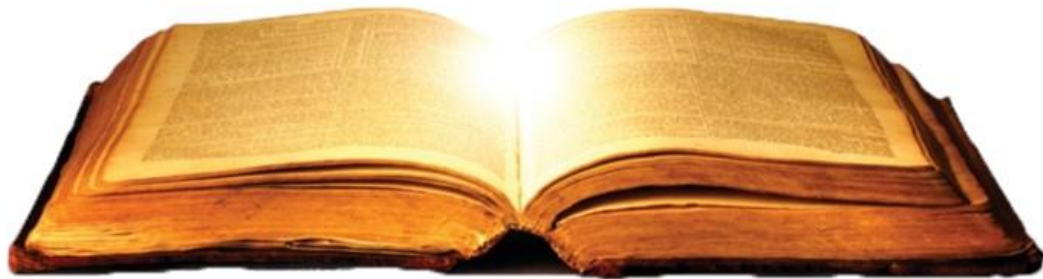


An In-Depth Study Of Great Controversy
Chapter 37

The Scriptures a Safeguard



This is the most solemn chapter! It is included at this point in Great Controversy to show what must be our source of protection in the Final Crisis of the National Sunday Law, and beyond.

After study this chapter you will able to answer these questions:

- ✚ What is our safeguard against the influence of false teachers?
- ✚ Why must we understand the will of God as revealed in His Word?
- ✚ Why is it that so many will be unprepared when the Final Crisis comes upon us all?
- ✚ What is the special final message that we should know and proclaim today?
- ✚ What is the true standard of all doctrine and religious faith?
- ✚ Who does Satan want us to look to for guidance in religious matters?
- ✚ Who is it that demands an undue assumption of authority over God's people?
- ✚ Who do most religious people trust to to deliver their souls?
- ✚ What is the first and highest duty of every person? What is the second duty?
- ✚ How earnestly should we be in our study of God's Inspired Writtings?
- ✚ Why do we dare not study the Bible without prayer and guidance of the Holy Spirit?
- ✚ What must we do at this time in history, when we are living so near the beginning of the Final Crisis?

GC 593:1 "To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." **Isaiah 8:20. The people of God are directed to the Scriptures as their safeguard against the influence of false teachers and the delusive power of spirits of darkness. Satan employs every possible device to prevent men from obtaining a knowledge of the Bible; for its plain utterances reveal his deceptions. At every revival of God's work the prince of evil is aroused to more intense activity; he is now putting forth his utmost efforts for a final struggle against Christ and His followers. The last great delusion is soon to open before us. Antichrist is to perform his marvelous works in our sight. So closely will the counterfeit resemble the true that it will be impossible to distinguish between them except by the Holy Scriptures. By their testimony every statement and every miracle must be tested. "Carilah pengajaran dan kesaksian! Siapa yang tidak berbicara sesuai dengan perkataan ini, maka baginya tidak terbit fajar." (Yesaya 8:20).**

TB (1974) ©

"Carilah pengajaran dan kesaksian! " Siapa yang tidak berbicara sesuai dengan perkataan itu, maka baginya tidak terbit fajar. ¹

SABDAweb

[Yes 8:20](#)

AYT (2018)

Carilah petunjuk dari Hukum Taurat dan kesaksian! Jika mereka berbicara tidak sesuai dengan perkataan ini, itu karena mereka tidak memiliki terang fajar.

TL (1954) ©

Akan taurat dan assyahadat, barangsiapa yang berkata-kata tiada setuju dengan perkataan itu, sekali-kali tiada akan terbit fajar baginya.

SABDAweb

[Yes 8:20](#)

BIS (1985) ©

Jawablah begini, "Dengarkan ajaran TUHAN! Orang yang tidak bicara sesuai dengan ajaran itu, tidak mempunyai harapan."

SABDAweb

[Yes 8:20](#)

MILT (2008)

Di dalam torat dan di dalam kesaksian, jika mereka tidak mengatakan sesuai perkataan ini, bagi mereka tidak ada fajar.

Shellabear

2011 (2011)

Carilah hukum Taurat dan peringatan ilahi! Jika mereka tidak bicara sesuai dengan perkataan ini, maka bagi mereka tidak ada terang fajar.

AVB (2015)

Carilah hukum Taurat dan peringatan Ilahi! Jika mereka tidak berbicara selaras dengan perkataan ini, maka bagi mereka tidak ada cahaya fajar.

Umat Allah dituntun kepada Alkitab sebagai perlindungan mereka terhadap pengaruh guru-guru palsu dan kuasa yang menipu dari roh-roh kegelapan. Setan

menggunakan setiap sarana yang mungkin untuk mencegah manusia memperoleh pengetahuan mengenai Alkitab, karena kata-kata Alkitab yang jelas mengungkapkan penipuannya. Pada setiap kali pekerjaan Allah dibangunkan, raja kejahatan bangkit dengan lebih giat lagi. Sekarang ia menggunakan usahanya yang paling keras dalam perjuangannya yang terakhir melawan Kristus dan pengikut-pengikut-Nya. Penipuan besar terakhir akan segera digelar di hadapan kita. Antikristus akan melakukan pekerjaan-pekerjaannya yang mengherankan di depan mata kita. Begitu miripnya pemalsuan itu dengan yang aslinya, sehingga mustahil untuk membedakannya kecuali oleh Alkitab. Setiap pernyataan dan setiap mukjizat harus diuji oleh kesaksian Alkitab.

Where are God's people directed in order to find the light and strength they need each day? How will God's people avoid the coming delusions of Satan?

The Inspired Word of God! These are the wonderful writings of men and women, inspired of God, to show the pathway to heaven. Only by reading and trusting in the Inspired Books will we be able to avoid the terrible delusions of Satan which will be displayed in the Final Crisis.

“God has been pleased to communicate His truth to the world by human agencies, and He Himself, by His Holy Spirit, qualified men and enabled them to do His work. **He guided the mind in the selection of what to speak and what to write. The treasure was entrusted to earthen vessels, yet it is, none the less, from Heaven.** The testimony is conveyed through the imperfect expression of human language, **yet it is the testimony of God; and the obedient, believing child of God beholds in it the glory of a divine power, full of grace and truth.**” Selected Messages Book 1, Page 26

As the people of God approach the perils of the last days, Satan holds earnest consultation with his angels as to the most successful plan of overthrowing their faith. He sees that the popular churches are already lulled to sleep by his deceptive power. By pleasing sophistry and lying wonders he can continue to hold them under his control. **Therefore he directs his angels to lay their snares especially for those who are looking for the second advent of Christ and endeavoring to keep all the commandments of God.** Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers, Page 472 (read the entire statement by Satan, as to how he plans to overcome our people).

We are warned that in the last days he will work with signs and lying wonders. And he will continue these wonders until the close of probation, that he may point to them as evidence that he is an angel of light and not of darkness. Selected Messages Book 2, Page 51

Satan will come in to deceive if possible the very elect. He claims to be Christ, and he is coming in, pretending to be the great medical missionary. **He will cause fire to come down from heaven in the sight of men to prove that he is God.** Medical Ministry, 87, 88.

It is the lying wonders of the devil that will take the world captive, and he will cause fire to come down from heaven in the sight of men. **He is to work miracles; and this wonderful, miracle-working power is to sweep in the whole world.** Selected Messages Book 2, Page 51

Some will be tempted to receive these wonders as from God. **The sick will be healed before us. Miracles will be performed in our sight. Are we prepared for the trial which awaits us when the lying wonders of Satan shall be more fully exhibited?** Will not many souls be ensnared and taken? By departing from the plain precepts and commandments of God, and giving heed to fables, the minds of many are preparing to receive these lying wonders. We must all now seek to arm ourselves for the contest in which we must soon engage. **Faith in God's word, prayerfully studied and practically applied, will be our shield from Satan's power** and will bring us off conquerors through the blood of Christ. Testimonies for the Church, vol. 1, Page 302

GC-593:2 Those who endeavor to obey all the commandments of God will be opposed and derided. They can stand only in God. In order to endure the trial before them, they must understand the will of God as revealed in His word; they can honor Him only as they have a right conception of His character, government, and purposes, and act in accordance with them. None but those who have fortified the mind with the truths of the Bible will stand through the last great conflict. To every soul will come the searching test: Shall I obey God rather than men? The decisive hour is even now at hand. **Are our feet planted on the rock of God's immutable word? Are we prepared to stand firm in defense of the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus? Mereka yang berusaha untuk menuruti semua perintah Allah akan di-tentang dan dicemoohkan. Mereka bisa berdiri hanya di dalam dan oleh pertolongan Allah. Agar dapat menanggung pencobaan yang datang, mereka harus mengerti kehendak Allah sebagaimana yang dinyatakan di dalam firman-Nya. Mereka bisa menghormatinya hanya apabila mereka mempunyai pengertian yang benar mengenai tabiat-Nya, pemerintahannya dan maksud-maksud-Nya, dan bertindak sesuai dengan itu. Hanya mereka yang telah membentengi pikirannya dengan kebenaran-kebenaran Alkitab yang akan bertahan melewati pertentangan besar terakhir itu. Akan datang ujian penelitian yang mendalam kepada setiap jiwa: Akankah**

saya lebih menurut kepada Allah daripada kepada manusia? Bahkan saat yang menentukan sekarang sudah datang. Apakah kaki kita berpijak kukuh di atas batu karang firman Allah yang tak berubah itu? Apakah kita bersedia untuk berdiri teguh mempertahankan perintah-perintah Allah dan iman kepada Yesus

What must we fill the mind with now, in order to withstand the sorceries of Satan in the Final Crisis?

We must fill it with God's holy Word, and plead with God for continual help. Otherwise the taunts and ridicule of the world, and the mystical spiritualism of Satan will capture us.

"We are approaching the end of this earth's history, and Satan is working as never before. He is striving to act as director of the Christian world. With an intensity that is marvelous he is working with his lying wonders. Satan is represented as walking about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. He desires to embrace the whole world in his confederacy. **Hiding his deformity under the garb of Christianity, he assumes the attributes of a Christian, and claims to be Christ Himself."—Manuscript 125, 1901, 6. ("The Unchangeable Law of God," December 9, 1901.)/ Manuscript Releases, vol. 8, Page 346**

"Wonderful scenes are opening before us; and at this time a living testimony is to be borne in the lives of God's professed people **so that the world may see that in this age, when evil reigns on every side, there is yet a people who are laying aside their will and are seeking to do God's will**—a people in whose hearts and lives God's law is written.

God expects those who bear the name of Christ to represent Him. Their thoughts are to be pure, their words noble and uplifting. **The religion of Christ is to be interwoven with all that they do and say... God desires His people to show by their lives the advantage of Christianity over worldliness**, to show that they are working on a high, holy plane." The Adventist Home, Page 520

GC 594:1 Before His crucifixion the Saviour explained to His disciples that He was to be put to death and to rise again from the tomb, and angels were present to impress His words on minds and hearts. But the disciples were looking for temporal deliverance from the Roman yoke, and they could not tolerate the thought that He in whom all their hopes centered should suffer an ignominious death. The words which they needed to remember were banished from their minds; and when the time of trial came, it found them unprepared. The death of Jesus as fully destroyed their hopes as if He had not forewarned

them. So in the prophecies the future is opened before us as plainly as it was opened to the disciples by the words of Christ. The events connected with the close of probation and the work of preparation for the time of trouble, are clearly presented. But multitudes have no more understanding of these important truths than if they had never been revealed. Satan watches to catch away every impression that would make them wise unto salvation, and the time of trouble will find them unready. Sebelum penyaliban-Nya, Juruselamat menjelaskan kepada murid-murid-Nya bahwa Ia akan dibunuh, dan akan bangkit kembali dari kubur, dan malaikat-malaikat hadir untuk mengesankan firman-Nya ke dalam pikiran dan hati mereka. Akan tetapi murid-murid itu, yang mencari kelepasan duniawi dari perhambaan Romawi, tidak dapat menerima pemikiran bahwa Ia, yang menjadi tumpuan harapan mereka, akan menderita kematian yang memalukan. Kata-kata yang perlu mereka ingat sirna dari pikiran mereka, dan pada waktu pencobaan datang, mereka didapati tidak bersedia. Kematian Yesus telah menghancurkan harapan mereka sama seperti jika Ia tidak mengamarkan mereka sebelumnya. Jadi dalam nubuatan masa yang akan datang itu dibukakan di hadapan kita dengan jelas sama seperti yang dibukakan kepada murid-murid itu oleh kata-kata Kristus. Peristiwa-peristiwa yang berhubungan dengan tertutupnya masa percobaan dan pekerjaan persiapan kepada masa kesukaran, disajikan dengan jelas. Tetapi orang banyak itu tidak lebih mengerti kebenaran-kebenaran penting ini daripada tidak pernah dinyatakan kepada mereka sebelumnya. Setan bersiap terus untuk merampas setiap kesan yang akan membuat mereka mengerti mengenai keselamatan, dan bilamana kesukaran datang, mereka tidak bersedia.

Although the Word of God is plain, yet the greater number of people in the world will not be ready for the predicted crisis. Why?

Because they have not fortified the mind with Scripture! They have let Satan enamor them with the foolishness of the world.

“There is an emotional excitement, a mingling of the true with the false, that is well adapted to mislead. Yet none need be deceived. In the light of God's word it is not difficult to determine the nature of these movements. Wherever men neglect the testimony of the Bible, turning away from those plain, soul-testing truths which require self-denial and renunciation of

the world, there we may be sure that God's blessing is not bestowed." The Great Controversy, Page 464

“For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish, foolishness; but unto us which are saved, it is the power of God. For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this world? Hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? **For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.**” [1 Corinthians 1:17-21.] (¹⁷“For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect.

Christ the Power and Wisdom of God

¹⁸ For the ^[a]message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written:

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
And bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.”

²⁰ Where *is* the wise? Where *is* the scribe? Where *is* the ^[b]disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.”). Christian Education, Page 94

GC 594:2 When God sends to men warnings so important that they are represented as proclaimed by holy angels flying in the midst of heaven, He requires every person endowed with reasoning powers to heed the message. The fearful judgments denounced against the worship of the beast and his image Revelation 14:9-11(9 Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, 10 he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. 11 And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.”), should lead all to a diligent study of the prophecies to learn what the mark of the beast is, and how they are to avoid receiving it. But the masses of the people turn away

their ears from hearing the truth and are turned unto fables. The apostle Paul declared, looking down to the last days: "The time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine." 2 Timothy 4:3(3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;). That time has fully come. The multitudes do not want Bible truth, because it interferes with the desires of the sinful, world-loving heart; and Satan supplies the deceptions which they love. Pada waktu Allah mengirimkan amaran-amaran penting kepada manusia yang digambarkan sebagai diumumkan oleh malaikat-malaikat kudus yang terbang di tengah-tengah langit, Ia menuntut setiap orang yang dikaruniai dengan kuasa pertimbangan untuk mengindahkan amaran-amaran itu. Penghakiman yang mengerikan yang diumumkan terhadap penyembahan kepada binatang itu dan patungnya (Wahyu 14:9-11) harus menuntun semua orang kepada penyelidikan yang sungguh-sungguh mengenai nubuatan untuk mengetahui apa tanda binatang itu, dan bagaimana caranya agar tidak menerima tanda itu. Tetapi sangat banyak orang yang memalingkan telinganya daripada mendengar kebenaran dan berpaling kepada cerita-cerita dongeng. Rasul Paulus menyatakan sambil memandang kepada harihari terakhir, "Karena akan datang waktunya orang tidak dapat lagi menerima ajaran sehat, tetapi mereka akan mengumpulkan guru-guru menurut kehendaknya untuk memuaskan keinginan telinganya." (2 Timotius 4:3). Waktu itu telah benar-benar datang. Orang banyak tidak menyukai kebenaran Alkitab, karena hal itu mengganggu keinginan hati yang penuh dosa dan cinta dunia; dan Setan menyediakan penipuan-penipuan yang mereka sukai.

How important is it that we earnestly study God's Word and the messages of Revelation 13 and 14?

While we must learn the truth and preach the truth, we must recognize that the larger number of those we present it to will turn away to serve idols.

"God has a work for His faithful servants to do. **The attacks of the enemy must be met with the truth of His Word. Falsehood must be unmasked**, its true character must be revealed, and the light of the law of Jehovah must shine forth into the moral darkness of the world. We are to present the claims of His Word....**On every side we see men easily led captive by the delusive imaginations of those who make void the Word of God.**" Evangelism, Page 625

“What are you doing, brethren, in the great work of preparation? **Those who are uniting with the world are receiving the worldly mold and preparing for the mark of the beast. Those who are distrustful of self, who are humbling themselves before God and purifying their souls by obeying the truth—these are receiving the heavenly mold and preparing for the seal of God in their foreheads.** When the decree goes forth and the stamp is impressed, their character will remain pure and spotless for eternity.” Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, Page 216

GC 595:1 But God will have a people upon the earth to maintain the Bible, and the Bible only, as the standard of all doctrines and the basis of all reforms. The opinions of learned men, the deductions of science, the creeds or decisions of ecclesiastical councils, as numerous and discordant as are the churches which they represent, the voice of the majority—not one nor all of these should be regarded as evidence for or against any point of religious faith. Before accepting any doctrine or precept, we should demand a plain “Thus saith the Lord” in its support. **Akan tetapi Allah mempunyai suatu umat di atas dunia ini yang mempertahankan Alkitab, dan hanya Alkitablah, sebagai standar semua doktrin, dan dasar dari segala pembaharuan. Pendapat-pendapat kaum terpelajar, kesimpulan-kesimpulan ilmu pengetahuan, ringkasan doktrin atau keputusan-keputusan konsili kegerejaan, yang banyak dan saling bertentangan seperti gereja-gereja yang diwakilinya, suara mayoritas,—tidak satu atau semua ini harus dianggap sebagai bukti untuk menerima atau menolak sesuatu ajaran iman keagamaan. Sebelum menerima suatu doktrin atau petunjuk, kita harus menuntut, “Demikianlah firman Tuhan” untuk mendukungnya.**

What is the basic standard of all doctrine?

It is the Bible. We cannot trust to the opinions or supposed wisdom of uninspired men.

“God has been pleased to communicate His truth to the world by human agencies, and He Himself, by His Holy Spirit, qualified men and enabled them to do this work. **He guided the mind in the selection of what to speak and what to write. The treasure was entrusted to earthen vessels, yet it is, nonetheless, from Heaven. The testimony is conveyed through the imperfect expression of human language, yet it is the testimony of God;** and the obedient, believing child of God beholds in it the glory of a divine power, full of grace and truth.

In His Word, God has committed to men the knowledge necessary for salvation. **The Holy Scriptures are to be accepted as an authoritative, infallible revelation of His will.** They are the standard of character, the revealer of doctrines, and the test of experience.” From Here to Forever, Page 8-9

GC 595:2 Satan is constantly endeavoring to attract attention to man in the place of God. He leads the people to look to bishops, to pastors, to professors of theology, as their guides, instead of searching the Scriptures to learn their duty for themselves. Then, by controlling the minds of these leaders, he can influence the multitudes according to his will. Setan selalu berusaha menarik perhatian kepada manusia sebagai gantinya kepada Allah. Ia menuntun orang-orang untuk memandang kepada uskup-uskup, pastor-pastor, profesor-profesor teologi, sebagai penuntun mereka gantinya menyelidiki Alkitab untuk mengetahui tugas-tugas mereka terhadap mereka sendiri. Kemudian, oleh mengendalikan pikiran para pemimpin ini, dia dapat mempengaruhi orang banyak sesuai dengan keimanannya.

What is Satan continually trying to get us to look to for guidance?

Fallible humans. Only God’s Word can help us, when combined with earnest prayer to Him.

“When the eyes have been enlightened with the spiritual eyesight, then we shall see altogether clearly. The things of time and sense that now attract attention will lose their value, for there will be disclosed to man eternal interests. As God made known his will to the Hebrew captives, to those who were most separate from the customs and practices of a world living in wickedness, so will the Lord communicate light from heaven to all who will appreciate a “Thus saith the Lord.” To them He will express His mind.” Lt 60, 1898

“The Lord has a work to do in our world, but He will not trust His work in the hands of people who know nothing of the Bible or of the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven.” Christ Triumphant, Page 236/Manuscript 7, 1900.

If I go with the crowd, the Bible tells me I am in the broad road to death. Said the Majesty of heaven, “Strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.” **We are accountable for the light that shines in our day.** Christ wept in agony over Jerusalem because they knew not the time of their visitation. It was their day of trust, their day of opportunity and privilege.... The foul ingratitude, the hollow formalism, and the hypocritical

insincerity of hundreds of years called these tears of irrepressible anguish from His eyes.—
Letter 35a, 1877/Christ Triumphant, Page 317

GC 595:3-596:1-2 When Christ came to speak the words of life, the common people heard Him gladly; and many, even of the priests and rulers, believed on Him. But the chief of the priesthood and the leading men of the nation were determined to condemn and repudiate His teachings. Though they were baffled in all their efforts to find accusations against Him, though they could not but feel the influence of the divine power and wisdom attending His words, yet they incased themselves in prejudice; they rejected the clearest evidence of His Messiahship, lest they should be forced to become His disciples. These opponents of Jesus were men whom the people had been taught from infancy to reverence, to whose authority they had been accustomed implicitly to bow. “How is it,” they asked, “that our rulers and learned scribes do not believe on Jesus? Would not these pious men receive Him if He were the Christ?” It was the influence of such teachers that led the Jewish nation to reject their Redeemer. **Ketika Kristus datang untuk mengucapkan firman kehidupan itu, orang-orang biasa mendengarkan-Nya dengan gembira. Dan banyak, bahkan di antara imam-imam dan penguasa-penguasa, yang percaya kepada-Nya. Tetapi imam besar dan pemuka-pemuka bangsa itu bertekad untuk mem-persalahkan dan menolak ajaran-ajaran-Nya. Meskipun mereka gagal dalam usaha untuk mencari kesalahan untuk dituduhkan terhadap Dia, meskipun mereka merasakan pengaruh kuasa Ilahi dan hikmat yang menyertai kata-kata-Nya, namun mereka mengurung diri dalam prasangka buruk, mereka menolak bukti yang jelas mengenai Kemesiasan-Nya, agar jangan sampai mereka ditarik menjadi murid-Nya. Lawan-lawan Yesus ini adalah orang-orang yang telah dididik sejak masa kanak-kanak untuk menghormati para penguasa yang biasanya mereka tunduk kepadanya. “Bagaimana ini,” tanya mereka, “sehingga para penguasa dan para ahli Taurat kita yang terdidik dengan baik tidak percaya kepada Yesus? Tidakkah orang-orang saleh ini mau menerima Dia kalau Dia adalah Kristus itu?” Pengaruh guruguru seperti inilah yang menuntun bangsa Yahudi untuk menolak Penebus.**

The spirit which actuated those priests and rulers is still manifested by many who make a high profession of piety. They refuse to examine the testimony of the Scriptures concerning the special truths for this time. They point to their own numbers, wealth, and popularity, and look with contempt upon the advocates of truth as few, poor, and unpopular, having a faith that separates

them from the world. Roh yang menggerakkan imam-imam dan para penguasa itu masih di-nyatakan oleh banyak orang yang mengaku saleh. Mereka menolak meme-riksa kesaksian Alkitab mengenai kebenaran khusus pada zaman ini. Me-reka menunjuk kepada jumlah, kekayaan dan popularitas mereka sendiri, dan memandang rendah para pembela kebenaran, karena mereka hanya segelintir, miskin, tidak populer dan mempunyai suatu iman yang memisahkan mereka dari dunia.

Christ foresaw that the undue assumption of authority indulged by the scribes and Pharisees would not cease with the dispersion of the Jews. He had a prophetic view of the work of exalting human authority to rule the conscience, which has been so terrible a curse to the church in all ages. And His fearful denunciations of the scribes and Pharisees, and His warnings to the people not to follow these blind leaders, were placed on record as an admonition to future generations. Kristus telah melihat dahulu bahwa anggapan yang tidak sewajarnya mengenai kekuasaan oleh para ahli Taurat dan orang Farisi tidak akan ber-henti dengan dicerai-beraikannya orang Yahudi. Ia memiliki suatu pan-dangan nubuatan mengenai pekerjaan meninggikan kekuasaan manusia untuk memerintah hati nurani, yang telah merupakan suatu kutuk yang mengerikan kepada gereja sepanjang zaman. Dan perbuatan-perbuatan ter-cela yang menakutkan dari para ahli Taurat dan orang-orang Farisi kepadanya, dan amaran-amarannya kepada orang-orang agar tidak mengikuti pemimpin-pemimpin yang buta ini, telah dicatat sebagai suatu amaran bagi generasi yang akan datang.

Who is it that stolidly withstood the teachings of Jesus, and opposed all His efforts to bring those truths to the people?

It was the unconverted religious leaders of Christ's time. His is a solemn warning to us. We cannot trust to ministers and elders. Only God's Word can teach us our duty day by day. Only Scripture, amid much prayer, can lead us to heaven.

“He(Jesus) was so quick to see what was false and what was true, His brethren were greatly annoyed at Him, for they said that whatever the priest taught ought to be considered as sacred as a command of God. But Jesus taught both by His words and by His example that **people ought to worship God just as He has directed them to worship Him, and not follow the ceremonies that religious leaders have said ought to be followed”** Christ Triumphant, Page 228

“Events upon which the attention of all heaven is centered are undiscerned, their very occurrence is unnoticed, by religious leaders, and worshipers in the house of God. **Men acknowledge Christ in history, while they turn away from the living Christ.**” The Desire of Ages, Page 56

GC 596:3 **The Roman Church reserves to the clergy the right to interpret the Scriptures. On the ground that ecclesiastics alone are competent to explain God's word, it is withheld from the common people. [See Appendix note for page 340.] Though the Reformation gave the Scriptures to all, yet the selfsame principle which was maintained by Rome prevents multitudes in Protestant churches from searching the Bible for themselves. They are taught to accept its teachings as interpreted by the church; and there are thousands who dare receive nothing, however plainly revealed in Scripture, that is contrary to their creed or the established teaching of their church. Gereja Roma memberikan wewenang atau hak kepada para pendeta untuk menafsirkan Alkitab. Oleh karena hanya para pendeta saja yang berkompeten menjelaskan firman Allah, maka pekerjaan seperti itu tidak diberikan kepada orang biasa. Meskipun Pembaruan memberikan Alkitab kepada semua orang, namun prinsip yang sama yang dipertahan-kan oleh Roma mencegah orang banyak di gereja-gereja Protestan untuk menyelidiki Alkitab bagi mereka sendiri. Mereka diajar untuk menerima pengajarannya sebagaimana ditafsirkan oleh gereja; dan ada ribuan orang yang berani tidak menerima apa-apa pun, betapapun jelasnya dinyatakan di dalam Alkitab, yang bertentangan dengan kepercayaan mereka, atau ajaran yang sudah tetap dari gereja mereka.**

A basic doctrine of the Catholic Church is that only clergy can explain the truth to the people. Is this a safe guide?

We dare not trust in any man nor any teaching, other than the direct statements of Scripture.

“What if in Luther's day people had taken a position to cover their disobedience to God's requirement with: “God is too merciful to condemn me for not taking unpopular truth. Our intellectuals and our religious leaders do not accept it. I will run the risk of transgressing God's law because the world rejects it.... I am satisfied with my religion; ... I will risk going with the crowd.”

If I go with the crowd, the Bible tells me I am in the broad road to death.” Christ Triumphant, Page 317

Jesus came by the authority of God, bearing His image, fulfilling His word, and seeking His glory; yet He was not accepted by the leaders in Israel; **but when others should come, assuming the character of Christ, but actuated by their own will and seeking their own glory, they would be received. And why? Because he who is seeking his own glory appeals to the desire for self-exaltation in others.** To such appeals the Jews could respond. They would receive the false teacher because he flattered their pride by sanctioning their cherished opinions and traditions. But the teaching of Christ did not coincide with their ideas. It was spiritual, and demanded the sacrifice of self; therefore they would not receive it. **They were not acquainted with God, and to them His voice through Christ was the voice of a stranger.**

Is not the same thing repeated in our day? Are there not many, even religious leaders, who are hardening their hearts against the Holy Spirit, making it impossible for them to recognize the voice of God? **Are they not rejecting the word of God, that they may keep their own traditions? The Desire of Ages, Page 212-213**

GC 596:4 Notwithstanding the Bible is full of warnings against false teachers, many are ready thus to commit the keeping of their souls to the clergy. There are today thousands of professors of religion who can give no other reason for points of faith which they hold than that they were so instructed by their religious leaders. They pass by the Saviour's teachings almost unnoticed, and place implicit confidence in the words of the ministers. But are ministers infallible? How can we trust our souls to their guidance unless we know from God's word that they are light bearers? A lack of moral courage to step aside from the beaten track of the world leads many to follow in the steps of learned men; and by their reluctance to investigate for themselves, they are becoming hopelessly fastened in the chains of error. They see that the truth for this time is plainly brought to view in the Bible; and they feel the power of the Holy Spirit attending its proclamation; yet they allow the opposition of the clergy to turn them from the light. Though reason and conscience are convinced, these deluded souls dare not think differently from the minister; and their individual judgment, their eternal interests, are sacrificed to the unbelief, the pride and prejudice, of another. Walaupun Alkitab penuh dengan amaran terhadap guru-guru palsu, banyak yang bersedia menyerahkan pemeliharaan jiwa mereka

kepada pendeta. Sekarang ini ada ribuan orang yang mengaku beragama yang tidak, dapat memberikan alasan-alasan bagi pokok-pokok iman mereka, selain daripada mereka telah diajar demikian oleh para pemimpin agama mereka. Mereka melewatkan ajaran-ajaran Juruselamat hampir-hampir tidak memperhatikannya, dan menaruh kepercayaan penuh kepada kata-kata para pendeta. Tetapi apakah para pendeta tidak dapat salah? Bagaimana mungkin kita mempercayakan jiwa kita kepada tuntunan mereka kecuali kita mengetahui dari firman Allah bahwa mereka adalah pembawa terang. Kurangnya keberanian moral untuk keluar dari jalur kebiasaan dunia, menuntun banyak orang untuk mengikuti jejak kaum terpelajar; dan karena keengganan mereka untuk menyelidiki bagi mereka sendiri, mereka menjadi terikat dalam rantai kesalahan. Mereka melihat bahwa kebenaran zaman ini ditunjukkan dengan jelas di dalam Alkitab, dan mereka merasakan kuasa Roh Kudus membantu penyiarannya, namun mereka mengizinkan perlawanan pendeta untuk mengalihkan mereka dari terang itu. Walaupun akal dan hati nurani diyakinkan, jiwa-jiwa yang tertipu ini tidak berani berpikir beda dari pendeta; dan demi pertimbangan individu mereka, kepentingan-kepentingan abadi mereka dikorbankan kepada ketidakpercayaan, kesombongan dan prasangka buruk orang lain.

He question is here asked, Can we trust our souls to the guidance of our pastors?

The answer, of course, is that we must look to God and His Word for guidance, for both truth and our present duty. The policy of trusting in men for salvation is the foundation on which papal power is built!

“I have no real ground of hope for those who have stood as shepherds to the flock, and have for years been borne with by the merciful God, following them with reproof, with warnings, with entreaties, but who have hid their evil ways, and continued in them, thus defying the laws of the God of heaven by practicing fornication. We may leave them to work out their own salvation with fear and trembling, after all has been done to reform them; but in no case entrust to them the guardianship of souls. False shepherds! Oh, can it be that the men who have been engaged in this work for a long time will corrupt their ways before the Lord after great experience and special light?” Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers, Page 428

“As the work of Sabbath reform extends, this rejection of the divine law to avoid the claims of the fourth commandment will become well-nigh universal. The teachings of religious leaders have opened the door to infidelity, to spiritualism, and to contempt for God's holy law; and upon these leaders rests a fearful responsibility for the iniquity that exists in the Christian world.” Darkness Before Dawn, Page 32

The priests and rulers, the scribes and Pharisees, destroyed the living pastures, and defiled the wellsprings of the water of life. **Faithfully do the words of inspiration describe those false shepherds:** “The diseased have ye not strengthened, neither have ye healed that which was sick, neither have ye bound up that which was broken, neither have ye brought again that which was driven away; ... but with force and with cruelty have ye ruled them.” Ezekiel 34:4(**4 The weak you have not strengthened, nor have you healed those who were sick, nor bound up the broken, nor brought back what was driven away, nor sought what was lost; but with force and [a]cruelty you have ruled them**) The Desire of Ages, Page 478

GC 597:1 Many are the ways by which Satan works through human influence to bind his captives. He secures multitudes to himself by attaching them by the silken cords of affection to those who are enemies of the cross of Christ. Whatever this attachment may be, parental, filial, conjugal, or social, the effect is the same; the opposers of truth exert their power to control the conscience, and the souls held under their sway have not sufficient courage or independence to obey their own convictions of duty. Banyaklah cara yang digunakan Setan melalui pengaruh manusia untuk mengikat tawanan-tawannya. Ia menarik orang banyak kepadanya oleh menghubungkan mereka dengan benang sutra kasih kepada musuh-musuh salib Kristus. Apapun jenis hubungan ini—orangtua, anak, perkawinan, ataupun sosial—hasilnya sama. Penentang kebenaran menggunakan kuasanya untuk mengendalikan hati nurani, dan jiwa-jiwa yang ditahan di bawah kuasanya tidak mempunyai cukup keberanian atau kebebasan menuruti keyakinan tugas mereka.

What are some of the ways that Satan uses to keep people from accepting the truth?

An important way is the influence of friends and loved ones who keep pulling the person away from learning the truth, or remaining in it.

“I saw the rapidity with which this delusion was spreading. A train of cars was shown me, going with the speed of lightning. The angel bade me look carefully. I fixed my eyes upon the

train. It seemed that the whole world was on board, that there could not be one left. Said the angel, "They are binding in bundles ready to burn." Then he showed me the conductor, who appeared like a stately, fair person, whom all the passengers looked up to and revered. I was perplexed and asked my attending angel who it was. He said, "It is Satan. He is the conductor in the form of an angel of light. He has taken the world captive. They are given over to strong delusions, to believe a lie, that they may be damned. This agent, the next highest in order to him, is the engineer, and other of his agents are employed in different offices as he may need them, and they are all going with lightning speed to perdition."

I asked the angel if there were none left. He bade me look in an opposite direction, and I saw a little company traveling a narrow pathway. All seemed to be firmly united, bound together by the truth, in bundles, or companies. Said the angel, "The third angel is binding, or sealing, them in bundles for the heavenly garner." This little company looked careworn, as if they had passed through severe trials and conflicts. And it appeared as if the sun had just risen from behind a cloud and shone upon their countenances, causing them to look triumphant, as if their victories were nearly won." Early Writings, Page 88-89

GC 597:2 The truth and the glory of God are inseparable; it is impossible for us, with the Bible within our reach, to honor God by erroneous opinions. Many claim that it matters not what one believes, if his life is only right. But the life is molded by the faith. If light and truth is within our reach, and we neglect to improve the privilege of hearing and seeing it, we virtually reject it; we are choosing darkness rather than light. Kebenaran dan kemuliaan Allah tidak bisa dipisahkan; mustahil bagi kita, menghormati Allah oleh pendapat-pendapat kita yang salah, sementara Alkitab ada dalam jangkauan kita. Banyak yang berpendapat bahwa tidak menjadi soal apa yang seseorang percayai, asai kehidupannya benar. Tetapi hidup itu dibentuk oleh kepercayaan atau iman. Jika terang dan kebenaran berada dalam jangkauan kita, dan kita melalaikan kesempatan untuk mendengar dan melihatnya, sesungguhnya kita menolaknya. Kita memilih kegelapan lebih dari terang.

Why are the religious beliefs so important?

Our beliefs affect our lives; indeed, they change our lives!

“It is impossible for us in our own strength to maintain the conflict; and whatever diverts the mind from God, whatever leads to self-exaltation or to self-dependence, is surely preparing the way for our overthrow. The tenor of the Bible is to inculcate distrust of human power and to encourage trust in divine power.

It was the spirit of self-confidence and self-exaltation that prepared the way for David's fall. Flattery and the subtle allurements of power and luxury were not without effect upon him. Intercourse with surrounding nations also exerted an influence for evil. According to the customs prevailing among Eastern rulers, crimes not to be tolerated in subjects were uncondemned in the king; the monarch was not under obligation to exercise the same self-restraint as the subject. All this tended to lessen David's sense of the exceeding sinfulness of sin. And instead of relying in humility upon the power of Jehovah, he began to trust to his own wisdom and might.

As soon as Satan can separate the soul from God, the only Source of strength, he will seek to arouse the unholy desires of man's carnal nature. The work of the enemy is not abrupt; it is not, at the outset, sudden and startling; it is a secret undermining of the strongholds of principle.” **Conflict and Courage, Page 177**

“Those who endeavor to obey all the commandments of God will be opposed and derided. They can stand only in God. In order to endure the trial before them, they must understand the will of God as revealed in His word; they can honor Him only as they have a right conception of His character, government, and purposes, and act in accordance with them. **None but those who have fortified the mind with the truths of the Bible will stand through the last great conflict.** To every soul will come the searching test: Shall I obey God rather than men?” **The Great Controversy, Page 594**

GC 597:3 “There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.” Proverbs 16:25. Ignorance is no excuse for error or sin, when there is every opportunity to know the will of God. A man is traveling and comes to a place where there are several roads and a guideboard indicating where each one leads. If he disregards the guideboard, and takes whichever road seems to him to be right, he may be ever so sincere, but will in all probability find himself on the wrong road. “Ada jalan yang disangka lurus, tetapi ujungnya menuju maut.” (Amsal 16:25). Sikap masa bodoh dan ketidaktahuan tidak bisa menjadi alasan untuk berbuat kesalahan atau dosa, bilamana ada sesuatu kesempatan untuk mengetahui kehendak Allah. Seorang yang sedang mengadakan perjalanan tiba pada suatu tempat di mana ada beberapa jalan raya, dan di situ ada papan penunjuk jalan yang mengatakan arah tiap-tiap jalan itu. Jika orang yang sedang mengadakan perjalanan itu

mengabaikan papan penunjuk jalan itu, dan ia memilih jalan yang tampaknya baginya Benar, betapapun sungguh-sungguhnya dia, tetapi ada kemungkinan ia mengambil jalan yang salah.

There is a way that seems what to man?

Beware, beware! It is easy to think you are doing very well, when something is in your life that needs to be corrected before it is too late!

We, Each one of us, must ourselves be the right kind of signboard to everyone that we meet!

“Those who do not represent Christ, are like sign-boards that cannot be read; and many who are in prominent positions are pointing the wrong way, or giving no light as to which is the road to the kingdom of God. Let the sign-board be ever so rough, the letters ever so plain, if they can be read, the traveler may find the right way. **Let every one in our ranks, professing the name of Christ, see to it that he is not misguiding souls. Many are becoming confused, and losing all confidence in Christ, because those who claim to be Christians are not following the light of the word, but rather are swayed by their impulses, and guided by their own notions. The souls of many are hungering and thirsting to know the way to heaven. Let it be made plain through a representation of the character of Christ.** Your cold hard-heartedness is misleading souls, and turning their steps into the way of ruin. Put on Christ, and walk in love as dear children. “Learn of me,” says the Great Teacher; “for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.” **We should guide the souls of men, not in our way, but in the new and living way which Christ consecrated with his own blood.** In this way we may “run, and not be weary;” “walk, and not faint;” we may go on from strength to strength, from light to greater light, till the beams of the Sun of Righteousness illuminate all the chambers of the mind and heart. As the light is diffused, given to others, greater light will come. **The reason why the churches sit in darkness and have no light, is that they have not given light, they have not been as a city set upon a hill, that cannot be hid.** O that all would cultivate love for souls, and deny inclination! Then the love of Christ would burn in the heart, and souls for whom he died would rejoice in the revealed mercy of God.” **The Review and Herald, February 10, 1891**

“You are your greatest enemy. Your wrong habits unbalance the circulation of the blood and determine [direct] the blood to the brain, and then you view everything in a perverted light. You are quick and high-tempered, and you have not cultivated self-control. **Your will and your way seem right to you. But unless you see the defects in your character and wash your robe and make it white in the blood of the Lamb, you will surely fail of everlasting life. You love the theory of the truth, but you do not let it sanctify your life. You do not carry out in your**

daily deportment the principles of the truth you profess.”—Letter 27, 1872 / Mind, Character, and Personality, vol. 2, 381.4

GC 598:1 God has given us His word that we may become acquainted with its teachings and know for ourselves what He requires of us. When the lawyer came to Jesus with the inquiry, “What shall I do to inherit eternal life?” the Saviour referred him to the Scriptures, saying: “What is written in the law? how readest thou?” Ignorance will not excuse young or old, nor release them from the punishment due for the transgression of God's law; because there is in their hands a faithful presentation of that law and of its principles and claims. It is not enough to have good intentions; it is not enough to do what a man thinks is right or what the minister tells him is right. His soul's salvation is at stake, and he should search the Scriptures for himself. However strong may be his convictions, however confident he may be that the minister knows what is truth, this is not his foundation. He has a chart pointing out every waymark on the heavenward journey, and he ought not to guess at anything. Allah telah memberikan kepada kita firman-Nya supaya kita menjadi terbiasa dengan ajaran-ajaran-Nya, dan mengetahui apa yang Ia tuntutan dari kita sendiri. Pada waktu ahli hukum itu datang kepada Yesus dengan pertanyaannya, “Guru, perbuatan baik apakah yang harus kuperbuat untuk memperoleh hidup yang kekal?” Juruselamat menunjuk kepada Alkitab dengan berkata, “Apakah yang tertulis di dalam hukum itu? bagaimanakah kamu baca?” Sikap masa bodoh tidak akan memaafkan orang muda atau orangtua, atau membebaskannya dari hukuman karena pelanggaran hukum Allah, sebab pada tangan mereka telah ada hukum, prinsip-prinsipnya dan tuntutan-tuntutannya. Tidak cukup hanya memiliki niat yang baik; tidaklah cukup hanya melakukan apa yang dipikirkan oleh seseorang adalah benar, atau apa yang pendeta katakan adalah baik. Keselamatan jiwanya dipertaruhkan, dan ia harus menyelidiki Alkitab untuk dirinya sendiri. Bagaimanapun kuatnya keyakinannya, bagaimanapun besarnya rasa percaya dirinya bahwa pendeta mengetahui apa itu kebenaran, ini bukanlah dasar baginya. Ia mempunyai sebuah peta yang menunjukkan setiap tanda jalan dalam perjalanan menuju surga, dan ia tidak boleh menerka-nerka sesuatu.

Where only can we find certainty?

It is not enough to have good intentions and think we are on the right track. We must have certainty, and this is only to be found in continual study of God's Inspired Writings.

"No other study will so ennoble every thought, feeling, and aspiration, as the study of the Scriptures. **This sacred word is the will of God revealed to men. Here we may learn what God expects of the beings formed in his image. Here we learn how to improve the present life, and how to secure the future life. No other book can satisfy the questionings of the mind, and the craving of the heart.** By obtaining a knowledge of God's word, and giving heed thereto, men may rise from the lowest depths of ignorance and degradation, to become the sons of God, the associates of sinless angels.

A clear conception of what God is, and what he requires us to be, will give us humble views of self. He who studies aright the sacred word, will learn that human intellect is not omnipotent; that, without the help which none but God can give, human strength and wisdom are but weakness and ignorance." **Christian Education, Page 37**

"There should be a living, growing interest in storing the mind with Bible truth. The precious knowledge thus gained will build a barrier about the soul. Although assailed with temptation, there will be a firm trust in Jesus, through the knowledge of him who hath called them to glory and to virtue." The Signs of the Times, August 13, 1885

GC 598:2 It is the first and highest duty of every rational being to learn from the Scriptures what is truth, and then to walk in the light and encourage others to follow his example. We should day by day study the Bible diligently, weighing every thought and comparing scripture with scripture. With divine help we are to form our opinions for ourselves as we are to answer for ourselves before God. Adalah tugas utama dan tertinggi setiap makhluk yang rasional yang mempelajari dari Alkitab apa itu kebenaran, lalu berjalan di dalam terangnya, dan mendorong orang-orang lain untuk mengikuti teladannya. Kita harus mempelajari Alkitab itu dengan tekun setiap hari, menimbang setiap pemikiran, dan membandingkan ayat dengan ayat lain. Dengan pertolongan ilahi, kita membentuk sendiri pendapat kita untuk kita sendiri, sebagaimana kita harus menjawab untuk kita sendiri di hadirat Allah.

What is our first and highest duty? What is our second duty?

Our first duty is to learn what is right from the Scriptures. Our second duty is to obey what we learn.

“If the Bible were studied as it should be, men would become strong in intellect. The subjects treated upon in the word of God, the dignified simplicity of its utterance, the noble themes which it presents to the mind, develop faculties in man which cannot otherwise be developed...”

If the Bible were read more, if its truths were better understood, we should be a far more enlightened and intelligent people. Angels from the world of light stand by the side of the earnest seeker after truth, to impress and illuminate his mind. He who is dark of understanding may find light through an acquaintance with the Scriptures.” Fundamentals of Christian Education, Page 165

GC 598:3 The truths most plainly revealed in the Bible have been involved in doubt and darkness by learned men, who, with a pretense of great wisdom, teach that the Scriptures have a mystical, a secret, spiritual meaning not apparent in the language employed. These men are false teachers. It was to such a class that Jesus declared: “Ye know not the Scriptures, neither the power of God.” Mark 12:24. The language of the Bible should be explained according to its obvious meaning, unless a symbol or figure is employed. Christ has given the promise: “If any man will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine.” John 7:17. If men would but take the Bible as it reads, if there were no false teachers to mislead and confuse their minds, a work would be accomplished that would make angels glad and that would bring into the fold of Christ thousands upon thousands who are now wandering in error. Kebenaran yang jelas sekali dinyatakan di dalam Alkitab, telah ditanggapi dengan keragu-raguan dan ketidakjelasan oleh kaum terpelajar, yang dengan berpura-pura memiliki hikmat yang besar, mengajarkan bahwa Alkitab itu mempunyai arti rohani yang penuh mistik dan rahasia yang tidak kelihatan dalam bahasa yang digunakan. Orang-orang ini adalah guru-guru palsu. Kepada golongan seperti inilah Yesus menyatakan “Kamu sesat, justru karena kamu tidak mengerti Kitab Suci maupun kuasa Allah.” (Markus 12:24). Bahasa Alkitab harus dijelaskan sesuai dengan artinya yang sebenarnya, kecuali menggunakan lambang atau gambar. Kristus telah berjanji, “Barangsiapa mau melakukan kehendak-Nya, ia akan tahu

entah ajaran-Ku ini berasal dari Allah, entah Aku berkata-kata dari diri-Ku sendiri.” (Yohanes 7:17). Jikalau manusia menerima Alkitab sebagaimana ia dibaca, jikalau tidak ada guru-guru palsu yang menyesatkan dan membingungkan pikiran mereka, pekerjaan akan tercapai yang membuat malaikat-malaikat senang, dan yang akan membawa ke pihak Kristus ribuan orang yang sekarang sedang mengembara dalam kesalahan.

How should the Scriptures be studied?

Unless a symbol or figure is used, we should take the worlds literally as they read.

“Endeavoring to lay aside all preconceived opinions, and dispensing with commentaries, he (William Miller) **compared scripture with scripture** by the aid of the marginal references and the concordance. He **pursued his study in a regular and methodical manner**; beginning with Genesis, and reading verse by verse, he **proceeded no faster than the meaning of the several passages so unfolded** as to leave him free from all embarrassment. When **he found anything obscure, it was his custom to compare it with every other text which seemed to have any reference to the matter** under consideration. Every word was permitted to have its proper bearing upon the subject of the text, and if his view of it harmonized with every collateral passage, it ceased to be a difficulty. Thus **whenever he met with a passage hard to be understood he found an explanation in some other portion of the Scriptures**. As he studied with earnest prayer for divine enlightenment, that which had before appeared dark to his understanding was made clear. He experienced the truth of the psalmist's words: “The entrance of Thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.” Psalm 119:130.” **The Great Controversy, Page 320**

“**Some who are unacquainted with the Bible think that what the ministers tell them must be true**. They do not, like the noble Bereans, search the Scriptures for themselves; but they accept the statements of those who have studied the word of God, not to learn the truth, but to sustain false doctrines, to justify their own theories. **Many times these false theories are a jumble of inconsistencies; and if men would use their reason, and take the Bible as it reads, they would see the absurdity of their positions**. The plain “Thus saith the Lord,” would dispel their errors, as the mist is dispelled by the glories of the rising sun.

As Protestants, the Bible, and the Bible alone, is the foundation of our faith; but by many “the Fathers” are quoted as authority. They do not come as humble learners in the school of Christ, saying, “Lord, what I know not, teach me. ‘Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.’” **The Signs of the Times, August 5, 1886**

“I have been shown that the false shepherds were drunk, but not with wine; they stagger, but not with strong drink. The truth of God is sealed up to them; they cannot read it. When they are interrogated as to what the seventh-day Sabbath is, whether or not it is the true Sabbath of the Bible, they lead the mind to fables. I saw that these prophets were like the foxes of the desert. They have not gone up into the gaps, they have not made up the hedge that the people of God may stand in the battle in the day of the Lord. When the minds of any get stirred up, and they begin to inquire of these false shepherds about the truth, **they take the easiest and best manner to effect their object and quiet the minds of the inquiring ones, even changing their own position to do it.** Light has shone on many of these shepherds, but they would not acknowledge it and have changed their position a number of times to evade the truth and get away from the conclusions that they must come to if they continued in their former position. **The power of truth tore up their foundation, but instead of yielding to it they would get up another platform that they were not satisfied with themselves.”** Early Writtings, p. 123

“Jesus thought upon the souls all over the earth who were misled by false shepherds. **Those whom He longed to gather as the sheep of His pasture were scattered among wolves.”** The Desire of Ages, Page 483

GC 599:1-2 We should exert all the powers of the mind in the study of the Scriptures and should task the understanding to comprehend, as far as mortals can, the deep things of God; yet we must not forget that the docility and submission of a child is the true spirit of the learner. Scriptural difficulties can never be mastered by the same methods that are employed in grappling with philosophical problems. We should not engage in the study of the Bible with that self-reliance with which so many enter the domains of science, but with a prayerful dependence upon God and a sincere desire to learn His will. We must come with a humble and teachable spirit to obtain knowledge from the great I AM. Otherwise, evil angels will so blind our minds and harden our hearts that we shall not be impressed by the truth. Kita harus menggunakan seluruh kuasa pikiran untuk mempelajari Alkitab, dan mengerahkan pengertian kita untuk mengerti, sejauh yang dapat dipahami manusia fana, perkara-perkara yang dalam mengenai Allah. Namun kita tidak boleh lupa bahwa penurutan dan kepatuhan seorang anak adalah roh yang benar seorang pelajar. Hal-hal sulit di dalam Alkitab tidak pernah dapat diatasi dengan metode yang sama yang digunakan menangani masalah-masalah falsafah. Kita tidak boleh mempelajari Alkitab dengan bergantung kepada diri sendiri sebagaimana yang dilakukan banyak orang dalam bidang-bidang ilmu pengetahuan. Tetapi dengan bergantung kepada Allah di dalam doa, dan dengan kerinduan yang sungguh-sungguh untuk mengetahui

kehendak-Nya. Kita harus datang dengan roh kerendahan hati dan dapat diajar untuk memperoleh pengetahuan dari YANG AKU ADA yang agung itu. Jika tidak, malaikat-malaikat jahat akan membutakan pikiran kita sedemikian rupa dan mengeraskan hati kita sehingga kita tidak akan dipengaruhi oleh kebenaran itu.

Many a portion of Scripture which learned men pronounce a mystery, or pass over as unimportant, is full of comfort and instruction to him who has been taught in the school of Christ. One reason why many theologians have no clearer understanding of God's word is, they close their eyes to truths which they do not wish to practice. An understanding of Bible truth depends not so much on the power of intellect brought to the search as on the singleness of purpose, the earnest longing after righteousness. Banyak bagian dari Alkitab yang dikatakan kaum terpelajar sebagai misteri, atau dilewatkan sebagai yang tidak penting, adalah bagian-bagian yang penuh dengan penghiburan dan petunjuk kepada dia yang telah diajar di sekolah Kristus. Salah satu alasan mengapa banyak ahli teologi tidak mempunyai pengertian yang lebih jelas mengenai firman Allah adalah, karena mereka menutup mata mereka kepada kebenaran yang mereka tidak suka mempraktikkannya. Pengertian kebenaran Alkitab tidak terlalu bergantung kepada kuasa intelek yang digunakan untuk menyelidikinya, tetapi lebih kepada bulatnya tekad dan kerinduan yang sungguh-sungguh untuk mengetahui kebenaran.

What should be our attitude of mind when we study the Word of God?

We should come to the Scriptures with a humble heart, earnestly praying to learn the truth that we might obey it.

“When you search the Scriptures with an earnest desire to learn the truth, God will breathe His Spirit into your heart and impress your mind with the light of His word. The Bible is its own interpreter, one passage explaining another. By comparing scriptures referring to the same subjects, you will see beauty and harmony of which you have never dreamed. There is no other book whose perusal strengthens and enlarges, elevates and ennobles the mind, as does the perusal of this Book of books. Its study imparts new vigor to the mind, which is thus brought in contact with subjects requiring earnest thought, and is drawn out in prayer to God for power to comprehend the truths revealed. If the mind is left to deal with commonplace subjects, instead of deep and difficult problems, it will become narrowed down to the standard

of the matter which it contemplates and will finally lose its power of expansion.” Testimonies for the Church, vol. 4, Page 499

“In searching the Scriptures there is need of great humility of mind and contrition of heart, of seeking earnestly unto God. Those who come in a lowly spirit, seeking for truth, will be aided in their search by the angels of God.”—Testimonies on Sabbath-School Work, 55, 56 / Counsels on Sabbath School Work, Page 37

“The Scriptures need not be read by the dim light of tradition or human speculation. **As well might we try to give light to the sun with a torch as to explain the Scriptures by human tradition or imagination.** God's holy word needs not the torchlight glimmer of earth to make its glories distinguishable. **It is light in itself—the glory of God revealed, and beside it every other light is dim.**

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.**

Our salvation depends on a knowledge of the truth 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.” Christ's Object Lessons, Page 111

GC 599:3 The Bible should never be studied without prayer. The Holy Spirit alone can cause us to feel the importance of those things easy to be understood, or prevent us from wresting truths difficult of comprehension. It is the office of heavenly angels to prepare the heart so to comprehend God's word that we shall be charmed with its beauty, admonished by its warnings, or animated and strengthened by its promises. We should make the psalmist's petition our own: “Open Thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of Thy law.” Psalm 119:18. Temptations often appear irresistible because,

through neglect of prayer and the study of the Bible, the tempted one cannot readily remember God's promises and meet Satan with the Scripture weapons. But angels are round about those who are willing to be taught in divine things; and in the time of great necessity they will bring to their remembrance the very truths which are needed. Thus "when the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him." Isaiah 59:19. **Janganlah pernah mempelajari Alkitab tanpa permintaan doa. Roh Suci sendiri dapat membuat kita merasa pentingnya perkara-perkara yang mudah dimengerti, atau mencegah kita dari memutarbalikkan kebenaran yang sulit dimengerti. Adalah tugas malaikat-malaikat surgawi untuk menyediakan hati untuk mengerti firman Allah sehingga kita terpesona akan keindahannya, dinasihati oleh amaran-amarannya, atau digerakkan atau dikuatkan oleh janji-janjinya. Kita harus menjadikan permohonan pemazmur itu menjadi permohonan kita, "Singkapkanlah mataku, supaya aku memandang keajaiban-keajaiban dari Taurat-Mu." (Mazmur 119:18). Percobaan seringkali tampaknya tidak dapat dilawan karena, melalaikan doa dan mempelajari Alkitab, orang yang dicobai itu tidak dapat mengingat janji-janji Allah dan menghadapi Setan dengan senjata Alkitab. Tetapi malaikat-malaikat ada disekeliling mereka yang mau diajar dalam perkara-perkara Ilahi; dan pada waktu yang sangat diperlukan, malaikat-malaikat itu akan mem-bawa kepada ingatan mereka kebenaran-kebenaran yang diperlukan. De-ngan demikian, "Ia akan datang seperti arus dari tempat yang sempit, yang didorong oleh nafas Tuhan." (Yesaya 59:19).**

Can we genuinely understand the Bible if we read it without earnest prayer for guidance?

We are repeatedly told that study of the Scriptures must be accompanied by prayer.

"By prayer, by study of the Bible, and by earnest zeal on their part, they may succeed nobly in this important duty, and be repaid a hundredfold for all their time and care.... **The source of wisdom is open, from which they may draw all necessary knowledge in this direction.**" Child Guidance, Page 64

"Without the guidance of the Holy Spirit we shall be continually liable to wrest the Scriptures or to misinterpret them. There is much reading of the Bible that is without profit and in many

cases is a positive injury. When the word of God is opened without reverence and without prayer; when the thoughts and affections are not fixed upon God or in harmony with His will, the mind is clouded with doubt; and in the very study of the Bible, skepticism strengthens. The enemy takes control of the thoughts, and he suggests interpretations that are not correct.”

Testimonies for the Church 5:699-705 / Counsels for the Church, Page 88

GC 600:1 Jesus promised His disciples: “The Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in My name, He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.” John 14:26.

But the teachings of Christ must previously have been stored in the mind in order for the Spirit of God to bring them to our remembrance in the time of peril. “Thy word have I hid in mine heart,” said David, “that I might not sin against Thee.” Psalm 119:11. Yesus berjanji kepada murid-murid-Nya, “Tetapi Penghibur itu, yaitu Roh Kudus, yang akan diutus oleh Bapa dalam nama-Ku, Dialah yang akan mengajarkan segala sesuatu kepadamu dan akan mengingatkan kamu akan semua yang telah Kukatakan kepadamu.” (Yohanes 14:26). Tetapi pengajaran Kristus haruslah terlebih dahulu disimpan di dalam pikiran agar Roh Allah membawanya ke dalam ingatan kita atau mengingatkan kita pada saat datang bahaya. “Dalam hatiku aku menyimpan janji-Mu,” kata Daud, “supaya aku jangan berbuat dosa terhadap Engkau.” (Mazmur 119:11).

Can we obtain clear understanding of God’s Word without the help of the Holy Spirit?

We must have guidance of the Holy Spirit, and we should humbly ask for His help!

“The Bible should never be studied without prayer. The Holy Spirit alone can cause us to feel the importance of those things easy to be understood, or prevent us from wresting truths difficult of comprehension. It is the office of heavenly angels to prepare the heart so to comprehend God's Word that we shall be charmed with its beauty, admonished by its warnings, or animated and strengthened by its promises.” Counsels on Sabbath School Work, Page 38-39

“Never should the Bible be studied without prayer. Before opening its pages, we should ask for the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit, and it will be given.” Christian Education, Page 59

“Men were moved by the Spirit of God to search for the truth as for hid treasures. Providentially guided to the Holy Scriptures, they studied the sacred pages with intense interest. They were willing to accept the light at any cost to themselves.” The Great Controversy, Page 79

GC 600:2 All who value their eternal interests should be on their guard against the inroads of skepticism. The very pillars of truth will be assailed. It is impossible to keep beyond the reach of the sarcasms and sophisms, the insidious and pestilent teachings, of modern infidelity. Satan adapts his temptations to all classes. He assails the illiterate with a jest or sneer, while he meets the educated with scientific objections and philosophical reasoning, alike calculated to excite distrust or contempt of the Scriptures. Even youth of little experience presume to insinuate doubts concerning the fundamental principles of Christianity. And this youthful infidelity, shallow as it is, has its influence. Many are thus led to jest at the faith of their fathers and to do despite to the Spirit of grace. Hebrews 10:29. Many a life that promised to be an honor to God and a blessing to the world has been blighted by the foul breath of infidelity. All who trust to the boastful decisions of human reason and imagine that they can explain divine mysteries and arrive at truth unaided by the wisdom of God are entangled in the snare of Satan. **Semua orang yang menghargai kepentingan kekal mereka harus berjagajaga terhadap masuknya skeptisisme atau rasa ragu-ragu dan rasa curiga. Pilar-pilar kebenaran akan diserbu. Mustahil untuk menghindar dari jangkauan cemoohan dan tipudaya, dan pengajaran kekafiran modem yang palsu dan tersembunyi. Setan menyesuaikan pencobaannya kepada semua golongan. Ia menyerang yang buta huruf dengan lelucon dan ejekan, sementara kaum terpelajar dihadapinya dengan argumentasi-argumentasi ilmiah dan falsafah, dengan tujuan untuk membangkitkan ketidakpercayaan atau menghinakan Alkitab. Bahkan orang muda yang kurang berpengalaman pun berani menyatakan keraguannya terhadap prinsip-prinsip fundamental Kekristenan. Dan ketidakpercayaan pemuda ini, walaupun sifatnya dangkal, mempunyai pengaruh. Banyak yang dituntun untuk mentertawakan iman leluhur mereka, dan menghina Roh kasih karunia. (Ibrani 10:29). Banyak kehidupan manusia yang sebenarnya bisa menjadi pujian bagi Allah dan berkat bagi dunia ini, telah dirusak oleh kebusukan kefasikan. Semua orang yang**

percaya kepada keputusan pertimbangan manusia, dan yang merasa mereka mampu untuk menerangkan misteri Ilahi, terperosok ke dalam jerat Setan.

Why should we beware of maintaining close friendships with unbelievers?

They can subtly lead us away from obedience to the truth! Their master is Satan and he will use them to influence you in wrong directions.

“Some who pretended to be true to the cause of God were deceivers, and in practice they denied Christ and His gospel. Living themselves in transgression, they were bringing heresies into the church. Thus many were being led into the mazes of skepticism and delusion.” The Acts of the Apostles, Page 553

“It is a dangerous thing to form a worldly alliance. Satan well knows that the hour that witnesses the marriage of many young men and women closes the history of their religious experience and usefulness. They are lost to Christ. They may for a time make an effort to live a Christian life, but all their strivings are made against a steady influence in the opposite direction. Once it was a privilege and joy to them to speak of their faith and hope; but they become unwilling to mention the subject, knowing that the one with whom they have linked their destiny takes no interest in it. As the result, faith in the precious truth dies out of the heart, and Satan insidiously weaves about them a web of skepticism.” The Adventist Home, Page 66

GC 601:1 We are living in the most solemn period of this world's history. The destiny of earth's teeming multitudes is about to be decided. Our own future well-being and also the salvation of other souls depend upon the course which we now pursue. We need to be guided by the Spirit of truth. Every follower of Christ should earnestly inquire: “Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?” We need to humble ourselves before the Lord, with fasting and prayer, and to meditate much upon His word, especially upon the scenes of the judgment. We should now seek a deep and living experience in the things of God. We have not a moment to lose. Events of vital importance are taking place around us; we are on Satan's enchanted ground. Sleep not, sentinels of God; the foe is lurking near, ready at any moment, should you become lax and drowsy, to spring upon you and make you his prey. Kita sedang hidup dalam masa paling genting sejarah dunia ini. Nasib orang banyak di dunia ini tidak lama lagi ditentukan.

Keselamatan masa depan kita sendiri, dan juga keselamatan orang-orang lain, tergantung pada jalan yang kita tempuh sekarang. Kita perlu dituntun oleh Roh kebenaran. Setiap pengikut Kristus harus dengan sungguh-sungguh bertanya, “Tuhan, apa yang Engkau kehendaki kulakukan?” Kita perlu merendahkan diri kita di hadapan Tuhan, dengan berpuasa dan berdoa, dan merenungkan lebih banyak firman-Nya, terutama yang menyangkut penghakiman. Sekarang kita harus mencari pengalaman yang dalam dan hidup dalam perkara-perkara Allah. Jangan ada sesaat pun waktu yang terbuang. Peristiwa-peristiwa penting yang vital sedang terjadi di sekitar kita. Kita berada dalam daerah Setan yang mempesonakan. Janganlah tertidur, hai pengawal-pengawal Allah; musuh sedang mengintai, siap sedia setiap saat untuk menerkam dan memangsamu, jikalau engkau jadi lalai dan mengantuk.

Why is it that we are said to be living in the most solemn period of our planet's history?

Because we are nearing the Final Crisis, that will lead into the end of the conflict of Satan against God in the person of His faithful ones!

“My brethren, **we are living in a most solemn period of this earth's history.** There is never time to sin; it is always perilous to continue in transgression; but in a special sense is this true at the present time. **We are now upon the very borders of the eternal world and stand in a more solemn relation to time and to eternity than ever before.** Now let every person search his own heart, and plead for the bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness to expel all spiritual darkness and cleanse from defilement.” **Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers, Page 147**

“We are living in the closing days of this earth's history. It is a most solemn time. **Everything betokens the soon return of our Lord.**” **The Review and Herald, October 25, 1906**

“**The time of the judgment is a most solemn period, when the Lord gathers His own from among the tares.** Those who have been members of the same family are separated. A mark is placed upon the righteous. “They shall be Mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up My jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.” **Those who have been obedient to God's commandments will unite with the company of the saints in light;** they shall enter in through the gates into the city, and have right to the tree of life. The one shall be taken. His name shall stand in the book of life, while those with whom he associated shall have the mark of eternal separation from God.” **Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers, Page 235**

GC 601:2 Many are deceived as to their true condition before God. They congratulate themselves upon the wrong acts which they do not commit, and forget to enumerate the good and noble deeds which God requires of them, but which they have neglected to perform. It is not enough that they are trees in the garden of God. They are to answer His expectation by bearing fruit. He holds them accountable for their failure to accomplish all the good which they could have done, through His grace strengthening them. In the books of heaven they are registered as cumberers of the ground. Yet the case of even this class is not utterly hopeless. With those who have slighted God's mercy and abused His grace, the heart of long-suffering love yet pleads. "Wherefore He saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. See then that ye walk circumspectly, ... redeeming the time, because the days are evil." Ephesians 5:14-16. Banyak orang yang tertipu mengenai keadaan mereka yang sebenarnya di hadirat Allah. Mereka memuji dirinya sendiri atas perbuatan-perbuatan salah yang mereka tidak lakukan, dan lupa untuk menghitung perbuatan-perbuatan baik dan luhur yang dituntut oleh Allah dari mereka, tetapi yang mereka lalai melakukannya. Tidak cukup menjadi pohon saja di kebun Allah. Mereka harus memenuhi harapan-Nya oleh mengeluarkan buah-buah. Tuhan meminta pertanggungjawaban atas kegagalan mereka mengeluarkan yang baik, yang sebenarnya mereka dapat lakukan melalui anugerah-Nya yang menguatkan mereka. Dalam kitab-kitab surga mereka tercatat sebagai penghalang di tanah kebun itu. Namun golongan ini tidak berarti tanpa harapan sama sekali. Kepada mereka yang telah meremehkan kemurahan Allah dan menyalahgunakan anugerah-Nya, Pengasih yang panjang sabar itu masih tetap mengimbau, "Itulah sebabnya dikatakan: Bangunlah, hai kamu yang tidur dan bangkitlah dari antara orang mati dan Kristus akan bercahaya atas kamu. Karena itu perhatikanlah . . . dan pergunakanlah waktu yang ada, karena hari-hari ini adalah jahat." (Efesus. 5:14-16).

At such a crucial time in history, how can it be that many professed believers will choose to remain with their trinkets and personal sins-and be lost?

Until we are redeemed, there is always opportunity for us to remain in our sins. What a tragedy to be lost, so near the kingdom!

“We are living in a most solemn time. In the last vision given me, I was shown the startling fact that but **a small portion of those who now profess the truth will be sanctified by it and be saved.** Many will get above the simplicity of the work. **They will conform to the world, cherish idols, and become spiritually dead.** The humble, self-sacrificing followers of Jesus will pass on to perfection, leaving behind the indifferent and lovers of the world.” Testimonies for the Church, vol. 1, Page 608-609

“We are finite, but we are to have a sense of the infinite. The mind must be brought into exercise in contemplating God, and His wonderful plan for our salvation. **The soul will thus be lifted above the mere earthly and commonplace, and fixed upon that which is ennobling and eternal.** The thought that we are in God's world, in the presence of the great Creator of the universe, who made man after His own likeness, will lead the mind into broad, exalted fields for meditation. **The thought that God's eye is watching over us, that He loves us, and cared so much for us to give His dearly beloved Son to redeem us, that we might not miserably perish, is a great one; and he who opens his heart to the acceptance and contemplation of themes like these, will never be satisfied with trivial, sensational subjects.**” Fundamentals of Christian Education, Page 164-165

GC 602:1-3 When the testing time shall come, those who have made God's word their rule of life will be revealed. In summer there is no noticeable difference between evergreens and other trees; but when the blasts of winter come, the evergreens remain unchanged, while other trees are stripped of their foliage. So the falsehearted professor may not now be distinguished from the real Christian, but the time is just upon us when the difference will be apparent. Let opposition arise, let bigotry and intolerance again bear sway, let persecution be kindled, and the halfhearted and hypocritical will waver and yield the faith; but the true Christian will stand firm as a rock, his faith stronger, his hope brighter, than in days of prosperity. Bilamana waktu ujian tiba, mereka yang membuat firman Allah sebagai pengatur hidup akan nyata. Pada musim panas tidak ada perbedaan nyata antara pohon yang daunnya hijau sepanjang tahun dengan pohon-pohon lain, tetapi bilamana serangan musim dingin tiba, pohon yang daunnya hijau sepanjang tahun itu tidak berubah, sementara pohon-pohon lainnya kehilangan daun-daunnya. Demikianlah halnya dengan orang-orang yang sekadar mengaku beragama sekarang tidak bisa dibedakan dengan orang Kristen yang sesungguhnya. Tetapi waktunya segera tiba bilamana perbedaan itu akan nyata. Biarlah terjadi perlawanan, biarlah kefanatikan dan sifat tidak toleransi merajalela, biarlah penganiayaan disulut, maka orang-orang yang setengah-setengah hati dan orang yang munafik akan goyah dan meninggalkan imannya, tetapi

orang Kristen sejati akan berdiri teguh bagaikan batu karang, imannya semakin kuat, harapannya semakin cerah, lebih dari pada waktu hari-hari kemakmuran dan kesenangan.

Says the psalmist: "Thy testimonies are my meditation." "Through Thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way." **Psalm 119:99, 104.** **Pemazmur berkata, "Sebab peringatan-peringatan-Mu kurenungkan." "Aku peroleh pengertian dari titah-Mu, itulah sebabnya aku benci segala jalan dusta." (Mazmur 119:99,104).**

"Happy is the man that findeth wisdom." "He shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit." Proverbs 3:13; Jeremiah 17:8. "Berbahagialah orang yang mendapat hikmat." (Amsal 3:13). "Ia akan seperti pohon yang ditanam di tepi air, yang merambatkan akar-akarnya ke tepi batang air, dan yang tidak meng-alami datangnya panas terik, dan yang daunnya tetap hijau, yang tidak kuatir dalam tahun kering, dan yang tidak berhenti menghasilkan buah." (Yeremia 17:8).

The winter chills of the Final Crisis are soon to break upon us. What must we do to make sure that we weather those final storms successfully?

Only those who determine to stand true, whatever the cost; only those to cling to Christ's hand as His little children; only those who live to help and bless others-will weather the storm that is just ahead of us.

In summer, as we look upon the trees of the distant forest, all clothed with a beautiful mantle of green, we may not be able to distinguish between the evergreens and the other trees. But as winter approaches, and the frost king encloses them in his icy embrace, stripping the other trees of their beautiful foliage, the evergreens are readily discerned. **Thus it will be with all who are walking in humility, distrustful of self, but clinging tremblingly to the hand of Christ.** While those who are self-confident, and trust in their own perfection of character, lose their false robe of righteousness when subjected to the storms of trial, **the truly righteous, who sincerely love and fear God, wear the robe of Christ's righteousness in prosperity and adversity alike.** The Sanctified Life, 11.

It requires the testing time to reveal the pure gold of love and faith in the character. **When trials and perplexities come upon the church, then the steadfast zeal and warm affections of**

Christ's true followers are developed. The Sanctified Life, 12 / The Faith I Live By, Page 119

“In the precepts of His holy law, God has given a perfect rule of life; and He has declared that until the close of time this law, unchanged in a single jot or tittle, is to maintain its claim upon human beings. Christ came to magnify the law and make it honorable. He showed that it is based upon the broad foundation of love to God and love to man, and that obedience to its precepts comprises the whole duty of man. In His own life He gave an example of obedience to the law of God. In the Sermon on the Mount He showed how its requirements extend beyond the outward acts and take cognizance of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

The law, obeyed, leads men to deny “ungodliness and worldly lusts,” and to “live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world.” Titus 2:12. But the enemy of all righteousness has taken the world captive and has led men and women to disobey the law. As Paul foresaw, **multitudes have turned from the plain, searching truths of God's word and have chosen teachers who present to them the fables they desire.** Many among both ministers and people are trampling under their feet the commandments of God. Thus the Creator of the world is insulted, and Satan laughs in triumph at the success of his devices.” **The Acts of the Apostles, Page 505**

Reviewing: Pause for a moment and ask yourself (or discuss with your friends in your study group): First, what were the most important lessons that you learned in this chapter? Second, what was the primary source of encouragement? Third, what was the biggest danger?