

Strive to enter the kingdom of Heaven.

Matthew 10:15 – Verily I say unto you, whosoever shall not receive the **kingdom of God** as a **little child**, he shall not enter therein.

What is the Kingdom Of God/Heaven?

Matthew 13:44 – Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.

In the parable the **field** containing the treasure represents the **Holy Scriptures**. And **the gospel is the treasure**. The earth itself is not so interlaced with golden veins and filled with precious things as is the word of God. COL 104.2

What does it take to obtain the hidden Treasure?

Matthew 13:44 – Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof **goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field**.

You should desire above all things that you may know the will and ways of the Lord. FE 307.3

This parable illustrates the value of the heavenly treasure, and the **effort that should be made to secure it**. The finder of the treasure in the field was ready to **part with all that he had, ready to put forth untiring labor**, in order to secure the hidden riches. So the finder of heavenly treasure **will count no labor too great and no sacrifice too dear, in order to gain the treasures of truth**. COL 104.1

John 5:39 – **Search** the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

How to search the hidden treasure (Gospel/truth)

Allow no one to be brains for you, allow no one to do your thinking, your investigating, and your praying. This is the instruction we need to take to heart today. Many of you are convinced that the precious treasure of the kingdom of God and of Jesus Christ is in the Bible which you hold in your hand. You know that no earthly treasure is attainable without painstaking effort. Why should you expect to understand the treasures of the word of God without diligently searching the Scriptures? FE 307.1

But there must be earnest study and close investigation. Sharp, clear perceptions of truth will never be the reward of indolence. No earthly blessing can be obtained without earnest, patient, persevering effort. If men attain success in business, they must have a will to do and a faith to look for results. And we cannot expect to gain spiritual knowledge without earnest toil. Those who desire to find the treasures of truth must dig for them as the miner digs for the treasure hidden in the earth. No halfhearted, indifferent work will avail. It is essential for old and young, not only to read God's word, but to study it with wholehearted earnestness, praying and searching for truth as for hidden treasure. Those who do this will be rewarded, for Christ will quicken the understanding. COL 111.2

It is proper and right to read the Bible; but your duty does not end there; for you are to search its pages for yourselves. The knowledge of God is not to be gained without mental effort, without prayer for wisdom in order that you may separate from the pure grain of truth the chaff with which men and Satan have misrepresented the doctrines of truth. Satan and his confederacy of human agents have endeavored to mix the chaff of error with the wheat of truth. We should diligently seek for the hidden treasure, and seek wisdom from heaven in order to separate human inventions from the divine commands. The Holy Spirit will aid the seeker for great and precious truths which relate to the plan of redemption. I would impress upon all the fact that a casual reading of the Scriptures is not enough. We must search, and this means the doing of all the word implies. As the miner eagerly explores the earth to discover its veins of gold, so you are to explore the word of God for the hidden treasure that Satan has so

long sought to hide from man. The Lord says, "If any man willeth to do His will, he shall know of the teaching." John 7:17 (R. V.) FE 307.2

The word of God is truth and light, and is to be a lamp unto your feet, to guide you every step of the way to the gates of the city of God. It is for this reason that Satan has made such desperate efforts to obstruct the path that has been cast up for the ransomed of the Lord to walk in. **You are not to take your ideas to the Bible, and make your opinions a center around which truth is to revolve. You are to lay aside your ideas at the door of investigation, and with humble, subdued hearts, with self hid in Christ, with earnest prayer, you are to seek wisdom from God.** You should feel that you must know the revealed will of God, because it concerns your personal, eternal welfare. The Bible is a directory by which you may know the way to eternal life. You should desire above all things that you may know the will and ways of the Lord. You should not search for the purpose of finding texts of Scripture that you can construe to prove your theories; for the word of God declares that this is wresting the Scriptures to your own destruction. **You must empty yourselves of every prejudice, and come in the spirit of prayer to the investigation of the word of God.** FE 307.3

Matthew 18.3 – And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and **become as little children**, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

God wants every child of tender age to be His child, to be adopted into His family. Young though they may be, the youth may be members of the household of faith, and have a most precious experience. They may have **hearts that are tender and ready to receive impressions that will be lasting.** They may have their hearts drawn out in confidence and love for Jesus, and live for the Saviour. Christ will make them little missionaries. **The whole current of their thoughts may be changed, so that sin will not appear a thing to be enjoyed, but to be hated and shunned.** YRP 140.2

Isaiah 28:9-10 – whom shall he teach knowledge? And whom shall he make to understand doctrine? Them that are **weaned from the milk**, and drawn from the breast. **For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little and there a little;**

Present the truth to the people in its true importance and sacredness, and be careful not to give them too large a portion in one discourse. It will be lost upon them if you do. Lengthy speeches detract from the efficiency of your labors. To those who are ignorant of the truth, your teaching is new and strange, and they do not readily apprehend it. There is danger of pouring into their minds a mass of matter which they cannot possibly digest. **“But the word of the Lord was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little.”** *We need to study His method of teaching.* We have the most important and decided testimony for the world, and we must give the people short discourses, in plain and simple language. Do not think, because you have gone over a subject once, that you can pass right on to other points, and the hearers retain all that has been presented. SpTA07 6.1

The great error of the Romish Church is found in the fact that the Bible is interpreted in the light of the **opinions of the “fathers.”** **Their opinions are regarded as infallible**, and the dignitaries of the church assume that it is their prerogative to make others believe as they do, and to use force to compel the conscience. Those who do not agree with them are pronounced heretics. But the word of God is not thus to be interpreted. It is to stand on its own eternal merits, to be read as the word of God, to be obeyed as the voice of God, which declares His will to the people. **The will and voice of finite man are not to be interpreted as the voice of God.** FE 308.1

And today **men are eagerly seeking for earthly treasure**. Their minds are filled with selfish, ambitious thoughts. For the sake of gaining worldly riches, honor, or power, **they place the maxims, traditions, and requirements of men above the requirements of God. From them the treasures of His word are hidden.** COL 106.1

2 Corinthians 4:3-4 - 3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: 4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

The treasures of the gospel are said to be hidden. By those who are wise in their own estimation, who are puffed up by the teaching of vain philosophy, the beauty and power and mystery of the plan of redemption are not perceived. Many have eyes, but they see not; they have ears, but they hear not; they have intellect, but they discern not the hidden treasure. COL 104.3

Our salvation depends on a knowledge of the truth(Hidden Treasure/Gospel) contained in the Scriptures. It is God's will that we should possess this. **Search, O search the precious Bible with hungry hearts.** Explore God's word as the miner explores the earth to find veins of gold. **Never give up the search** until you have ascertained your relation to God and His will in regard to you. Christ declared, "Whatsoever ye shall ask in My name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask anything in My name, I will do it." John 14:13, 14. COL 111.3

Those who are ready to do service are those who feed most on Christ. Read and study His word, drink in the inspiration of His Spirit, and receive of His grace, not to hoard, but to give to others. **In order to instruct others, the teachers must first be learners of Christ.** There are Marthas in every church. They are intensely busy in religious activities, and they do much good; but we need also Mary's side of character. **The most zealous workers need to learn at the feet of Jesus.** TM 346.2