

Lesson 83: Reverence-2

Memory Verse: O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker. Psalm 95:6

D. Reverence for the Word of God

1. Why is God's Word more special than any other book? **Proverbs 30:5**

Every _____ of God is _____: he is a _____ unto them that put their _____ in him.

Psalm 12:6 The _____ of the LORD are _____ words: as _____ tried in a furnace of earth, purified _____ times.

Note: We should reverence God's word. **For the printed volume we should show respect, never putting it to common uses, or handling it carelessly.** And never should Scripture be quoted in a jest, or paraphrased to point a witty saying. "Every word of God is pure;" "as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times." Proverbs 30:5; Psalm 12:6. Ed 244.1

The one book that is essential for all to study is the Bible. **Studied with reverence and godly fear**, it is the **greatest of all educators**. In it there is **no sophistry**. Its pages are filled with **truth**. Would you gain a knowledge of God and Christ, whom He sent into the world to live and die for sinners? **An earnest, diligent study of the Bible is necessary in order to gain this knowledge.** CH 369.2

The world is full of all manner of error of a misleading nature, and it is essential that both pupils and teachers know that they know what is truth. There is need that we **reverence the word of God** and recognize His voice in the living oracles, that we may **practice its precepts and live by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God**. Those that **do** the will of God **shall know** of the doctrine whether it be of God, **for no deception will cloud their minds**. God calls every one, both old and young, to make a **diligent search in His word**, that they may **discover the rich jewels of truth**. Ministers and people, teachers and scholars, are all called to the work of studying the Bible. CSW 27.2

2. What is the purpose of studying the Bible? **John 5:39,40**

Search the _____; for in them ye think ye have _____ life: and they are they which _____ of me. And _____ will not _____ to me, that ye might have _____.

John 15:11 These things have I _____ unto you, that my _____ might _____ in you, and that _____ joy might be _____.

We should study the Bible to get to know _____ and to learn from Him His plan for us to have eternal _____.

Note: It is of little advantage to skim over the surface of the Scriptures. If we would understand fully the words of Christ, **thought must be brought into the searching of the Scriptures**. We should open the Scriptures with great **reverence**, and **not in a slothful, lazy manner**. The word of Christ is spirit and life to the receiver. The words of Christ to the Pharisees were, "[Ye] search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me" (John 5:39). They were searching the Scriptures for evidence of Christ's appearing, gathering up every evidence in regard to the manner in which they supposed He would come, while Christ was in their midst, and they did not discern Him by the use of faith. ... UL 368.2

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In this our day, as in Christ's day, there will be a **misreading** and **misinterpreting** of the Scriptures. If the Jews had studied the Scriptures with **earnest, prayerful, humble hearts**, their searching would have been rewarded with a **true knowledge** of the **time**, and not only the time, but also the **manner** of Christ's first appearing. They would not have ascribed the glories of the second appearing of Christ to His first advent. They had the testimony of **Daniel**; they had the testimony of **Isaiah** and other prophets; they had the teaching of **Moses**; and here was Christ Himself in their midst, and still they were searching the Scriptures for evidence in regard to His coming. They were doing to Christ, at the same time, the very things that it had been prophesied they would do. They were so **blinded** that they **knew not** the **time** of His visitation, or **what they were doing**. Thus they were fulfilling the Scripture. UL 368.3

Many are doing the same thing today ... because they have **not had experience in the testing message** comprehended in the first, second, and third angels' messages. There are those who are searching the Scriptures for proof that these messages are still in the future. They gather together the truthfulness of the messages, but **they fail to give them their proper place in prophetic history**. Therefore such are **in danger of misleading the people** in regard to locating the messages. **They do not see and understand the time of the end**, or when to locate the messages. ... **The watchman is to know the time of the night**. Everything is now clothed with a **solemnity** that all who believe the truth should feel and sense. ... **All the little things of life are but a mote now. Those that pertain to eternity are of great consequence.** UL 368.4

3. What should our prayer be as we open the Bible? **Psalm 119:18**

O _____ thou mine _____, that I may behold _____ things out of thy _____.

Note: **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. ... Jesus will **see** us also in the secret places of prayer **if we will seek Him for light that we may know what is truth.** Angels from the world of light **will be with those who in humility of heart seek for divine guidance.** SC 91.1

As soon as the seeker for truth opens the Bible to read the utterances of God with reverence, possessing an **earnest desire to know** "what saith the Lord," **light and grace will be given him**, and he will **see wondrous things** out of God's law. He will not regard the law of Jehovah as a yoke of bondage, but as the **gracious commands of One who is all-wise and full of compassion**. He will **make haste to fulfill His requirements**. Great truths which have been neglected and unappreciated for ages, will be revealed by the Spirit of God, and new meaning will flash out of familiar texts. Every page will be illuminated by the Spirit of truth. The Bible is not sealed but unsealed. The **most precious truths** are revealed; the **living oracles** are heard by wondering ears, and the **consciences** of men are **aroused into action**. CSW 34.3

The downtrodden **law** of God is to be exalted before the people; **as soon as they turn with earnestness and reverence to the Holy Scriptures**, light from heaven will reveal to them **wondrous things** out of God's law. **Great truths** that have long been obscured by superstition and false doctrine will blaze forth from the illuminated pages of the Sacred Word. The living oracles pour forth their **treasures** new and old, **bringing light and joy to all who will receive them**. Many are roused from their slumber. They rise as it were from the dead and **receive the light and life which Christ alone can give**. Truths which have proved an overmatch for giant intellects are **understood** by babes in Christ. To these is **plainly revealed** that which has clouded the spiritual perception of the most learned expositors of the word, **because**, like the Sadducees of old, they were ignorant of the Scriptures and of the power of God. 5T 388.3

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Those who study the Bible **with a sincere desire to know and do the will of God** will become **wise** unto salvation. The Sabbath school is an important branch of the missionary work, not only because it gives to young and old a knowledge of God's word, but because **it awakens in them a love for its sacred truths and a desire to study it for themselves**; above all, it teaches them to regulate their lives by its holy teachings. 5T 389.1

All who take the word of God as their rule of life are brought into close relationship with one another. **The Bible is their bond of union.** But their companionship will not be sought or desired by those who do not bow to the Sacred Word as the one unerring guide. They will be at variance, both in faith and practice. **There can be no harmony between them; they are unreconcilable.** As Seventh-day Adventists we appeal from custom and tradition to the **plain "Thus saith the Lord;"** and for this reason we **are not, and cannot be, in harmony** with the multitudes who teach and follow the doctrines and commandments of men. 5T 389.2

4. What instruction are parents given in **Deuteronomy 6:6,7**

And these _____, which I _____ thee this day, shall be in thine _____: And thou shalt _____ them _____ unto thy _____, and shalt _____ of them when thou _____ in thine house, and when thou _____ by the way, and when thou _____ down, and when thou _____ up.

Note: Children should be taught to respect every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God. Parents are ever to **magnify** the precepts of the law of the Lord before their children, by showing **obedience** to that law, by themselves living under the control of God. If a sense of the **sacredness** of the law takes possession of the parents, **it will surely transform the character by converting the soul.** CG 539.1

5. Parents should use every occasion to teach the importance of the truths of His Word to their children. **Deuteronomy 11:18-20**

Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your _____ and in your _____, and _____ them for a sign upon your _____, that they may be as frontlets between your _____. And ye shall _____ them your _____, speaking of them when thou _____ in thine house, and when thou _____ by the way, when thou _____ down, and when thou _____ up. And thou shalt _____ them upon the door _____ of thine house, and upon thy _____:

? What will be the result? Deuteronomy 11:21-23 That your days may be _____, and the days of your _____, in the _____ which the LORD sware unto your fathers to give them, as the days of _____ upon the earth. For _____ ye shall _____ keep _____ these commandments which I command you, to _____ them, to _____ the LORD your God, to _____ in _____ his ways, and to _____ unto him; Then will the _____ drive out _____ these nations from _____ you, and ye shall possess _____ nations and _____ than yourselves.

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Note: Parents **can** and **should** interest their children in the varied knowledge found in the sacred pages. But **if** they would interest their sons and daughters in the word of God, **they must be interested in it themselves. They must be familiar with its teachings**, and, as God commanded Israel, speak of it, "when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up." Deuteronomy 11:19. Those who desire their children to love and **reverence** God **must talk** of His goodness, His majesty, and His power, as revealed in His **word** and in the **works** of creation. PP 504.2

Every chapter and every verse of the Bible is a **communication** from God to men. We should **bind its precepts as signs upon our hands** and **as frontlets between our eyes**. If **studied** and **obeyed**, it would **lead** God's people, as the Israelites were led, by the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night. PP 504.3

6. Why does God want us to obey Him? **Jeremiah 7:23**

But this thing _____ I them, saying, _____ my voice, and I will be your _____, and ye shall be my _____: and _____ ye in _____ the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be _____ unto you.

▶▶ In the Bible we have God speaking to us as a loving parent. He tells us the way to live so that it will be well with us!

Note: You need and I need that the spiritual vision shall be cleared and intensified to behold the scheme of redemption as we have never viewed it before. We want that our hearts should feel the mighty throbs of a Saviour's love. **In searching the Scriptures, in feeding upon the words of life, O consider it is the voice of God to the soul.** We may be confused sometimes over the voice of our friends; but in the Bible we have the counsel of God upon all important subjects which concern our eternal interests, and in temporal matters we may learn a great deal. **Its teaching will be always suited to our peculiar circumstances and calculated to prepare us to endure trial and fit us for our God-given work.** ML 283.2

The Bible is God's voice speaking to us, just as surely as if we could hear it with our ears. If we realized this, with what **awe** we would open God's Word and with what **earnestness** we would search its precepts. The **reading** and **contemplation** of the Scriptures would be regarded as an **audience** with the Infinite One. ML 283.3

We are to **open the Word of God with reverence and with a sincere desire to know the will of God concerning us**. The heavenly angels will direct our search. **God speaks to us in His Word**. We are in the audience chamber of the Most High, in the very **presence** of God. Christ enters the heart. ML 283.4

Show that you reverence your faith, speaking reverently of sacred things. Never allow one expression of lightness and trifling to escape your lips when quoting Scripture. As you take the Bible in your hands, remember that you are on **holy ground**. ML 283.5

7. How will we be able to know God's will? **John 7:17**

If any man will _____ his _____, he shall _____ of the _____, whether it be of _____, or whether I speak of _____.

If we are sincerely willing to do God's will, God will make it plain to us.

When we do what we already know, God reveals more to us.

If we are not willing to do what God says, we will not understand His Word correctly.

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Note: There are many things apparently difficult or obscure, which God will make plain and simple to those who thus seek an understanding of them. **But 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 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 doubts; 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**.

Whenever men are not in word and deed **seeking to be in harmony with God**,

then, however learned they may be, they are **liable to err in their understanding of Scripture**,
and it is **not safe to trust to their explanations**.

Those who look to the Scriptures **to find discrepancies**, have not spiritual insight.

With **distorted vision** they will **see many causes for doubt and unbelief**
in things that are really plain and simple. SC 110.1

Disguise it as they may, the **real cause of doubt and skepticism**, in most cases, **is the love of sin**.

The **teachings** and **restrictions** of God's word are **not welcome** to the proud, sin-loving heart,
and those who are **unwilling to obey** its requirements are **ready to doubt its authority**.

In order to arrive at truth,

we must have a sincere desire to know the truth
and a **willingness of heart to obey it**.

And **all who come in this spirit** to the study of the Bible

will find **abundant evidence that it is God's word**, and they may gain
an understanding of its truths that will make them wise unto salvation. SC 111.1

Christ has said, "If any man willeth to do His will, he shall know of the teaching." John 7:17, R.V.

Instead of questioning and caviling concerning that which you do not understand,

give heed to the light that already shines upon you, and you will receive greater light.

By the grace of Christ, **perform every duty that has been made plain to your understanding**,
and you will be enabled to understand and perform those of which you are now in doubt. SC 111.2

When we are **truly seeking to do God's will**,

the **Holy Spirit** takes the **precepts** of His word and **makes them the principles** of the life,
writing them on the tablets of the soul.

And it is **only those who are following the light already given**

that can hope to receive the further illumination of the Spirit.

This is plainly stated in the words of Christ: "If any man will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine."
5T 705.1

► Let us look at the cause of doubt:

The Word of God is opened without R_____.

The Word of God is opened without P_____.

The T_____ and A_____ are not fixed upon God.

The thoughts and affections are not in H_____ with God's W_____.

When we look to the Scriptures to find D_____.

When we are unwilling to obey God's R_____.

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? What happens when we come to the Word of God with this spirit?

The E_____ takes control of the thoughts.

He suggests i_____ that are not correct.

We will err in our U_____ of Scripture.

Our vision becomes D_____.

Then we see causes for D_____ in things that are really P_____ and S_____.

? What is the real cause behind doubt and skepticism?

It is the love of _____.

It is not accepting the T_____ and R_____ of God's Word.

When we are unwilling to O_____ the Word of God,
we are ready to doubt its A_____.

? How can we arrive at truth?

We must have a S_____ desire to K_____ the truth.

We must have a W_____ of heart to obey God's Word.

Insead of questioning about those things we do not U_____,

We should obey the L_____ that we already have.

We will perform E_____ duty that is P_____ to our understanding.

We must truly seek to _____ God's will.

? What will happen when we have this spirit when we come to the study of the Bible?

We will find A_____ evidence that it is God's word.

We will gain an U_____ of its truths.

We will be enabled to U_____ and P_____ those duties
which we now doubt.

The Holy Spirit will take the P_____ of His word and make them the
P_____ of our life.

The Holy Spirit will write the P_____ of His word on the tablets of our S_____.

We will receive further i_____ from the Holy Spirit.

8. What will studying God's Word with a humble teachable spirit do for us? **Ps. 119:130**

The entrance of thy words giveth _____; it giveth _____ unto the simple.

Note: But to **those who** take God's word with **reverence**,
seeking to **learn His will** that they may **obey** it, all is changed.

They are **filled with awe and wonder**

as they contemplate the **purity** and **exalted excellence** of the truths revealed.

Like attracts like. Like appreciates like. Holiness allies itself with holiness, faith with faith.

To the **humble** heart and the **sincere, inquiring** mind the Bible is full of **light** and **knowledge**.

Those who come to the Scriptures in **this spirit** are brought into **fellowship** with prophets and apostles.

Their spirit **assimilates** to that of Christ, and they **long** to become **one** with Him. 5T 705.2

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? How should we approach God's Word?

We should take it with R_____.

We should take it to L_____ His will so that we can O_____ it.

? What happens to those who come with this attitude?

They are filled with A_____ and W_____.

They begin to see the P_____ and exalted E_____ of truth.

The Bible is full of L_____ and K_____ to them.

They are brought into F_____ with prophets and apostles.

Their spirit A_____ [conforms or changes] to Christ's.

They long to become one with C_____.

Many feel that a **responsibility** rests upon them to **explain every seeming difficulty** in the Bible in order to **meet the cavils of skeptics and infidels**.

But in trying to explain that which they but **imperfectly** understand, they are **in danger of confusing the minds** of others in reference to points that are **clear** and **easy** to be understood.

This is not our work. Nor should we lament that these difficulties exist, but accept them as permitted by the **wisdom** of God.

It is our duty to receive His word, which is plain on every point essential to the salvation of the soul, and **practice its principles in our life**, teaching them to others both by precept and example.

Thus it will be **evident** to the world that we have a **connection** with God and **implicit confidence in His word**.

A **life of godliness**, a **daily example** of integrity, meekness, and unselfish love, will be a living exemplification of the teaching of God's word, and it will be an **argument in favor of the Bible** which few will be able to resist.

This will prove **the most effectual check** to the prevailing tendency to skepticism and infidelity. 5T 705.3

Then what shall we do with the questionings of the skeptics and infidels?

? Must we try to explain every seeming difficulty in the Bible? YES NO

? Why not?

When we try to explain things we imperfectly understand, we may C_____ other minds about things that are C_____ and E_____ to understand.

It is not our W_____.

? What should we do instead?

We should receive His Word and P_____ its P_____ in our life.

We should teach these to others by P_____ and E_____.

This will show that we have a C_____ with God.

It will show that we have implicit [absolute] C_____ in God's Word.

We should live a life of G_____.

We should give a daily example of i_____ [uprightness; honesty].

We should give a daily example of M_____ [Softness of temper; mildness; gentleness; forbearance under injuries and provocations].

We should give a daily example of U_____ love.

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This will be a **living example** of the T_____ of God's Word.

It will be an A_____ in favor of the Bible which few can R_____.

It is the **most effectual** check on S_____ and i_____.

9. For what purpose has God chosen us to be different from the world? **1 Peter 2:9**

But ye are a _____ generation, a _____ priesthood, an _____ nation, a _____ people; that ye should _____ forth the _____ of him who hath called you out of _____ into his marvellous _____.

? Is this a privilege and blessing **or** burden and a curse? _____

? What happens when we follow the customs and errors and traditions of our time?

1 Corinthians 2:8 Which _____ of the princes of this world _____: for had they _____ it, they would not have _____ the Lord of _____.

Note: If we have the Spirit of Christ and are laborers together with Him, it is ours to carry forward the work which He came to do. **The truths of the Bible have again become obscured by custom, tradition, and false doctrine.** The erroneous teachings of popular theology have made thousands upon thousands of skeptics and infidels. **There are errors and inconsistencies which many denounce as the teaching of the Bible that are really false interpretations of Scripture**, adopted during the ages of papal darkness. Multitudes have been led to cherish an erroneous conception of God, as the Jews, misled by the errors and traditions of their time, had a false conception of Christ. "Had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory." **It is ours to reveal to the world the true character of God.** Instead of criticizing the Bible, let us seek, by **precept** and **example**, to present to the world its **sacred, life-giving truths**, that we may "show forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." 5T 710.1

► Instead of following the customs, traditions, and false doctrines of popular theology and criticizing the Bible,

Let us reveal to the world the true C_____ of God.

Let us seek, by P_____ and E_____, to show to the world the sacred, _____ - _____ truths of God's word.

10. What is God's warning to us at the end of the book of Revelation? **Rev. 22:18,19**

For I testify unto _____ man that _____ the words of the prophecy of this book, If _____ man shall _____ unto these things, _____ shall _____ unto him the _____ that are written in this book: And if _____ man shall take _____ from the words of the book of this prophecy, _____ shall take _____ his part out of the book of _____, and out of the holy _____, and from the _____ which are written in this book.

► We are warned not to A_____ or to T_____ A_____ any part of the Word of God.

? What should be our attitude towards the Word of God? **Exodus 3:5**

And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put _____ thy shoes from off thy feet, for the _____ whereon thou standest is _____ ground.

► We should treat it as _____ ground for G_____ is there.

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Note: The evils that have been gradually creeping in among us have imperceptibly led individuals and churches away from reverence for God, and have shut away the power which He desires to give them. 5T 711.1

My brethren, let the word of God stand just as it is. **Let not human wisdom presume to lessen the force of one statement of the Scriptures.** The solemn denunciation in the Revelation should warn us against taking such ground. In the name of my Master I bid you: "Put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is **holy** ground." 5T 711.2

11. What causes us to be deceived concerning truth and the will of God? **Mark 12:24**
And Jesus answering said unto them, Do ye not _____ err, _____ ye
_____ not the _____, neither the _____ of God?

▶ When we don't K_____ what the S_____ teach, we will E_____ and be deceived by the false interpretations that others may bring.

? How will we be made holy, or sanctified? **John 17:17**

"Sanctify them _____ Thy _____: Thy _____ is _____"

Note: There are many who claim that they have been sanctified to God, and yet when the great standard of righteousness is presented to them they become greatly excited and **manifest a spirit** which proves that they know nothing of what it means to be sanctified. They have not the **mind of Christ**; for **those who are truly sanctified will reverence and obey the Word of God as fast as it is opened to them**, and they will **express a strong desire to know what is truth on every point of doctrine**. An exultant feeling is no evidence of sanctification. The assertion, "I am saved, I am saved," does not prove that the soul is saved or sanctified. FW 121.1

Many who are greatly excited are told that they are sanctified, when they have no intelligent idea of what the term means, for **they know not the Scriptures or the power of God**. They flatter themselves that they are in conformity to the will of God because they feel happy; but when they are **tested**, when the **Word of God is brought to bear upon their experience**, they **stop their ears from hearing the truth**, saying, "I am sanctified," and that puts an end to the controversy. They will have nothing to do with searching the Scriptures to know what is truth, and prove that they are **fearfully self-deceived**.

Sanctification means very much more than a flight of feeling. FW 121.2

Excitement is **not** sanctification.

Entire conformity to the will of our Father which is in heaven is alone sanctification,
and the will of God is expressed in His holy law.

The keeping of all the commandments of God is sanctification.

Proving yourselves **obedient** children to God's Word is sanctification.

The Word of God is to be our guide, not the opinions or ideas of men.

Let those who would be truly sanctified search the Word of God
with **patience**, with **prayer**, and with **humble contrition of soul**.

Let them remember that Jesus prayed,

"Sanctify them through Thy truth: Thy word is truth" (John 17:17). FW 121.3

12. What is our protection from going on a false path? **Psalm 17:4**

Concerning the works of _____, by the _____ of _____ lips I have _____ me
from the _____ of the _____.

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Psalm 119:9 Wherewithal shall a young man _____ his _____? by taking _____ thereto _____ to thy _____.

Psalm 119:126-128 It is _____ for thee, LORD, to _____: for they have made _____ thy _____. Therefore I _____ thy commandments _____ gold; yea, above _____ gold. Therefore I _____ all thy _____ concerning _____ things to be _____; and I _____ every _____ way.

▶ Living by the _____ of God keeps us from going on the paths of the D_____.

▶ Our ways become pure by taking _____ to, or obeying, His _____.

▶ When we value God's C_____ more than earthly treasures, we will learn to put value on God's P_____ and to hate every F_____ way.

Note: Though a **few** faithful men arose, from time to time, to proclaim new truth and expose long-cherished error, the majority, like the Jews in Christ's day or the papists in the time of Luther, were content to believe as their fathers had believed and to live as they had lived. Therefore religion again **degenerated** into formalism; and **errors and superstitions** which would have been cast aside had the church **continued** to walk in the light of God's word, were retained and cherished. Thus the spirit inspired by the Reformation gradually **died out**, until there was almost as **great need of reform** in the Protestant churches as in the Roman Church in the time of Luther. There was the same **worldliness** and **spiritual stupor**, a similar **reverence for the opinions of men**, and **substitution of human theories for the teachings of God's word**. GC 297.2

The **wide circulation of the Bible** in the early part of the nineteenth century, and the great light thus shed upon the world, **was not followed by a corresponding advance in knowledge of revealed truth, or in experimental religion**. Satan could not, as in former ages, keep God's word from the people; it had been placed within the reach of all; but in order still to accomplish his object, **he led many to value it but lightly**. Men **neglected** to search the Scriptures, and thus they **continued to accept false interpretations**, and to **cherish doctrines which had no foundation in the Bible**. GC 298.1

13. What question does Jesus ask about His coming? **Luke 18:8**

Nevertheless _____ the Son of man _____, shall he find _____ on the earth?

? How can you be one of God's **faithful** people that will welcome His coming?

Psalm 119:97-105 O how _____ I thy _____! it is my _____ all the day.

Thou through thy _____ hast made me _____ than mine _____: for they are ever with me.

I have more _____ than all my _____:
for thy _____ are my _____.

I _____ more than the ancients, because I _____ thy _____.

I have _____ my feet from _____ evil way, that I might _____ thy word.

I have not departed from thy _____: for _____ hast _____ me.

How _____ are thy _____ unto my taste! yea, _____ than _____
to my mouth!

Through thy _____ I get _____: therefore I _____
every _____ way.

Thy _____ is a _____ unto my feet, and a _____ unto my _____.

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Note: Character cannot be bought with gold; it does not come to us by accident.

Character is earned by **individual effort through the merits and grace of Christ**. [cooperation with God]

It is formed by **hard, stern battles with self**. [We fight the battles through the power of God's grace]

Conflict after conflict must be urged **against hereditary tendencies**.

We shall have to **criticize ourselves closely**,

and **allow not one unfavorable trait to remain uncorrected, unreformed**. RH, 12-29-96 par. 2

If the character is left to be molded as **chance** may direct, it **will** become **deformed** and **unlovely**.

There are in every one weak points that need to be strengthened; for Satan will take advantage of every unguarded spot. The question to be settled is, Will you follow the light God has given? If you would do so, **close the door against your own suggestions, desires, and doubts**. Temptations will thicken about your pathway; but the Lord will be nigh to you **if you call upon him in sincerity**. Stand fast in the strength of Jesus. **Swerve not from the right to gain any one's friendship or to avoid difficulty**. Christians can afford to be **straight-forward**, and **firm as a rock to principle**. All the excellence of character we attain will be gained in moving in this straight line. Be **kind** and **considerate** to others; but at the same time be **frank** and **sincere**; for the Lord despises dissembling [pretense]. **Never allow the gold of character to be dimmed with the dross of earthly, corruptible metal**. The standard of the world is **not** the criterion for the Christian. Reputation, property, **everything earthly, may be sacrificed**; for this will not lessen our **value** in the heavenly records; but **principle must be preserved**.

RH, December 29, 1896 par. 3

These things will bear **thoughtful consideration**, – close, critical examination. **With your Bible in your hand, study its claims with earnest prayer that you may never be self-deceived**. We are now living in an age when the question is asked, "When the Son of Man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" In this age of degeneracy, where we are surrounded with moral pollution, God's people are to form characters for heaven. **This work is to go on daily**. RH, December 29, 1896 par. 6

14. If we don't co-operate with Christ to prepare our character for heaven and we allow unfavorable traits to remain in us, what will happen one day? **Matthew 7:21-23**

Not _____ one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall _____ into the kingdom of heaven; but he that _____ the _____ of my _____ which is in heaven.

_____ will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not _____ in thy _____? and in thy _____ have cast out _____? and in thy _____ done many _____ works? And then will I profess unto them, I _____ you: _____ from me, ye that work _____.

Note: **Satan is working diligently and most successfully to put his selfish stamp upon the characters of even professed Christians**, and many are becoming narrow in their ideas of duty and obligation. They are **degenerating**, and receiving a stamp of character which is **offensive** to God. **Self-love and unholy passions occupy the citadel of the soul**. To those who are professedly keeping the law of God, **but are daily transgressing its holy principles**, let me say, **Search, O search and see how little reverence you have for eternal things, how little love for devotion**. RH, 12-29-96, par. 8

The proving time has come, and angels are watching the **development of character**. How many, since they have professed Christ, have **changed for the better**? My brother, my sister, are you becoming more and more like Jesus, who is pure, holy, undefiled? Can your associates see in you the likeness of Christ? **Can they see that you maintain in your dress, in your conversation, your daily life, the simplicity of your Master?** RH, December 29, 1896 par. 9

Lesson 83: Reverence-2

Many know so little about their Bibles that they are unsettled in the faith. They remove the old landmarks, and *fallacies and winds of doctrine blow them hither and thither*. Science, falsely so-called, is wearing away the foundation of Christian principle; and those who once were in the faith **drift away from the Bible landmarks**, and **divorce themselves from God**, while still claiming to be his children. But are they? – No; no. **The relation they sustain to God is truly represented in Matthew 7:22, 23**: "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." RH, December 29, 1896 par. 10

15. What is the wisdom of this world to God? **1 Corinthians 3:19**

For the _____ of this world is _____ with God. For it is written, He taketh the _____ in their own _____.

► Read **1 Corinthians 1:23-25** But we preach _____ crucified, unto the Jews a _____, and unto the Greeks _____; But unto them which are _____, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the _____ of God, and the _____ of God. Because the _____ of God is _____ than men; and the _____ of God is _____ than men.

? What is Paul preaching to the people? C_____ c_____.

? How do the Jews regard this? As a S_____.

? What do the Greeks think of it? They think it is F_____.

? But what is it to those who have responded to God's call?

They see Christ as the P_____ of God and the W_____ of God.

? How does all this relate to the wisdom and might of men?

They call the preaching of Christ F_____, but really it is W_____ than men. And they call Christ's way W_____, but it is really S_____ than men.

Note: Those who profess to love God and **reverence** sacred things, and yet allow the mind to come **down** to the superficial and unreal, are placing themselves on Satan's ground, and are doing his work. If the young would **study the glorious works of God in nature**, and His majesty and power as revealed in His word, they would come from every such exercise with faculties quickened and **elevated**. A **vigor** would be received, having no kin to arrogance. **By a contemplation of the marvels of divine power, the mind will learn that hardest but most useful of all lessons**, that human wisdom, **unless connected with the Infinite and sanctified by the grace of Christ, is foolishness**. MYP 253.2

16. Do you want to be delivered from the spell that Satan wants to weave around you?

YES NO

? What will you do to be free? **Psalms 119:145-151**

I cried with my _____ heart; hear me, O LORD: I will _____ thy statutes.

I _____ unto thee; _____ me, and I shall _____ thy testimonies.

I prevented the dawning of the _____, and cried: I _____ in thy word.

Mine eyes prevent the _____ watches, that I might _____ in thy word.

Hear my _____ according unto thy _____:

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O LORD, _____ me according to thy _____.

They draw _____ that follow after _____: they are _____ from thy law.

Thou art _____, O LORD; and _____ thy commandments are _____.

Note: Those who cry unto God for deliverance from the terrible spell that Satan would weave about them, will **set a high estimate upon the Scriptures**. Our **only safety** is in receiving the **whole Bible**, not taking merely detached portions, but **believing the whole truth**. Your feet are upon sliding sand if you depreciate one word that is written. The Bible is a **divine** communication, and is as verily a message to the soul **as though a voice from heaven were heard** speaking to us. With what **awe** and **reverence** and **humiliation** should we come to the searching of the Scriptures, that we may **learn of eternal realities**. ... **Let everyone study the Bible**, knowing that the word of God is as enduring as the eternal throne. **If you come to the study of the Scriptures in humility**, with **earnest prayer for guidance**, angels of God will open to you its living realities; and **if you cherish the precepts of truth**, they will be to you as a **wall of fire** against the **temptations, delusions, and enchantments** of Satan. OHC 210.4

Knowing this, what manner of persons ought we to be?

Shall we exalt human wisdom and point to finite, changeable, erring men as a dependence in time of trouble?

or shall we **exemplify our faith by our trust in God's power**,

revealing the **net** of false theories, religions, and philosophies which **Satan** has spread to catch unwary souls?

By thus doing the word of God, we shall be **lights** in the world;

for **if the word of God is practiced**, we **show to all** those who come within the sphere of our influence

that we **reverence** and respect God,

and that we are **working under His administration**.

By a humble, circumspect walk, by love, forbearance, long-suffering, and gentleness,

God expects His servants to **manifest Him to the world**. TM 281.3

E. Reverence In Prayer

Note: True reverence for God is inspired by a **sense of His infinite greatness** and a **realization of His presence**. With this sense of the Unseen the heart of every child should be **deeply impressed**. The **hour and place of prayer** and the **services of public worship** the child should be taught to **regard as sacred because God is there**. And as **reverence is manifested in attitude and demeanor**, the feeling that inspires it will be deepened. Ed 242.3

17. What example did Jesus set for us to begin each day? **Mark 1:35**

And in the _____, rising up a _____ while before day, he went _____, and departed into a _____ place, and there _____.

▶ David also turned to God in the morning. **Psalms 5:3**

My _____ shalt thou hear in the _____, O LORD; in the _____ will I direct my _____ unto thee, and will _____ up.

Note: In the morning the Christian's **first thoughts** should be upon God. Worldly labor and self-interest should be secondary. **Children should be taught to respect and reverence the hour of prayer**. ... It is the duty of Christian parents, morning and evening, by **earnest prayer** and **persevering faith**, to make a **hedge** about their children. They should **patiently instruct them – kindly and untiringly teach them** how to live in order to **please** God. CG 519.3

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18. David, not only prayed in the morning, but he prayed ___ times a day. **Psalm 55:17** _____, and _____, and at _____, will I _____, and cry aloud: and he shall _____ my _____.

? How important was regular prayer to Daniel? **Daniel 6:10**

Now when Daniel _____ that the writing was _____, he went into his house; and his windows being _____ in his chamber toward _____, he _____ upon his knees _____ times a day, and _____, and gave _____ before his _____, as he did _____.

Note: Family worship should not be governed by circumstances. You are not to pray occasionally and, when you have a large day's work to do, neglect it. **In thus doing you lead your children to look upon prayer as of no special consequence.** Prayer means very much to the children of God, and thank offerings should come up before God **morning** and **evening**. Says the psalmist, "O come, let us sing unto the Lord: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms." CG 520.2

Fathers and mothers, however pressing your business, **do not fail to gather your family around God's altar.** Ask for the guardianship of holy angels in your home. Remember that your dear ones are exposed to temptations. CG 520.3

Your children should be **educated** to be kind, thoughtful of others, gentle, easy to be entreated, and, above everything else, to respect religious things and feel the importance of the claims of God. They should be taught to **respect the hour of prayer**; they should be **required** to rise in the morning so as to **be present at family worship.** CG 521.2

In our efforts for the comfort and happiness of guests, **let us not overlook our obligations to God.** The hour of prayer should not be neglected for any consideration. Do not talk and amuse yourselves till all are **too weary** to enjoy the season of devotion. To do this is to present to God a **lame offering.** At an **early** hour of the evening, when we can **pray unhurriedly and understandingly**, we should present our supplications and raise our voices in happy, grateful praise. CG 520.4

Let **all** who visit Christians **see** that the hour of prayer is the **most precious**, the **most sacred**, and the **happiest** hour of the day. These seasons of devotion exert a **refining, elevating influence** upon all who participate in them. They bring a **peace** and **rest** grateful to the spirit. CG 521.1

19. What was Jeremiah's testimony concerning the goodness of God? **Lam. 3:21-25**

This I _____ to my mind, therefore have I _____.

It is of the LORD'S _____ that we are not _____, because his _____ fail not.

They are _____ every _____: great is thy _____.

The LORD is my _____, saith my _____; therefore will I _____ in him.

The LORD is _____ unto them that _____ for him, to the soul that _____ him.

We are to come before the mercy seat with **reverence**, calling up to our mind the **promises** that God has given, contemplating the **goodness** of God, and offering up **thankful praises** for His **unchangeable love**. We are not to **trust** in our finite prayers, but in **the word** of our heavenly Father, in **His assurance** of His love for us. **Believing the promise** of His unchanging love, we **press our petitions to the throne**

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of grace. Our faith may be **tested by delay**, but the prophet has given instruction as to what we should do. He says, "Who is among you that feareth the Lord, that obeyeth the voice of his servant, that walketh in darkness, and hath no light? **let him trust in the name of the Lord, and stay upon his God**" (Isaiah 50:10). **Wait** upon the Lord; He has made the **promise** and is back of the assurance. RH, 11-19-95 p. 7

20. How do we show reverence to God when we pray?

I have received letters questioning me in regard to the proper attitude to be taken by a person offering prayer to the Sovereign of the universe. 2SM 311.1

? What Bible examples do we have of this?

Daniel 6:10: _____ "_____ upon his knees _____ times a _____, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God."

Luke 22:41: _____, our example, "_____ down, and prayed."

Acts 9:40: _____ "_____ down, and prayed."

Ezra 9:5: In confessing before God the sins of Israel, _____ knelt.

Ephesians 3:14: _____ declared, "I bow my _____ unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."

And this whole chapter will, if the heart is receptive, be as precious a lesson as we can learn. 2SM 312.5

21. Why is it important that we show our reverence by bowing down and kneeling in prayer? When the 3 Hebrews were required to bow down to worship the golden image, what did they do? **Daniel 3:12**

There are certain _____ whom thou hast set over the affairs of the province of Babylon, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; these _____, O king, have not _____ thee: they _____ not thy _____, nor _____ the golden image which thou hast set up.

? What was their answer to Nebuchadnezzar? Daniel 3:16-18

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not _____ to answer thee in this matter. If it be so, our _____ whom we _____ is _____ to _____ us from the burning fiery furnace, and he _____ deliver us out of _____ hand, O king. But if _____, be it _____ unto thee, O king, that we will _____ thy gods, nor _____ the golden image which thou hast set up.

To bow down on our knees is an act of worship to God and should never be given to any false god. Therefore they refused to bow down to the image, at the risk of their lives.

Note: To bow down when in prayer to God is the proper attitude to occupy. This **act of worship** was required of the three Hebrew captives in Babylon. ... **But such an act was homage to be rendered to God alone – the Sovereign of the world, the Ruler of the universe;** and these three Hebrews refused to give such honor to any idol even though composed of pure gold. In doing so, they would, to all intents and purposes, be bowing to the king of Babylon. Refusing to do as the king had commanded, they suffered the penalty, and were cast into the burning fiery furnace. **But Christ came in person and walked with them through the fire, and they received no harm.** 2SM 312.6

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Both in public and private worship it is our duty to bow down upon our knees before God when we offer our petitions to Him. **This act shows our dependence upon God.** 2SM 312.7

22. What about Daniel? How important was the worship of God in kneeling in prayer to him? He was threatened with the lion's den if he prayed to God for 30 days, but what did he do? **Daniel 6:10**

Now when Daniel _____ that the writing was signed, he _____ into his house; and his windows being _____ in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he _____ upon his knees _____ times a day, and _____, and gave _____ before his _____, as he did _____.

► He didn't **hide** and pray where he could not be seen. He didn't **sit** or **stand** and pray, he _____ down to show that **he would worship God alone**, no matter what decree might be made against such worship.

Note: We hope that our brethren will not manifest less reverence and awe as they approach the only true and living God than the heathen manifest for their idol deities, or these people will be our judges in the day of final decision. I would speak to all who occupy the place of teachers in our schools. Men and women, do not dishonor God by your irreverence and pomposity. Do not stand up in your Pharisaism and offer your prayers to God. **Mistrust your own strength.** Depend not in it; but often bow down on your knees before God, and worship Him. 2SM 314.1

And when you assemble to worship God, be sure and bow your knees before Him. Let this act testify that the whole soul, body, and spirit are in subjection to the Spirit of truth. 2SM 314.2

We are living in perilous times. Seventh-day Adventists are professedly the commandment-keeping people of God; but they are losing their devotional spirit. **This spirit of reverence for God teaches men how to approach their Maker** – with **sacredness** and **awe** through **faith**, not in themselves, but in a Mediator. Thus man is kept fast, under whatever circumstances he is placed. **Man must come on bended knee**, as a subject of grace, a **suppliant** at the footstool of mercy. And as **he receives daily mercies** at the hand of God, **he is ever to cherish gratitude in his heart**, and give expression to it in the words of thanksgiving and praise for these unmerited favors. Angels have been guarding his pathway through all his life, and many of the snares he has been **delivered** from he has not seen. And for this guardianship and watchcare by eyes that never slumber and never sleep, **he is to recognize in every prayer the service of God for him.** 2SM 314.3

All should lean upon God in their helplessness and daily necessity. They should keep **humble**, **watchful**, and **prayerful**. **Praise** and **thanksgiving** should flow forth in **gratitude** and **sincere love** for God. 2SM 315.1