—those who worship Him in spirit and in truth and in the beauty of holiness. Let us separate from the contaminating influences of the world, and hold communion with the Saviour. Let us bring ourselves, in thought, word and deed, into conformity with the will of Christ. The Redeemer is seeking for those whose highest aim is to serve and glorify God.” —*Loma Linda Messages*, p. 102.

**MEDITATION**

“Christ has chosen us out of the world, that we might be a peculiar and holy people. He "gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." God’s workers must be men of prayer, diligent students of the Scriptures, hungering and thirsting after righteousness, that they may be a light and strength to others. Our God is a jealous God; and He requires us to worship Him in spirit and in truth, in the beauty of holiness. The psalmist says: "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me." As workers we must take heed to our ways. If the psalmist could not be heard if he regarded iniquity in his heart, how can the prayers of men now be heard while iniquity is regarded by them?” —*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 5*, p. 591.

**NOTES**
Comprehending God’s Glory

*But the LORD shall be unto thee an everlasting light, and thy God thy glory.* Isaiah 60:19

**OBJECTIVES**

- To magnify the glory of God.
- To discover the connection between God’s character and His external glorious brilliancy.
- To understand the transfer of God’s glory upon believers.

**GOD’S GLORIOUS CHARACTER**

1. Being already made aware that God’s glory is His character, is there a word that comprehends this character? Compare Exodus 34:6, 7 with 1 John 4:16

“God made to our world the wonderful gift of His only-begotten Son. In the light of this act, it could never be said by the inhabitants of other worlds that God could have done more than He did to show His love for the children of men. He made a sacrifice that defies all computation.

“Thousands have a false conception of God and His attributes. They are as verily serving a false god as were the servants of Baal. Are we worshiping the true God as He is revealed in His Word, in Christ, in nature, or are we adoring some philosophical idol enshrined in His place? God is a God of truth. Justice and mercy are the attributes of His throne. He is a God of love, of pity and tender compassion. Thus He is represented in His Son, our Saviour. He is a God of patience and long-suffering. If such is the
being whom we adore and to whose character we are seeking to assimilate, we are worshiping the true God.” —The Faith I Live By, p. 59.

2. Did Jesus connect God’s glory with love within the Godhead?

John 17:24, 26

“The love existing between the Father and His Son cannot be portrayed. It is measureless. In Christ, God saw the beauty and perfection of excellence that dwells in Himself.” —In Heavenly Places, p. 15.

3. Can we comprehend God’s glory in the revelation of Jesus Christ? John 14:8-11

“By coming to dwell with us, Jesus was to reveal God both to men and to angels. He was the Word of God,—God’s thought made audible. In His prayer for His disciples He says, "I have declared unto them Thy name,"—"merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth,"—"that the love wherewith Thou hast loved Me may be in them, and I in them." But not alone for His earthborn children was this revelation given. Our little world is the lesson book of the universe. God’s wonderful purpose of grace, the mystery of redeeming love, is the theme into which "angels desire to look," and it will be their study throughout endless ages. Both the redeemed and the unfallen beings will find in the cross of Christ their science and their song. It will be seen that the glory shining in the face of Jesus is the glory of self-sacrificing love. In the light from Calvary it will be seen that the law of self-renouncing love is the law of life for earth and heaven; that the love which "seeketh not her own" has its source in the heart of God; and that in the meek and lowly One is manifested the character of Him who dwelleth in the light which no man can approach unto.” —The Desire of Ages, p. 19.
EXTERNAL MANIFESTATION OF GLORY

4. Does Scripture portray external brilliance and splendor as God’s glory? Ezekiel 1:26-28; 10:4

“Two lovely cherubs, one on each side of the ark, stood with their wings outstretched above it, and touching each other above the head of Jesus as He stood before the mercy seat. Their faces were turned toward each other, and they looked downward to the ark, representing all the angelic host looking with interest at the law of God. Between the cherubim was a golden censer, and as the prayers of the saints, offered in faith, came up to Jesus, and He presented them to His Father, a cloud of fragrance arose from the incense, looking like smoke of most beautiful colors. Above the place where Jesus stood, before the ark, was exceedingly bright glory that I could not look upon; it appeared like the throne of God.” —God’s Amazing Grace, p. 71.

5. Is God’s brilliance and shining splendor an expression of His character? Psalm 104:1, 2; Isaiah 6:1 (marginal reading “His train filled the temple”: the skirts thereof)

“While he listened to the song of the angels, . . . the glory, the infinite power, and the unsurpassed majesty of the Lord passed before his vision, and was impressed upon his soul. In the light of this matchless radiance that made manifest all he could bear in the revelation of the divine character, his own inward defilement stood out before him with startling clearness. His very words seemed vile to him.” —Conflict and Courage, p. 233.

“By this brightness God designed to impress upon Israel the sacred, exalted character of His law, and the glory of the gospel revealed through Christ.” —Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 330.
6. Can we connect character, love, and light as one manifestation of glory? Psalm 89:14-17

“The blessings of redeeming love our Savior compared to a precious pearl. He illustrated His lesson by the parable of the merchantman seeking goodly pearls "who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it." Christ Himself is the pearl of great price. In Him is gathered all the glory of the Father, the fullness of the Godhead. He is the brightness of the Father’s glory and the express image of His person. The glory of the attributes of God is expressed in His character. Every page of the Holy Scriptures shines with His light. The righteousness of Christ, as a pure, white pearl, has no defect, no stain. No work of man can improve the great and precious gift of God. It is without a flaw. In Christ are "hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." Colossians 2:3. He is "made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption." 1 Corinthians 1:30. All that can satisfy the needs and longings of the human soul, for this world and for the world to come, is found in Christ. Our Redeemer is the pearl so precious that in comparison all things else may be accounted loss.” —Christ’s Object Lessons, p. 115.

TRANSFER OF GLORY

7. How does Scripture communicate God’s glory into the human?
   2 Peter 1:2-4; 2 Corinthians 4:6, 7

“He who beholds the Saviour’s matchless love will be elevated in thought, purified in heart, transformed in character. He will go forth to be a light to the world, to reflect in some degree this mysterious love. The more we contemplate the cross of Christ, the more fully shall we adopt the language
of the apostle when he said, "God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world." Galatians 6:14.” —The Desire of Ages, p. 661.

8. If God’s glory includes His covering of light, how will the believer manifest the covering glory of God? Exodus 28:40

“We should seek to make the best of our appearance. In the tabernacle service, God specified every detail concerning the garments of those who ministered before Him. Thus we are taught that He has a preference in regard to the dress of those who serve Him. Very specific were the directions given in regard to Aaron’s robes, for his dress was symbolic. So the dress of Christ’s followers should be symbolic. In all things we are to be representatives of Him. Our appearance in every respect should be characterized by neatness, modesty, and purity.” —Selected Messages Book 3, p. 241.

“It was the custom among the Jews for the garments to be rent at the death of friends, but this custom the priests were not to observe. . . . Everything worn by the priest was to be whole and without blemish. By those beautiful official garments was represented the character of the great antitype, Jesus Christ. Nothing but perfection, in dress and attitude, in word and spirit, could be acceptable to God. He is holy, and His glory and perfection must be represented by the earthly service.” —Conflict and Courage, p. 323.

NOTES
Pursuing His Glory

Show forth his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the heathen, his wonders among all people. Psalm 96:2, 3

OBJECTIVES

- To respond to the call to give God glory.
- To learn how to attain to His glory.
- To let the light of God’s glory shine through us.

A HOLY CALLING

1. Can we find the call of the first angel’s message in other scriptures? Revelation 14:7; Psalm 29:1, 2; 1 Chronicles 16:27-29

“To give glory to God is to reveal His character in our own, and thus make Him known. And in whatever way we make known the Father or the Son, we glorify God.” —S.DA. Bible Commentary Vol. 7, p. 979.

2. Does this call contain a suggestion by which to achieve its objective? Psalm 96:2, 3

“As Moses saw the day of Christ, and the new and living way of salvation that was to be opened through His blood, he was captivated and entranced.
The praise of God was in his heart, and the divine glory that attended the giving of the law was so strikingly revealed in his countenance when he came down from the mount to walk with Israel, that the brightness was painful. Because of their transgressions, the people were unable to look upon his face, and he wore a veil that he might not terrify them.” —S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 1, p. 1110.

ACHIEVEMENT OF GLORY

3. As Moses shone with God’s glory by the vision of the way of salvation, will this also be our experience? 2 Corinthians 3:18

“At the transfiguration, Jesus was glorified by His Father. We hear Him say: "Now is the Son of man glorified, and God is glorified in Him." Thus before His betrayal and crucifixion He was strengthened for His last dreadful sufferings. As the members of the body of Christ approach the period of their last conflict, "the time of Jacob’s trouble," they will grow up into Christ, and will partake largely of His spirit. As the third message swells to a loud cry, and as great power and glory attend the closing work, the faithful people of God will partake of that glory. It is the latter rain which revives and strengthens them to pass through the time of trouble. Their faces will shine with the glory of that light which attends the third angel.” —Testimonies for the Church Vol. 1, p. 353.

4. What should we do in order to reflect God’s glorious character?
   2 Timothy 2:15

“Beholding Christ means studying His life as given in His Word. We are to dig for truth as for hidden treasure. We are to fix our eyes upon Christ.”
—S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 6, p. 1098.

“God takes men as they are, and educates them for His service, if they will yield themselves to Him. The Spirit of God, received into the soul, quickens all its faculties. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the mind
that is devoted unreservedly to God, develops harmoniously, and is strengthened to comprehend and fulfil the requirements of God. The weak, vacillating character becomes changed to one of strength and steadfastness. Continual devotion establishes so close a relation between Jesus and His disciples that the Christian becomes like his Master in character. He has clearer, broader views. His discernment is more penetrative, his judgment better balanced. So quickened is he by the life-giving power of the Sun of Righteousness that he is enabled to bear much fruit to the glory of God.”

—Sons and Daughters, p. 33.

5. If we study to this end, how does Scripture prompt our responses? Isaiah 60:1, 2; Matthew 5:16

“Those who wait for the Bridegroom’s coming are to say to the people, "Behold your God." The last rays of merciful light, the last message of mercy to be given to the world, is a revelation of His character of love. The children of God are to manifest His glory. In their own life and character they are to reveal what the grace of God has done for them.


**ACTING ON GOD’S WORD**

6. Realising that we are to study the word to shine, are we given direction as to our reception of that word? Zechariah 1:3, 4

“I find that I have to fight the good fight of faith every day. I have to exercise all my faith, and not rely upon feeling; I have to act as though I knew the Lord heard me, and would answer me and bless me. Faith is not a
happy flight of feeling; it is simply taking God at His word--believing that He will fulfill His promises because He said He would.

“Hope in God, trust in Him, and rest in His promises, whether you feel happy or not. A good emotion is no evidence that you are a child of God, neither are disturbed, troubled, perplexing feelings an evidence that you are not a child of God. Come to the Scriptures and intelligently take God at His word. Comply with the conditions and believe He will accept you as His child. Be not faithless, but believing.” —Our High Calling, p. 119.

7. How do we go about the study of God’s word to truly make it effectively our own? John 5:39

“Carefully study the Bible, verse by verse, praying that God will give you wisdom to understand His word. Take one verse, and concentrate your mind on it, praying to ascertain the thought God has put in that verse for you. Dwell upon the thought until it becomes your own, and you know "what saith the Lord."” —The Review and Herald, August 4, 1896.

8. What is written of those who are wise unto salvation after this manner? 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Daniel 12:3

“We need a more firm reliance upon a "Thus saith the Lord." If we have this, we shall not trust to feeling, and be ruled by feeling. God asks us to rest in His love. It is our privilege to know the Word of God as a sure and tried guide, an infallible assurance. Let us work on the faith side of the question. Let us believe and trust, and talk faith and hope and courage. Let the praise of God be in our hearts and on our lips oftener than it is. "Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me" (Psalm 50:23). Keep the mind stayed upon God, and know the love of Christ as the Word of God reveals it. This
Word is life. Talk of Christ; call others to behold Him as your Redeemer.”
—The Upward Look, p. 37.

NOTES
Eating and Drinking

Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. 1 Corinthians 10:31

OBJECTIVES

- To reconfirm our dependence on the Spirit of Prophecy as the avenue to live to the glory of God.
- To examine the writings of the Spirit of Prophecy relating to eating and drinking.
- To recognise that following the counsel will cause our faces to shine.

THE GIFT UNTO BLAMELESSNESS

1. What is the gift provided for those living near and waiting for the coming of Christ? 1 Corinthians 1:6-8; Malachi 4:5

2. Can it be shown that Sister White’s writings would indeed prepare a people to stand blameless in the day of the Lord?

“The publications sent forth from our printing houses are to prepare a people to meet God. Throughout the world they are to do the same work that was done by John the Baptist for the Jewish nation. By startling messages of warning, God’s prophet awakened men from worldly dreaming. Through him God called backsliding Israel to repentance. By his
presentation of truth he exposed popular delusions. In contrast with the false theories of his time, truth in his teaching stood forth as an eternal certainty. "Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand," was John’s message. Matthew 3:2. This same message, through the publications from our printing houses, is to be given to the world today.” —Testimonies for the Church Vol. 7, p. 139.

“I thank God for the assurance of His love, and that I have daily His leading and guidance. I am very busy with my writing. Early and late, I am writing out the matters that the Lord opens before me. The burden of my work is to prepare a people to stand in the day of the Lord.” —Selected Messages Book 1, p. 56.

3. **Was there a subject presented to Sister White specially designed to prepare a people for perfection?** 1 Corinthians 10:31

“The principles of health reform are found in the word of God. The gospel of health is to be firmly linked with the ministry of the word. It is the Lord's design that the restoring influence of health reform shall be a part of the last great effort to proclaim the gospel message. Our physicians are to be God's workers. They are to be men whose powers have been sanctified and transformed by the grace of Christ. Their influence is to be knit up with the truth that is to be given to the world. In perfect and complete unity with the gospel ministry the work of health reform will reveal its God-given power. Under the influence of the gospel great reforms will be made by medical missionary work.” – Medical Ministry, p. 259

“Those who teach the principles of health reform should be intelligent in regard to disease and its causes, understanding that every action of the human agent should be in perfect harmony with the laws of life. The light God has given on health reform is for our salvation and the salvation of the world.” – Testimony for the Church Vol. 7, p. 136
4. Does God give counsel in regard to what and how we eat and drink? Ecclesiastes 10:17; Genesis 1:29; 3:18; Isaiah 65:8

“Grains, fruits, nuts, and vegetables, in proper combination, contain all the elements of nutrition; and when properly prepared, they constitute the diet that best promotes both physical and mental strength.” —*Education*, p. 204.

5. Although it can be shown that God permitted eating the flesh of clean animals, is there a time when He called to abstain from flesh? Isaiah 22:12-14, 20-22; Revelation 3:7

“The true fasting which should be recommended to all, is abstinence from every stimulating kind of food, and the proper use of wholesome, simple food, which God has provided in abundance. Men need to think less about what they shall eat and drink of temporal food, and much more in regard to the food from heaven, that will give tone and vitality to the whole religious experience.” —*Counsels on Diet and Food*, p. 188.

“Again and again I have been shown that God is trying to lead us back, step by step, to His original design—that man should subsist upon the natural products of the earth. Among those who are waiting for the coming of the Lord, meat-eating will eventually be done away; flesh will cease to form a part of their diet. We should ever keep this end in view, and endeavor to work steadily toward it.” —*Maranatha*, p. 62.
6. How did Daniel demonstrate the fasting over a prolonged period which God’s people are to practise during the antitypical day of atonement? Leviticus 16:30, 31; Daniel 10:2, 3

“The whole ceremony was designed to impress the Israelites with the holiness of God and His abhorrence of sin; and, further, to show them that they could not come in contact with sin without becoming polluted. Every man was required to afflict his soul while this work of atonement was going forward. All business was to be laid aside, and the whole congregation of Israel were to spend the day in solemn humiliation before God, with prayer, fasting, and deep searching of heart.” —The Great Controversy, p. 419.

“In like manner, all who would have their names retained in the book of life should now, in the few remaining days of their probation, afflict their souls before God by sorrow for sin, and true repentance. There must be deep, faithful searching of heart. The light, frivolous spirit indulged by so many of professed Christians must be put away. There is earnest warfare before all who would subdue the evil tendencies that strive for the mastery.” —To Be Like Jesus, p. 380.

TO GOD’S GLORY

7. What further demonstration did Daniel and his three friends provide for those who will follow the counsel on health reform? Was their eating and drinking to the glory of God? Daniel 1:11-13, 15, 17-20
“At the court of Babylon were gathered representatives from all lands, men of the highest talent, men the most richly endowed with natural gifts, and possessed of the broadest culture that the world could bestow; yet among them all, the Hebrew youth were without a peer. In physical strength and beauty, in mental vigor and literary attainment, they stood unrivaled. The erect form, the firm, elastic step, the fair countenance, the undimmed senses, the untainted breath—all were so many certificates of good habits, insignia of the nobility with which nature honors those who are obedient to her laws.” —A Call to Stand Apart, p. 55.

8. As the Spirit of Prophecy declares that the health message is part of the third angel’s message, how will those stand out who practise and proclaim the third angel’s message? Revelation 14:12

“The third angel proclaims his message in no whispered tones, in no hesitant manner. He cries with a loud voice, while flying swiftly through the midst of heaven. This shows that the work of God’s servants is to be earnest and rapidly performed. They must be brave witnesses for the truth. With no shame upon their countenances, with uplifted heads, with the bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness shining upon them, with rejoicing that their redemption draweth nigh, they go forth declaring the last message of mercy to the world.”

“From these chosen men of God the truth will shine forth. It will be heard from their lips, reflected in their countenances, and demonstrated in their lives. They will be marked by purity and uncorruptness. The grace of Christ has a refining, ennobling influence on the character. Many men and women of ability, refinement, and education will throw their all on the Lord’s side. Many will part with friends and will sacrifice every worldly interest in order to proclaim the unsearchable riches of Christ. Their lives give evidence to the world of the power of Christianity. They witness that the gospel is what it purports to be, the power of God unto salvation. Bright beams of gospel truth are flashed from them upon the path of those who are in darkness. Their unswerving fidelity is registered in the books of heaven.” —Reflecting Christ, p. 347.
The Wedding Garment

...for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness... Isaiah 61:10

OBJECTIVES

- To show that the gospel of Jesus is compared with a garment that covers all nakedness.
- To learn that by embracing the gospel of Jesus, the believers will reveal it in covering themselves in equivalent clothing.
- To study the directions given by Inspiration on the details of dress.

GOSPEL COVERING

1. While Adam and Eve where faithful to God, how were their bodies covered? Genesis 1:27; 2:25; Psalm 104:1, 2 (first half)

“The sinless pair wore no artificial garments; they were clothed with a covering of light and glory, such as the angels wear. So long as they lived in obedience to God, this robe of light continued to enshroud them.”

—Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 45.

2. What gospel message was imparted to them after their sin, and how did this provide a covering for them? Genesis 3:15, 21
“The Lord Jesus Christ has prepared a covering--the robe of His own righteousness--that He will put on every repenting, believing soul who by faith will receive it. Said John, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). Sin is the transgression of the law. Christ died to make it possible for every man to have his sins taken away.

“A fig-leaf apron will never cover our nakedness. Sin must be taken away, and the garment of Christ’s righteousness must cover the transgressor of God’s law. Then when the Lord looks upon the believing sinner, He sees, not the fig leaves covering him, but Christ’s own robe of righteousness, which is perfect obedience to the law of Jehovah. Man has hidden his nakedness, not under a covering of fig leaves, but under the robe of Christ’s righteousness.” —The Upward Look, p. 378.

3. Does Inspiration enlarge on the exercise of gospel covering? Isaiah 61:10

“When we submit ourselves to Christ, the heart is united with His heart, the will is merged in His will, the mind becomes one with His mind, the thoughts are brought into captivity to Him; we live His life. This is what it means to be clothed with the garment of His righteousness. Then as the Lord looks upon us He sees, not the fig-leaf garment, not the nakedness and deformity of sin, but His own robe of righteousness, which is perfect obedience to the law of Jehovah.

“The guests at the marriage feast were inspected by the king. Only those were accepted who had obeyed his requirements and put on the wedding garment. So it is with the guests at the gospel feast. All must pass the scrutiny of the great King, and only those are received who have put on the robe of Christ’s righteousness.” —Christ’s Object Lessons, pp. 311, 312.
**DRESS, INDEX OF THE HEART**

4. If our heart is united with the heart of Jesus and the nakedness and deformity of sin is covered by the robe of Christ’s righteousness, how will this show on our person? 1 Peter 3:3, 4; 1 Timothy 2:8, 9

“Dress is an index of the mind and heart. That which is hung upon the outside is the sign of what is within.” —*Mind, Character, and Personality, Vol. 1*, p. 289.

5. How does God demonstrate His meaning of modest apparel? Exodus 28:40, 42; 20:26; Isaiah 47:2, 3

“We should seek to make the best of our appearance. In the tabernacle service God specified every detail concerning the garments of those who ministered before Him. Thus we are taught that He has a preference in regard to the dress of those who serve Him. Very specific were the directions given in regard to Aaron’s robes, for his dress was symbolic. So the dress of Christ’s followers should be symbolic. In all things we are to be representatives of Him. Our appearance in every respect should be characterized by neatness, modesty, and purity.” —*Child Guidance*, p. 413.

**SPECIFIC DIRECTIONS**

6. As spiritual nakedness is parallel to physical nakedness, do we receive detailed guidance in the Testimony of Jesus?
“We cannot, if we would, conceal the fact that women have feet and limbs that were made for use. But in regard to the exposure, this is on the other side of the question. We have traveled extensively the past twenty-five years, and have been eye-witnesses to many indecent exposures of the limbs. But the most common exposure is seen upon the streets in light snow, or wet and mud. Both hands are required to elevate the dress, that it may clear the wet and filth. It is a common thing to see the dress raised one-half of a yard, exposing an almost unclad ankle to the sight of gentlemen, but no one seems to blush at this immodest exposure. No one's sensitive modesty seems shocked for the reason that this is customary. It is fashion, and for this reason it is endured. No outcry of immodesty is heard, although it is so in the fullest sense.” —The Health Reformer, May 1, 1872.

“You should clothe the limbs of your girls as warmly as you do your boys’, thus inducing the blood to the extremities. They should be clothed with warm, lined pants, meeting the instep. In no case should the pants be formed so as to be pulled up out of sight by the children, leaving any part of their limbs exposed. I inquire, Is it reasonable, or even modest, to see the limbs of your daughters exposed, to the bend of the knee, without any covering, except a cotton stocking in summer, and flannel, in winter? Why should not mothers clothe their daughters sensibly, modestly, and healthfully, irrespective of prevailing fashions?”
—The Health Reformer, November 1, 1870.

7. How does the Spirit of Prophecy summarise 1 Timothy 2:9?

“The Bible teaches modesty in dress. "In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel." 1 Timothy 2:9. This forbids display in dress, gaudy colors, profuse ornamentation. Any device designed to attract attention to the wearer or to excite admiration is excluded from the modest apparel which God’s Word enjoins.” —Child Guidance, p. 423.

“If all our sisters would adopt a simple, unadorned dress of modest length, the uniformity thus established would be far more pleasing to God, and would exert a more salutary influence on the world, than the diversity presented four years ago. As our sisters would not generally accept the
reform dress as it should be worn, another, less objectionable style is now presented. It is free from needless trimmings, free from the looped-up, tied back overskirts. It consists of a plain sack or loose-fitting basque, and skirt, the latter short enough to avoid the mud and filth of the streets. The material should be free from large plaids and figures, and plain in color. The same attention should be given to the clothing of the limbs as with the short dress.” —Testimonies for the Church Vol. 4, p. 640.

8. Besides the principle of modesty, is there another principle to consider in clothing? Proverbs 4:20-22

“There is but one woman in a thousand who clothes her limbs as she should. . . . Women should clothe their limbs as thoroughly as do men.”

“The portions of the body close to the life springs, need less covering than the limbs which are remote from the vital organs. If the limbs and feet could have the extra coverings usually put upon the shoulders, lungs, and heart, and healthy circulation be induced to the extremities, the vital organs would act their part healthfully, with only their share of clothing.”
—Healthful Living, p. 124.

NOTES
The World’s Glory

Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 1 John 2:15

OBJECTIVES

- To identify the difference between giving God the glory and that of the world.
- To itemise the different glories of the world.
- To gain a resolve to discard any attachments to these glories.

WHICH GLORY

1. Is there a glory that is attractive to the natural man? 1 John 2:16; 1 Corinthians 9:24, 25

“The apostle’s words of warning to the Corinthian church are applicable to all time, and are specially adapted to the wants of our day. By idolatry he did not alone mean the worship of idols, but also selfishness, love of ease, the gratification of appetite and passion. All these come under the head of idolatry. A mere profession of faith in Christ, and a boastful knowledge of the truth, does not constitute a Christian. A religion which seeks only to gratify the eye, the ear, and the taste, or which permits any hurtful self-indulgence, is not the religion of Christ. It is in harmony with the spirit of the world, and is opposed to the teachings of the Holy Scriptures. Festivals and scenes of amusement, in which professed members of the Christian church imitate the customs and enjoy the pleasures of the world, constitute a virtual union with the enemies of God.” —Sketches from the Life of Paul, p. 169.
2. Which contrasting glory is placed before us? Psalm 16:11

“If we would permit our minds to dwell more upon Christ and the heavenly world, we should find a powerful stimulus and support in fighting the battles of the Lord. Pride and love of the world will lose their power as we contemplate the glories of that better land so soon to be our home. Beside the loveliness of Christ, all earthly attractions will seem of little worth.” —Conflict and Courage, p. 349.

WORLDLY GLORIES

3. What are the glories to glamourise the natural man? Ecclesiastes 2:4-10

“Solomon sat upon a throne of ivory, the steps of which were of solid gold, flanked by six golden lions. His eyes rested upon highly cultivated and beautiful gardens just before him. These grounds were visions of loveliness, arranged to resemble, as far as possible, the Garden of Eden. Choice trees and shrubs and flowers of every variety had been brought from foreign lands to beautify them. Birds of every variety of brilliant plumage flitted from tree to tree, making the air vocal with sweet songs. Youthful attendants, gorgeously dressed and decorated, waited to obey his slightest wish. Scenes of revelry, music, sports, and games were arranged for his diversion at an extravagant expenditure of money.” —My Live Today, p. 167.

4. Does the Spirit of Prophecy delineate modern worldly glories? Isaiah 47:8
“Many of the amusements popular in the world today, even with those who claim to be Christians, tend to the same end as did those of the heathen. There are indeed few among them that Satan does not turn to account in destroying souls. Through the drama he has worked for ages to excite passion and glorify vice. The opera, with its fascinating display and bewildering music, the masquerade, the dance, the card table, Satan employs to break down the barriers of principle and open the door to sensual indulgence. In every gathering for pleasure where pride is fostered or appetite indulged, where one is led to forget God and lose sight of eternal interests, there Satan is binding his chains about the soul.

“The true Christian will not desire to enter any place of amusement or engage in any diversion upon which he cannot ask the blessing of God. He will not be found at the theater, the billiard hall, or the bowling saloon. He will not unite with the gay waltzers or indulge in any other bewitching pleasure that will banish Christ from the mind.” —The Adventist Home, p. 515.

“The public feeling is that manual labor is degrading, yet men may exert themselves as much as they choose at cricket, baseball, or in pugilistic contests, without being regarded as degraded. Satan is delighted when he sees human beings using their physical and mental powers in that which does not educate, which is not useful, which does not help them to be a blessing to those who need their help. While the youth are becoming expert in games that are of no real value to themselves or to others, Satan is playing the game of life for their souls, taking from them the talents that God has given them, and placing in their stead his own evil attributes.”

“A view of things was presented before me in which the students were playing games of tennis and cricket. Then I was given instruction regarding the character of these amusements. They were presented to me as a species of idolatry, like the idols of the nations.” —Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, pp. 274, 350.

5. How does God lament over the indulgences of the world?
   Jeremiah 2:11-13
“The love of pleasure is one of the most dangerous, because it is one of the most subtle, of the many temptations that assail the children and youth in the cities. Holidays are numerous; games and horse-racing draw thousands, and the whirl of excitement and pleasure attracts them away from the sober duties of life. Money that should have been saved for better uses -- in many cases the scanty earnings of the poor -- is frittered away for amusements.

“The continual craving for pleasurable amusements reveals the deep longings of the soul. But those who drink at this fountain of worldly pleasure, will find their soul-thirst still unsatisfied. They are deceived; they mistake mirth for happiness; and when the excitement ceases, many sink down into the depths of despondency and despair. O what madness, what folly to forsake the "Fountain of living waters" for the "broken cisterns" of worldly pleasure! We feel to the depth of the soul the peril that surrounds the youth in these last days; and shall not those who come to us for an education, and the families that are attracted to our schools, be withdrawn, as far as possible, from these seductive and demoralizing influences?”


**TO DISCARD AND REPLACE**

6. In the comparison of the two glories, which one is futile to pursue and why? 1 John 2:15, 17

“This exhortation includes the young of both sexes. Their youth does not excuse them from responsibilities. They are not oppressed with cares or the weight of years, and should be strong to labor in every good word and work. Their affections are ardent, and if withdrawn from the world, and placed upon Christ and Heaven, a well-founded hope may be cherished of being finally crowned with glory, honor, immortality, eternal life. But if, on the other hand, they live to gratify the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, they please their great adversary, and are separating themselves from the Father. Then when these earthly things
pass away, their hopes will be blasted and their expectations will perish. Separated from God, they will bitterly repent the folly of serving their own pleasure, of gratifying their own desires, and of selling an eternity of happiness for a little imaginary good.” —The Review and Herald, March 11, 1880.

7. Considering these things, does it naturally follow to heed the counsel of Inspiration? Colossians 3:1-5

“The attractions of this world must be eclipsed by the glory of the world to come, and our powers severed from its interests, and devoted to the interests of Heaven. Let us contemplate the eternal consequences of rightly employing our talents of influence and money for the purpose of saving souls. We shall store up treasures in Heaven, and receive the commendation of God, and enter into the joy of our Lord, who shall "see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied." But how few realize this and use their talents for God with the same energy and perseverance that they have manifested in the service of the world!” —The Signs of the Times, December 1, 1887.

8. How does common sense enlightened by this lesson respond to the call of the first angel’s message? Revelation 14:6, 7

“The mighty argument of the cross will convict of sin. The divine love of God for sinners, expressed in the gift of His Son to suffer shame and death that they might be ennobled and endowed with everlasting life, is the study of a lifetime. I ask you to study anew the cross of Christ. If all the proud and vainglorious, whose hearts are panting for the applause of men and for distinction above their fellows, could rightly estimate the value of the highest earthly glory in contrast with the value of the Son of God, rejected,
despised, spit upon, by the very ones whom He came to redeem, how insignificant would appear all the honor that finite man can bestow.”
— Testimonies for the Church Vol. 4, p. 375.

**NOTES**
The Pride of Life

*The LORD of hosts hath purposed it, to stain the pride of all glory, and to bring into contempt all the honourable of the earth. Isaiah 23:9*

**OBJECTIVES**

- To let Inspiration reveal the action of God’s glory on human pride.
- To study the different manifestations of pride.
- To resolve to shun all practices that foster the pride of life.

**GOD RESISTETH THE PROUD**

1. **How does Inspiration describe the condition of pride? Proverbs 16:18**

“The most hopeless, the most incurable of all sins is pride, self-sufficiency. This sin stands in the way of all advancement, all growth in grace. It has caused the ruin of thousands and thousands of souls. A man may be a great sinner, but if he realizes that he has sinned against God, if he repents and confesses his sin, and strives to make restitution for the past, he will receive forgiveness. God declares, "Him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out." His promise to the contrite, repentant soul is, "Tho your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; tho they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."

“But when a man is so filled with self-sufficiency that he can not see his faults, how can he be cleansed from sin? "They that be whole need not a physician." How can a man improve when he thinks his ways perfect? Self-sufficiency was the ruin of the leaders of Israel. They did not come to
Christ, because they did not think they needed a Saviour. They refused to admit that they cherished sins which needed to be repented of and forsaken.” —The Signs of the Times, April 9, 1902.

2. Can pride survive in the manifestation of God’s glory? James 4:6; Daniel 10:8

“When we see ourselves weak, ignorant, and helpless, as we really are, we shall come before God as humble suppliants. It is ignorance of God and of Christ that makes any soul proud and self-righteous. The infallible indication that a man knows not God is found in the fact that he feels that in himself he is great or good. Pride of heart is always associated with ignorance of God. It is the light from God that discovers our darkness and destitution. When the divine glory was revealed to Daniel, he exclaimed, "My comeliness was turned in me into corruption, and I retained no strength" (Daniel 10:8).

“The moment the humble seeker sees God as He is, that moment he will have the same view of himself that Daniel had. There will be no lifting up of the soul unto vanity, but a deep sense of the holiness of God and of the justice of His requirements.” —Ye Shall Reveive Power, p. 27.

PRIDE AND VANITY

3. What is one way in which pride is displayed? Isaiah 3:16, 18-24

“Vainglory, the fashion of the world, the desire of the eye, and the lust of the flesh are connected with the fall of the unfortunate. That which is pleasing to the natural heart and carnal mind is cherished. If the lust of the flesh had been rooted out of their hearts they would not be so weak.” —Testimonies for the Church Vol. 2, p. 456.
“God does not look with favor upon those self-confident ones who loudly exclaim, "I am sanctified, I am holy, I am sinless." These are Pharisees, who have no foundation for their assertion. Those who, because of their sense of utter unworthiness, dare scarcely lift up their eyes to heaven, are nearer to God than those who claim so much piety. They are represented by the publican, who, with his head on his breast, prayed, "God be merciful to me a sinner," and went to his house justified, rather than the self-righteous Pharisee.” —The Review and Herald, February 28, 1907.

“I rested well during the night but the same inability to eat continues. We left about eleven o’clock for the cars to take us to Hamburg. At Dusseldorf we changed cars. We were obliged to wait in the depot two hours and had a little opportunity to study human nature and witness the exhibition of vanity in those who came and went. It awakened most painful thoughts. Two young ladies entered the ladies’ room, stood before the mirror, and then sought to beautify their appearance as much as possible, exhibiting themselves before the mirror, turning around this way and that, putting powder upon their faces. Oh, thought I, if they would be one-half as particular to beautify their character by the great standard of God’s holy law, His mirror, His detector of the defects in character, there would be far less vanity for the outward appearance, and far more for the inward adorning, the perfection of character, the possession of the meekness of Christ.” —Manuscript Releases Vol. 2, p. 129.

4. Does Inspiration describe any other manifestations of the egocentric pride of life? Philippians 3:4-6

“The Jews stood forth distinct from all other nations, professing perfect allegiance to the God of Heaven. They had been specially favored by him, and they claimed a greater piety than any other people, while in reality they were sinful, corrupted by the love of the world and the greed of gain. Boasting of their goodness and knowledge, yet full of hypocrisy and cruelty, and ignorant of the requirements of God, they were like the barren fig-tree that spread its pretentious branches aloft, luxuriant in appearance, and beautiful to the eye, but upon which Jesus found "nothing but leaves."
“The Jewish religion with its magnificent display of temple, sacred altars, sacrificial pomp, mitred priests and impressive ceremonies, was but a superficial covering under which pride, oppression and iniquity held sway. The leaves were abundant and beautiful, but the tree bore no goodly fruit.” — *The Spirit of Prophecy* Vol. 3, p. 18.

“Not without severe trial did Saul come to this conclusion. But in the end his education and prejudices, his respect for his former teachers, and his pride of popularity braced him to rebel against the voice of conscience and the grace of God. And having fully decided that the priests and scribes were right, Saul became very bitter in his opposition to the doctrines taught by the disciples of Jesus.” — *The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 113.

5. **Is a lofty education and position of honour to be pursued by God’s people? 1 Corinthians 1:26-29; Isaiah 23:9**

“Oh, there are many things to be corrected in the men who are ready to grasp so much. How inappropriate are the selfish graspings for reward. This craving for high wages has expelled the love of God from many hearts. Pride of position is a deep-seated evil which has ruined thousands. Yes, tens of thousands, full of ambition for distinction and display, have been ruined because they have lost sight of principle. They have measured themselves among themselves, and compared themselves with themselves. Their eager grasping for credit and reward has resulted in diminished spirituality. This is a lesson all should study carefully, that they may be warned against selfishness and avarice, against pride which destroys love for God and corrodes the soul.” — *Selected Messages* Book 2, p. 184.

“If Satan can get us to enshroud ourselves in garments of self-righteousness, then we will not wear the robe of Christ’s righteousness. Self-exaltation and pride of position and self-importance were the sins of Satan in heaven. True religion dies out of the heart when these take possession and are developed in the character.” — *Manuscript Releases* Vol. 21, p. 330.
6. When we accept Jesus and become converted, what have we done in reference to the pride of life? Galatians 5:24

“A union with Christ by living faith is enduring; every other union must perish.... But this union costs us something.... There must be a painful work of detachment, as well as a work of attachment. Pride, selfishness, vanity, worldliness--sin in all its forms--must be overcome, if we would enter into a union with Christ. The reason why many find the Christian life so deplorably hard, why they are so fickle, so variable, is, they try to attach themselves to Christ without detaching themselves from these cherished idols.” —The Faith I Live By, p. 221.

7. What is written of those who discover too late that they indulged their pride of life? Matthew 22:10-13

“I was shown the conformity of some professed Sabbathkeepers to the world. Oh, I saw that it is a disgrace to their profession, a disgrace to the cause of God. They give the lie to their profession. They think they are not like the world, but they are so near like them in dress, in conversation, and actions, that there is no distinction. I saw them decorating their poor, mortal bodies, which are liable at any moment to be touched by the finger of God and laid upon a bed of anguish. Oh, then, as they approach their last change, mortal anguish racks their frames, and great inquiry is: “Am I prepared to die? Prepared to appear before God in judgment, and pass the grand review?” Ask them the how they feel about decorating their bodies, and if they have any sense of what it is to be prepared to appear before God, they will tell you that if they could take back and live over the past, they would correct their lives, shun the follies of the world, its vanity and pride, and would adorn the body with modest apparel, and set an example to all around them. They would live to the glory of God.” —Testimonies for the Church Vol. 1, p. 131.
8. In the light of this lesson, is there an admonition we should resolve to adopt? Titus 2:11-14

“The love of God must pervade the soul, or the fruits of righteousness will not appear. It is not safe to indulge in vanity and pride, or love of power or gain.” —Testimonies for the Church Vol. 4, p. 610.

NOTES
Glory of Sabbath Keeping

Ye shall keep the sabbath therefore; for it is holy unto you. Exodus 31:14

OBJECTIVES

- To study the blessings connected to true Sabbath keeping.
- To learn what true Sabbath keeping means by which to experience these blessings.
- To appreciate the progressive glory of the Sabbath in our lives.

SABBATH BLESSINGS

1. Has God connected the keeping of His Sabbath with His saving power? Deuteronomy 5:15; Ephesians 2:11-13

"Wherefore the Son of man is Lord also of the Sabbath." These words are full of instruction and comfort. Because the Sabbath was made for man, it is the Lord’s day. It belongs to Christ. For "all things were made by Him; and without Him was not anything made that was made." John 1:3. Since He made all things, He made the Sabbath. By Him it was set apart as a memorial of the work of creation. It points to Him as both the Creator and the Sanctifier. It declares that He who created all things in heaven and in earth, and by whom all things hold together, is the head of the church, and that by His power we are reconciled to God. For, speaking of Israel, He said, "I gave them My Sabbaths, to be a sign between Me and them, that they might know that I am the Lord that sanctify them,"--make them holy. Ezekiel 20:12. Then the Sabbath is a sign of Christ’s power to make us
holy. And it is given to all whom Christ makes holy. As a sign of His sanctifying power, the Sabbath is given to all who through Christ become a part of the Israel of God.” —The Desire of Ages, p. 288.

2. For those who receive God’s saving power, is the Sabbath keeping in their lives a source of great blessing? Isaiah 58:13, 14

“And the Lord says, "If thou turn away thy foot from the Sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on My holy day; and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, honorable; . . . then shalt thou delight thyself in the Lord." Isaiah 58:13, 14. To all who receive the Sabbath as a sign of Christ’s creative and redeeming power, it will be a delight. Seeing Christ in it, they delight themselves in Him. The Sabbath points them to the works of creation as an evidence of His mighty power in redemption. While it calls to mind the lost peace of Eden, it tells of peace restored through the Saviour. And every object in nature repeats His invitation, "Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest."” —The Desire of Ages, p. 289.

“All heaven was represented to me as beholding and watching upon the Sabbath those who acknowledge the claims of the fourth commandment and are observing the Sabbath. Angels were marking their interest in, and high regard for, this divine institution. Those who sanctified the Lord God in their hearts by a strictly devotional frame of mind, and who sought to improve the sacred hours in keeping the Sabbath to the best of their ability, and to honor God by calling the Sabbath a delight—these the angels were specially blessing with light and health, and special strength was given them.” —Counsels for the Church, p. 271.

3. Is there a special intimate connection between us and God when we keep His Sabbath? Exodus 31:13, 16, 17; Ezekiel 20:12; Leviticus 19:3 (last half)
“As the Sabbath was the sign that distinguished Israel when they came out of Egypt to enter the earthly Canaan, so it is the sign that now distinguishes God’s people as they come out from the world to enter the heavenly rest. The Sabbath is a sign of the relationship existing between God and His people, a sign that they honor His law. It distinguishes between His loyal subjects and transgressors.” —Counsels for the Church, p. 261.

“The Sabbath is a golden clasp that unites God and His people.”
—Testimonies for the Church Vol. 6, p. 351.

**TRUE SABBATH KEEPING**

4. What are the specifications of true Sabbath keeping contained in the words of Isaiah 58:13? Exodus 16:22-24

“On Friday let the preparation for the Sabbath be completed. See that all the clothing is in readiness and that all the cooking is done. Let the boots be blacked and the baths be taken. It is possible to do this. If you make it a rule you can do it. The Sabbath is not to be given to the repairing of garments, to the cooking of food, to pleasure seeking, or to any other worldly employment. Before the setting of the sun let all secular work be laid aside and all secular papers be put out of sight. Parents, explain your work and its purpose to your children, and let them share in your preparation to keep the Sabbath according to the commandment.”
—Testimonies for the Church Vol. 6, p. 355.

“The Sabbath--oh!--make it the sweetest, the most blessed day of the week.” —Child Guidance, p. 532.
5. Does Inspiration give us more details in keeping the Sabbath holy? Isaiah 56:6, 7

“Dear children, are you as careful as you should be in keeping the Sabbath? You have something to do besides laying aside your work and amusements on that day. If you, on that day, lay plans of what you will do when the Sabbath is past, or talk of your work, amusements and clothes, you pollute the Sabbath. The Prophet has in another chapter told us how to keep the Sabbath from polluting it, and nothing short of doing as he has pointed out will be keeping the Sabbath holy. He says: [Isaiah 58:13 quoted].

“When you are speaking of your hope in God, of Jesus and of his soon coming, and of the beauties of the New Earth, you are not speaking your own words. Of these things you may freely speak on the Sabbath. On six days you may talk of business matters, and lay plans that are necessary; but the Sabbath is holy time, and all worldly thoughts must, on that day, be dismissed from the mind. The blessing of God will then rest upon you, and you will have the sweet consolations of his Spirit, and you will also have confidence when you approach the throne of grace.” —The Youth Instructor, February 1, 1853.

“Those who are not fully converted to the truth frequently let their minds run freely upon worldly business, and, although they may rest from physical toil upon the Sabbath, their tongues speak out what is in their minds; hence these words concerning cattle, crops, losses, and gains. All this is Sabbath breaking. If the mind is running upon worldly matters, the tongue will reveal it, for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.

“The example of ministers especially should be circumspect in this respect. Upon the Sabbath they should conscientiously restrict themselves to conversation upon religious themes--to present truth, present duty, the Christian’s hopes and fears, trials, conflicts, and afflictions; to overcoming at last, and the reward to be received.” —Testimonies for the Church Vol. 2, p. 703.
**PROGRESSIVE GLORY**

6. As the Sabbath is the sign of sanctification, is sanctification instantaneous? Proverbs 4:18

“Sanctification is not the work of a moment, an hour, a day, but of a lifetime. It is not gained by a happy flight of feeling, but is the result of constantly dying to sin, and constantly living for Christ. Wrongs cannot be righted nor reformations wrought in the character by feeble, intermittent efforts. It is only by long, persevering effort, sore discipline, and stern conflict, that we shall overcome. We know not one day how strong will be our conflict the next. So long as Satan reigns, we shall have self to subdue, besetting sins to overcome; so long as life shall last, there will be no stopping place, no point which we can reach and say, I have fully attained. Sanctification is the result of lifelong obedience.” —*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 560.

7. In the light of question six, is the glory of Sabbath keeping also progressive? Philippians 3:12-16

“I saw that we sensed and realized but little of the importance of the Sabbath, to what we yet should realize and know of its importance and glory. I saw we knew not what it was yet to ride upon the high places of the earth and to be fed with the heritage of Jacob. But when the refreshing and latter rain shall come from the presence of the Lord and the glory of His power we shall know what it is to be fed with the heritage of Jacob and ride upon the high places of the earth. Then shall we see the Sabbath more in its importance and glory. But we shall not see it in all its glory and importance until the covenant of peace is made with us at the voice of God, and the pearly gates of the New Jerusalem are thrown open and
swing back on their glittering hinges and the glad and joyful voice of the lovely Jesus is heard richer than any music that ever fell on mortal ear bidding us enter. [I saw] that we had a perfect right in the city for we had kept the commandments of God, and heaven, sweet heaven is our home, for we have kept the commandments of God.” —Selected Messages Book 3, p. 260.

NOTES
Tithe to God’s Glory

And all the tithe of the land ... is the LORD’s; it is holy unto the LORD. Leviticus 27:30

OBJECTIVES

- To study the subject of tithing in reference to giving God glory.
- To recognise that tithe is declared by God as holy.
- To clearly understand where to place our tithe.

TITHING

1. What does inspiration declare about tithes and offering?
   Deuteronomy 14:22, 23-25

   “It is God who blesses men with property, and He does this that they may be able to give toward the advancement of His cause. He sends the sunshine and the rain. He causes vegetation to flourish. He gives health and the ability to acquire means. All our blessings come from His bountiful hand. In turn, He would have men and women show their gratitude by returning Him a portion in tithes and offerings--in thank offerings, in freewill offerings, in trespass offerings. Should means flow into the treasury in accordance with this divinely appointed plan,--a tenth of all the increase, and liberal offerings,--there would be an abundance for the advancement of the Lord’s work.” —The Acts of the Apostles, p. 75.
“But the tithing system did not originate with the Hebrews. From the earliest times the Lord claimed a tithe as His, and this claim was recognized and honored. Abraham paid tithes to Melchizedek, the priest of the most high God. Genesis 14:20. Jacob, when at Bethel, an exile and a wanderer, promised the Lord, "Of all that Thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto Thee." Genesis 28:22. As the Israelites were about to be established as a nation, the law of tithing was reaffirmed as one of the divinely ordained statutes upon obedience to which their prosperity depended.” —Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 525.

2. Does the giving of tithes and offerings have to do with giving God glory? Proverbs 3:9; Deuteronomy 8:17, 18

“And what more appropriate time could be chosen for setting aside the tithe and presenting our offerings to God? On the Sabbath we have thought upon His goodness. We have beheld His work in creation as an evidence of His power in redemption. Our hearts are filled with thankfulness for His great love. And now, before the toil of a week begins, we return to Him His own, and with it an offering to testify our gratitude. Thus our practice will be a weekly sermon, declaring that God is the possessor of all our property, and that He has made us stewards to use it to His glory. Every acknowledgment of our obligation to God will strengthen the sense of obligation. Gratitude deepens as we give it expression, and the joy it brings is life to soul and body.” —The Review and Herald, February 4, 1902.

GOD’S PORTION

3. To whom does a tenth of our income belong? Leviticus 27:30
"The tithe . . . is the Lord’s." Here the same form of expression is employed as in the law of the Sabbath. "The seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God." Exodus 20:10. God reserved to Himself a specified portion of man’s time and of his means, and no man could, without guilt, appropriate either for his own interests.” —Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 525.

4. Just as the Sabbath is God’s and is holy, is the tithe also holy? Leviticus 27:30 (last part)

“He requires that we return to Him the tithe. He says it is holy unto the Lord.” —Pacific Union Recorder, October 10, 1901.

“I understand that you are also proclaiming that we should not pay tithe. My brother, take off thy shoes from off thy feet; for the place whereon you are standing is holy ground. The Lord has spoken in regard to paying tithes. He has said, ‘Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in Mine house.’” —Counsels on Stewardship, p. 83.

5. Tithe being holy and belonging to God, how does He view our retaining it to ourselves? Malachi 3:8-11

“The tithe should be consecrated to God. His requirements come first. We are not doing His will if we consecrate to Him what is left after all our wants have been supplied. Before any part of our income is consumed, we should take out and present to Him that portion which He claims as His. When this is done, the remainder will be sanctified and blessed to our own use. But when we withhold that which He says is His, the curse rests upon the whole, and we are recorded in the books of heaven as guilty of robbery. God gives man nine-tenths, but the one-tenth He claims for sacred purposes,—as He has given man six days for his own work, and has reserved the seventh day to Himself.
“The tithing system was founded upon a principle which is as enduring as
the law of God. It will be a blessing to those who will carry it out to the
end of time. Our heavenly Father did not originate the system to enrich
Himself, but to be a great blessing to man.” —Pacific Union Recorder,
October 10, 1901.

“The tithe is God’s portion, not at all the property of man, and the
Scripture declares that he who withholds it is guilty of robbery. Who, then,
will stand with clean hands before the Lord?” —The Review and Herald,
February 4, 1902.

WHERE TO PLACE TITHES & OFFERINGS

6. Where are we to bring our tithes and offerings to? Malachi 3:10
(first part)

“God has given special direction as to the use to which the tithe should be
devoted. He does not design that His work shall be crippled for want of
means. That there may be no haphazard work and no error, He has made
our duty on all these points very plain. The portion that God has reserved
for himself is not to be diverted to any other purpose than that which He
has specified. Let none feel at liberty to retain their tithe, to use according
to their own judgment. They are not to use it for themselves in an
emergency, nor to apply it as they see fit, even in what they may regard as
the Lord’s work. God has shown honor to men in taking them into
partnership with himself in the great work of redemption. He expects His
agents to labor not against Him, but in unison with Him, that His treasury
may be supplied.

“The minister should, by precept and example, teach the people to regard
the tithe as sacred. He should not feel that he can retain and apply it
according to his own judgment, because he is a minister. It is not his. He is
not at liberty to devote to himself whatever he thinks is his due. Let him
not give his influence to any plans for diverting from their legitimate use
the tithes and offerings dedicated to God. Let them be placed in the Lord’s
treasury, and held sacred for His service as He has appointed.” —The Review
and Herald, February 4, 1902.
7. How specifically does Inspiration stipulate “the storehouse”?

“A very plain, definite message has been given to me for our people. I am bidden to tell them that they are making a mistake in applying the tithe to various objects which, though good in themselves, are not the object to which the Lord has said that the tithe should be applied. Those who make this use of the tithe are departing from the Lord’s arrangement. God will judge for these things.

“The tithe is sacred, reserved by God for Himself. It is to be brought into His treasury to be used to sustain the gospel laborers in their work. For a long time the Lord has been robbed because there are those who do not realize that the tithe is God’s reserved portion.” —Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 9, pp. 248, 249.

NOTES
Affections to His Glory

Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. Colossians 3:2

OBJECTIVES

- To appreciate the amazing love of God that has won our affections.
- To realise that earth’s glories and attractions do not provide lasting security for our affections.
- To disengage our affections from earthly things to the heavenly.

GOD’S ATTRACTIVE LOVE

1. What is the demonstration of God’s love? John 3:16; 1 John 3:1; Romans 5:8

“The Godhead was stirred with pity for the race, and the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit gave Themselves to the working out of the plan of redemption. In order fully to carry out this plan, it was decided that Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, should give Himself an offering for sin. What line can measure the depth of this love? God would make it impossible for man to say that He could have done more. With Christ He gave all the resources of heaven, that nothing might be wanting in the plan for man’s uplifting. Here is love—the contemplation of which should fill the soul with inexpressible gratitude! Oh, what love, what matchless love!
The contemplation of this love will cleanse the soul from all selfishness. It will lead the disciple to deny self, take up the cross, and follow the Redeemer.” —Counsels on Health, p. 222.

“What love! What amazing condescension! The King of glory proposed to humble Himself to fallen humanity! He would place His feet in Adam’s steps. He would take man’s fallen nature, and engage to cope with the strong foe who triumphed over Adam. He would overcome Satan, and in thus doing He would open the way for the redemption from the disgrace of Adam’s failure and fall, of all those who would believe on Him.”
—Confrontation, p. 18.

2. Are we told what this love was designed to achieve in our hearts?
John 12:32

“Jesus did not come to men with commands and threatenings, but with love that is without a parallel. Love begets love; and thus the love of Christ displayed upon the cross woos and wins the sinner, and binds him repenting to the cross, believing and adoring the matchless depths of a Saviour’s love. Christ came to the world to perfect a righteous character for many and to elevate the fallen race. But only a few of the millions in our world will accept the righteousness and excellency of His character and fulfill the requirements given to secure their happiness.”
—Confrontation, p. 72.

“I would present before you Christ and Him crucified. Give Him your heart’s best affections. Give Him your intellect; it belongs to Him. Give Him your talents of means and of influence; they were only lent to you for improvement. Jesus laid aside His robes of royalty, stepped down from His eternal throne, clothed His divinity with humanity, and for our sakes became poor, that we through His poverty might become rich. Rich in money? in lands? in bank stock? No; that we might secure eternal riches.”
—To Be Like Jesus, p. 238.

3. What has God done to those who respond to His great love?
1 Corinthians 6:19, 20
“Gratitude should fill our hearts as we think of what God through Christ has done for us. The thought of the infinite gift made to us should refine and enoble us. As we think of the love and goodness of God, we should banish selfishness from our hearts, asking the Lord to make us kind and compassionate. Has not God a right to our affections? Do not our powers belong to Him? What more could He have done for man than He has done? In one great gift He poured out for us all the treasures of heaven. Why then do we not talk of His love and tell of His power.” —1888 Materials, p. 569.

SECURITY FOR OUR AFFECTIONS

4. If God had not won our affections to center on His infinite love, would they have found lasting exercise on anything on earth?
   1 John 2:16, 17; 1 Peter 1:24

“We are in the world, but we are not to be of the world. Jesus entreats that those for whom He died, may not lose their eternal reward by lavishing their affections on the things of this perishing earth, and so cheat themselves out of unending happiness. An enlightened judgment compels us to acknowledge that heavenly things are superior to the things of earth, and yet the depraved heart of man leads him to give precedence to the things of the world. The opinions of great men, the theories of science, falsely so-called, are blended with the truths of Holy Writ.” —Fundamentals of Christian Education, p. 182.

5. Does common sense harmonise therefore with our key text?
   Colossians 3:1-4
"We may have high anticipations in regard to the things of this life, but we shall meet with disappointment. We shall find that they fade away. But here is "an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you" (1 Peter 1:4). We want our thoughts to be fixed on the things that will abide, not upon those that pass away with the using.” —In Heavenly Places, p. 307.

6. Are there not good things on earth to indulge our affections on? Matthew 10:37-39

“Many in the world set their affections on things that in themselves are not evil; but they become satisfied with these things, and do not seek the greater and higher good that Christ desires to give them. Now we must not rudely seek to deprive them of what they hold dear. Reveal to them the beauty and preciousness of truth. Lead them to behold Christ in His loveliness; then they will turn from everything that would draw their affections away from Him. This is the principle of the Saviour’s dealing with men; it is the principle that must be brought into the church.”
—Testimonies for the Church Vol. 6, p. 54.

GUARDING OUR AFFECTIONS

7. What attitude are we admonished to adopt for the protection of our affections? 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

“Brethren, your duty, happiness, future usefulness, and final salvation call upon you to sever the tendrils of your affections from everything earthly and corruptible. There is an unsanctified sympathy that partakes of the nature of lovesick sentimentalism and is earthly, sensual. It will require no feeble effort for some of you to overcome this and change the course of
your life, for you have not placed yourselves in connection with the Strength of Israel and have become enfeebled in all your faculties. Now you are loudly called upon to be diligent in the use of every means of grace, that you may be transformed in character and may grow to the full stature of men and women in Christ Jesus.” —Testimonies for the Church Vol. 5, p. 267.

8. Do we also need to guard the placement of our affections on friends and relatives who love not God and the truth?
2 Corinthians 6:14-18

“You, my much-esteemèd brother, have no time to lose. Be in earnest to redeem the time, because the days are evil. Your associates, those whose company you have chosen, have been a hindrance to you. Come out from among them, and be separate. Draw near to God, and come into closer union with His people. Let your interest and your affections center in Christ and His followers. Love those best who love Christ most. Sever the links which have bound you to those who love not God and the truth. What communion hath light with darkness? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?” —Testimonies for the Church Vol. 2, p. 47.

“But how different is the case of him who refuses to receive the salvation purchased for him at infinite cost. He refuses to look upon the humiliation and love of Jesus. He plainly says,”I will not have this man to reign over me." To all who take this attitude, Jesus says, "I came not to send peace, but a sword." Families must be divided in order that all who call upon the name of the Lord may be saved. All who refuse his infinite love will find Christianity a sword, a disturber of their peace.” —The Review and Herald, July 24, 1894.

NOTES
A Glorified People

And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God. Revelation 14:5

OBJECTIVES

- To reaffirm that the gift of the Spirit of Prophecy was given to prepare a people purified at the coming of Jesus.
- To enumerate the points of faithfulness by which they are distinguished.
- To recognise the call for us to be part of them.

PRODUCT OF THE SPIRIT OF PROPHECY

1. What was the promise made for God’s people living during the time of the end? Malachi 4:5; Daniel 12:9, 10, 13

“John sees the little book unsealed. Then Daniel’s prophecies have their proper place in the first, second, and third angels’ messages to be given to the world. The unsealing of the little book was the message in relation to time.” —S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 7, p. 971.

“Each must meet the great Judge face to face. How important, then, that every mind contemplate often the solemn scene when the judgment shall sit and the books shall be opened, when, with Daniel, every individual must stand in his lot, at the end of the days.” —The Great Controversy, p. 488.
2. As the prophecies of Elijah and Daniel pertain to the end of the world, is this gift clearly identified among the final remnant? Revelation 12:17; 1 Corinthians 1:6, 7

“In ancient times God spoke to men by the mouth of prophets and apostles. In these days He speaks to them by the testimonies of His Spirit. There was never a time when God instructed His people more earnestly than He instructs them now concerning His will and the course that He would have them pursue.”

“The instruction that was given in the early days of the message is to be held as safe instruction to follow in these its closing days.” —The Faith I Live By, p. 296.

3. Does God give this gift for a particular purpose? 1 Corinthians 1:8

“I thank God for the assurance of His love, and that I have daily His leading and guidance. I am very busy with my writing. Early and late, I am writing out the matters that the Lord opens before me. The burden of my work is to prepare a people to stand in the day of the Lord.” —Selected Messages Book 1, p. 56.

“The people of God must purify their souls through obedience to the truth, and be prepared to stand without fault before Him at His coming.” —Evangelism, p. 695.

A DISTINGUISHED PEOPLE

4. Does Inspiration declare a sweeping summary of the entire principles we are to walk in? 1 Kings 8:58; Titus 2:14
“The nearer the Christian lives to God, the more he advances in divine illumination of mind. He has more distinct sense of his own littleness, discerns his defects of character, and sees his duty in the light in which God presents it. The more closely he draws to Jesus, the more he has a near and clear sense of his own defects which had before escaped his notice, and he sees the necessity of humbling himself under the mighty hand of God. If lifted up it will not be because he lifts and exalts himself, but because the Lord exalts him. Having his eyes fixed upon the purity and perfection of Christ Jesus, and acknowledging and obeying God in all his ways, he is not blinded to his own failures and imperfections. When his deportment in the eyes of men is unblamable and irreprovable, God reads the intents and purposes of the heart.” —*Manuscript Releases Vol. 20*, p. 121.

“The Lord demands uprightness in the smallest as well as the largest matters. Those who are accepted at last as members of the heavenly court will be men and women who here on earth have sought to carry out the Lord’s will in every particular, who have sought to put the impress of heaven upon their earthly labors. In order that the earthly tabernacle might represent the heavenly, it must be perfect in all its parts, and it must be in the smallest detail like the pattern in the heavens. So it is with the characters of those who are finally accepted in the sight of Heaven.”

—*In Heavenly Places*, p. 154.

5. To get an idea of the meaning of “all His ways”, can we find some reference that enumerates these ways to some degree? *Ephesians 2:10*

“Those who claim to know the truth and understand the great work to be done for this time are to consecrate themselves to God, soul, body, and spirit. In heart, in dress, in language, in every respect, they are to be separate from the fashions and practices of the world. They are to be a peculiar and holy people. It is not their dress that makes them peculiar; but because they are a peculiar and holy people, they cannot carry the marks of likeness to the world.” —*In Heavenly Places*, p. 167.
“Thus the distinction is drawn between the loyal and the disloyal. Those who desire to have the seal of God in their foreheads must keep the Sabbath of the fourth commandment. Thus they are distinguished from the disloyal, who have accepted a manmade institution in place of the true Sabbath. The observance of God’s rest day is a mark of distinction between him that serveth God and him that serveth Him not.” —S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 7, p. 981.

6. What other details can we find by which the final remnant are distinguished? Galatians 5:22, 23; Revelation 14:5

“The life of the vine will be manifest in fragrant fruit on the branches. "He that abideth in Me," said Jesus, "and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without Me ye can do nothing." When we live by faith on the Son of God, the fruits of the Spirit will be seen in our lives; not one will be missing.” —The Desire of Ages, p. 676.

“The Saviour of the world would have his co-laborers represent him; and the more closely a man walks with God, the more faultless will be his manner of address, his deportment, his attitude, and his gestures. Coarse and uncouth manners were never seen in our Pattern, Christ Jesus. He was a representative of Heaven, and his followers must be like him.” —Christian Education, p. 241.

**THE CALLING**

7. How does Scripture admonish us in reference to our high calling? Ephesians 1:17-19; Philippians 3:14, 15
“Will we grasp and appreciate the good, and refuse the evil? Will we walk humbly with God? . . . We must not fail nor be discouraged; then the present work, now passing beyond our control, will be our paymaster. . . . We have only a little period in which to work. We are not to educate ourselves to worry. Keep the eye upward, fixed upon the mark of our high calling in Christ Jesus. We have a work to do; let us do it as in the sight of the whole universe of heaven. We are not to faint, to stumble on in unbelief. God desires us to look to Him as our sufficiency and strive to be complete in Him.” —That I May Know Him, p. 89.

“As sons and daughters of God, Christians should strive to reach the high ideal set before them in the gospel. They should be content with nothing less than perfection.” —The Faith I Live By, p. 130.


“Let us strive with all the power that God has given us to be among the hundred and forty-four thousand.” —Maranatha, p. 241.

NOTES
Responding to the Call

And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely. Revelation 22:17

OBJECTIVES

- To consider more of the calling appeal of Inspiration.
- To acknowledge the movement of the Holy Spirit and the service of the angels in the effort to prompt us to action.
- To understand how to respond to the high calling of God.

A CALLING APPEAL

1. In consideration of all that God has done to save us, can we feel the internal responses being solicited? 1 Kings 19:12 (last phrase); Proverbs 23:26

“When the still small voice which succeeds the whirlwind and the tempest that moves the rocks out of position, is heard, let all cover their face, for God is very near. Let them hide themselves in Jesus Christ; for He is their hiding place. The cleft in the rock is hidden with His own pierced hand while the humble seeker waits in bowed attitude to hear what saith the Lord unto His servant.” —Selected Messages Book 2, p. 316.

“Let the soul be hushed in silent awe, that the unseen Presence may be appreciated and the still, small voice of the Spirit be heard.” —Manuscript Releases Vol. 21, p. 135.
2. As we are surrounded today by so many appealing voices, what will that still small voice say? Isaiah 30:20, 21

“Amid the confusion of delusive doctrines, the Spirit of God will be a guide and a shield to those who have not resisted the evidences of truth. He silences every other voice than that which comes from Him who is the truth and the life. God gives to every soul opportunity to hear the voice of the True Shepherd, to receive the knowledge of God and our Saviour. When the heart receives this truth as a precious treasure, Christ is formed within, the hope of glory, while the whole heavenly universe exclaims, Amen and amen! We have absolute need of the regenerating power of the Holy Spirit. We have no time to confer with flesh and blood.” —Ye Shall Receive Power, p. 123.

3. Is there a warning given in Scripture as to how we should or should not respond to that voice? Psalm 95:6-8

“What voice will you acknowledge as the voice of God? What power has the Lord in reserve to correct your errors and show you your course as it is? What power to work in the church? If you refuse to believe until every shadow of uncertainty and every possibility of doubt is removed, you will never believe. The doubt that demands perfect knowledge will never yield to faith. Faith rests upon evidence, not demonstration. The Lord requires us to obey the voice of duty, when there are other voices all around us urgent us to pursue an opposite course. It requires earnest attention from us to distinguish the voice which speaks from God. We must resist and conquer inclination, and obey the voice of conscience without parleying or compromise, lest its promptings cease, and will and impulse control.” —Selected Messages Book 1, p. 27.
ACTIVITIES OF HEAVEN

4. How earnestly is heaven working upon our hearts to respond to our high calling? Hebrews 1:7, 14

“Would that the human eye could catch glimpses of the service of the angels! Would that the imagination could grasp and dwell upon the rich, the glorious service of the angels of God and the conflicts in which they engage in behalf of men to protect, to lead, to win, and to draw them from Satan’s snares. How different would be the conduct, the religious sentiment!” —Faith and Works, p. 23.

“Shall we not regard the mercy of God? What more could He do? Let us place ourselves in right relation to Him who has loved us with amazing love. Let us avail ourselves of the means provided for us that we may be transformed into His likeness, and be restored to fellowship with the ministering angels, to harmony and communion with the Father and the Son.” —Steps to Christ, p. 22.

5. If the curtain separating our vision from the activities of heaven was lifted, what endearing revelations regarding the angels would we see? Luke 22:42, 43; Psalm 34:7

“If the curtain could be rolled back, and each one could discern the constant activities of the heavenly family to preserve the inhabitants of the earth from Satan’s seductive wiles, lest in their careless attitude they should be led astray through satanic strategy, they would lose a large degree of their self-confidence and self-assurance. They would see that the armies of heaven are in continual warfare with satanic agencies, to obtain victories in behalf of those who do not sense their danger, and who are passing on in unconscious indifference.”
“The angels of God are communicating with and guarding His people, and are pressing back the powers of darkness that they shall not have any control over those who shall be heirs of salvation. Are we working in harmony with the angels? This is the line of communication the Lord has established with the children of men.” —*In Heavenly Places*, p. 98.

**HOW TO RESPOND**

6. In our effort to respond and act on the high calling contained in this lesson, do we have it in us to succeed? Joshua 24:19 (first half); John 15:5 (last phrase)

“By nature the heart is evil, and "who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? not one." Job 14:4. No human invention can find a remedy for the sinning soul. . . . The fountain of the heart must be purified before the streams can become pure. He who is trying to reach heaven by his own works in keeping the law is attempting an impossibility. There is no safety for one who has merely a legal religion, a form of godliness. The Christian’s life is not a modification or improvement of the old, but a transformation of nature. There is a death to self and sin, and a new life altogether. This change can be brought about only by the effectual working of the Holy Spirit.” —*The Faith I Live By*, p. 55.

7. How only can we secure a place among the remnant glorified people? Philippians 2:12, 13

“The work of gaining salvation is one of copartnership, a joint operation. There is to be co-operation between God and the repentant sinner. This is necessary for the formation of right principles in the character. Man is to make earnest efforts to overcome that which hinders him from attaining to perfection. But he is wholly dependent upon God for success. Human effort of itself is not sufficient. Without the aid of divine power it avails
nothing. God works and man works. Resistance of temptation must come from man, who must draw his power from God. On the one side there is infinite wisdom, compassion, and power; on the other, weakness, sinfulness, absolute helplessness.” —The Acts of the Apostles, p. 482.

8. While it is God that works in us, is there an important detail by which we may clearly know our intelligent part to fully respond? Philippians 2:14, 15

“The tempted one needs to understand the true force of the will. This is the governing power in the nature of man--the power of decision, of choice. Everything depends on the right action of the will. Desires for goodness and purity are right, so far as they go; but if we stop here, they avail nothing. Many will go down to ruin while hoping and desiring to overcome their evil propensities. They do not yield the will to God. They do not choose to serve Him.

“God has given us the power of choice; it is ours to exercise. We cannot change our hearts, we cannot control our thoughts, our impulses, our affections. We cannot make ourselves pure, fit for God’s service. But we can choose to serve God, we can give Him our will; then He will work in us to will and to do according to His good pleasure. Thus our whole nature will be brought under the control of Christ.

“Through the right exercise of the will, an entire change may be made in the life. By yielding up the will to Christ, we ally ourselves with divine power. We receive strength from above to hold us steadfast. A pure and noble life, a life of victory over appetite and lust, is possible to everyone who will unite his weak, wavering human will to the omnipotent, unwavering will of God.” —The Ministry of Healing, p. 176.

NOTES