

Lesson 85: Reverence-4

Memory Verse: Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness. But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen. 2 Peter 3:17,18

I. The Ordinance of Baptism

1. Before Jesus went back to heaven, what did Jesus tell his disciples to do?

Matthew 28:19,20 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Note: Baptism is a most solemn renunciation of the world. Those who are baptized in the threefold name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, at the very entrance of their Christian life **declare publicly** that they have **forsaken the service of Satan** and have become members of the royal family, children of the heavenly King. They have **obeyed** the command: "**Come out from among them**, and be ye separate, ... and touch not the unclean thing." And to them is fulfilled the promise: "I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be My sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty." 2 Corinthians 6:17, 18. 6T 91.3

The one who administers the ordinance of baptism should seek to **make it an occasion of solemn, sacred influence upon all spectators.** Every ordinance of the church should be so conducted as to be uplifting in its influence. **Nothing is to be made common or cheap, or placed on a level with common things.** Our churches need to be educated to **greater respect and reverence for the sacred service of God.** As ministers conduct the services connected with God's worship, so they are educating and training the people. **Little acts that educate and train and discipline the soul for eternity are of vast consequence in the uplifting and sanctifying of the church.** 6T 97.3

In every church, **baptismal robes** should be provided for the candidates. This should not be regarded as a needless outlay of means. It is one of the things required in obedience to the injunction, "Let all things be done decently and in order." 1 Corinthians 14:40. 6T 97.4

2. What does baptism symbolize? Romans 6:3,4

Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

All who join the church should reveal a **transformation** of character which shows their **reverence for holy things.** Their whole life should be **moulded** after the **refinement** of Christ Jesus. Those who join the church are to be **humble enough to receive instruction** on the points wherein they are remiss, and wherein they can and must change. They must exert a Christian influence. Those who make no change in **words** or **deportment**, in their **dress** or in their **homes**, are living unto themselves and not unto Christ. They have not been **created anew** in Christ Jesus, unto the purifying of the heart and the outward surroundings. TSA 87.3

3. How does this new life affect our thoughts and desires? Colossians 3:1-3

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If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

Note: Only that which is **pure** and **lovely** and of **good report** is it **safe** for us to follow. Human beings are under the most **sacred obligations to God** to be **holy** and **uncorrupted**; for they have been bought with a price, even the precious blood of the Son of God. By their **baptismal vows** they are **solemnly pledged** to do **nothing** which will bring an evil report upon the Christian name. Before the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, the professing Christian **pledges himself to discourage pride, covetousness, unbelief**. And as the true Christian seeks to fulfill this pledge, **he grows in self-distrust**. Constantly he places **more dependence upon God**. His **reverence and love for the Saviour continually increase**, and he is a living witness for his Master. He **realizes** what it means to be a child of God. He has a realizing sense that the cleansing blood of Christ secures for him **pardon** and **elevation of character**. In spirituality he **grows** like the lofty cedar. **Daily he holds communion with God**, and he has a treasure-house of knowledge from which to draw. **He is mighty in the knowledge of the Scriptures**. His fellowship is with the Father and the Son, and he knows more and still more of the divine will. **He is filled with a constantly increasing love for God and for his fellowmen**. MM 127.3

J. God's Representatives

4. What is the responsibility of a minister? **Colossians 1:25-29**

Whereof I am made a _____, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for _____, to _____ the _____ of God; Even the _____ which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but _____ is made _____ to his saints: To _____ God would make _____ what is the _____ of the _____ of this mystery among the _____; which is _____, the _____ of _____: Whom we _____, **warning** _____ man, and _____ every man in _____ wisdom; that we may _____ every man _____ in Christ Jesus: Whereunto I also _____, striving according to _____ working, which worketh _____ me _____.

Because of this important responsibility, what should be our attitude toward them?

Note: Reverence should be shown for God's representatives – for ministers, teachers, and parents who are **called to speak and act in His stead**. In the **respect** shown to them He is honored. Ed 244.3

Fathers and mothers and teachers need to appreciate more fully the **responsibility** and **honor** that God has place upon them, in making them, to the child, **the representatives of Himself**. The **character** revealed in the contact of daily life will **interpret** to the child, for good or evil, those words of God: Ed 244.5

"Like as a _____ pitieth his children, so the _____ pitieth them that fear Him." Psalm 103:13.

"As one whom his _____ comforteth, _____ will _____ comfort you." Isaiah 66:13. Ed 245.1

Happy the child in whom such words as these awaken **love** and **gratitude** and **trust**; the child to whom the **tenderness** and **justice** and **long-suffering** of father and mother and teacher **interpret** the love and justice and long-suffering of God; the child who by **trust** and **submission** and **reverence** toward his **earthly protectors** learns to trust and obey and reverence his God. He who imparts to child or pupil such a gift has endowed him with a **treasure more precious than the wealth of all the ages** – a treasure as enduring as eternity. Ed 245.2

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How do we "reverence" ministers, teachers, or parents? Do we show them the same reverence that we show God? YES NO They are still human beings. No human being has the right to the worshipful reverence that is due to God. That is clear.

Matthew 4:10 Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt _____ the Lord thy _____, and him _____ shalt thou _____.

But we reverence them in the sense of regarding them "with fear mingled with **respect** and **affection**". Webster's 1828 Dictionary explains it in this way. "We reverence **superiors** for their **age**, their **authority** and their **virtues**. We ought to reverence **parents** and **upright judges and magistrates**." In the note above it tells us that it is in the R_____ that we show them, that we **honor God**. The 5th commandment tells us the same thing.

Exodus 20:12 H_____ thy _____ and thy _____: that thy days may be _____ upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee. How do we honor them?

Ephesians 6:1 Children, _____ your _____ in the Lord: for this is _____.

The truth is, that if we don't learn to submit to and obey our parents or teachers, we will have a hard time ever really submitting to and obeying God. And that is serious. There is only one exception and that is if they ask you to disobey God's commandments.

Acts 5:29 Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We _____ to _____ rather than _____.

Even then, you must still be R_____ like Daniel and his 3 friends were to the king.

5. What does **2 Corinthians 5:20** tell us that ministers are?

Now then we are _____ for _____, as though _____ did _____ you by ____: we pray you in _____ stead, be ye _____ to _____.

Note: The education and training of the youth should be of a character that would **exalt sacred things** and encourage pure devotion for God in His house. Many who profess to be children of the heavenly King have no **true appreciation of the sacredness of eternal things**. ML 285.3

They are seldom **instructed** that the minister is **God's ambassador**, that the message he brings is **one of God's appointed agencies** in the salvation of souls, and that to all who have the privilege brought within their reach it will be a savor of life unto life or of death unto death. ML 285.4

Nothing that is sacred, nothing that pertains to the worship of God, should be treated with **carelessness** and **indifference**. When the word of life is spoken, you should **remember** that you are listening to the voice of God through His delegated servant. **Do not lose these words through inattention; if heeded, they may keep your feet from straying into wrong paths**. CG 545.2

6. How did the people of Israel often regard the messengers which God had sent to them?

2 Chronicles 36:15, 16

And the Lord _____ of their fathers sent to them by his _____, rising up betimes, and sending; because he had _____ on his people, and on his dwelling place: but they _____ the messengers of God, and _____ his words, and _____ his prophets, until the _____ of the _____ arose against his

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people, till there was _____ remedy.

They M_____ them, D_____ their words, and M_____ [abused] them.

What was the result? It says the W_____ of the Lord arose against them.

It got so bad that the word of God tells us that there was no R_____.

2 Chronicles 36:17-20 Therefore he _____ upon them the _____ of the Chaldees, who _____ their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had _____ compassion upon young man or maiden, old man, or him that stooped for age: he gave them _____ into his hand. And _____ the vessels of the house of _____, great and small, and the _____ of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the _____, and of his _____; all these he _____ to Babylon. And they _____ the house of God, and _____ down the _____ of Jerusalem, and _____ all the palaces thereof with fire, and _____ all the goodly vessels thereof. And _____ that had escaped from the sword _____ he away to Babylon; where they were _____ to him and his sons _____ the reign of the kingdom of Persia.

The armies of B_____ came and destroyed and B_____ the city. They killed many people and the rest they took to B_____ as captives. The H_____ of God [the Temple] was also B_____ and all the sacred V_____ of the temple were all carried away to B_____. All this was the result of not listening to the P_____ which God sent to them.

Note: Unless **correct ideas of true worship and true reverence** are impressed upon the people, there will be a **growing tendency to place the sacred and eternal on a level with common things**, and those professing the truth will be an **offense to God** and a **disgrace to religion**. They can **never**, with their uncultivated ideas, **appreciate a pure and holy heaven**, and be **prepared** to join with the worshipers in the heavenly courts above, where **all is purity and perfection**, where every being has perfect reverence for God and His holiness. ML 285.6

Paul describes the **work of God's ambassadors** as that by which every man shall be presented **perfect in Christ Jesus**. ML 285.7

K. Reverence Your Faith

7. How do we reverence our faith? **1 Peter 1:13-19**

Wherefore _____ up the loins of your _____, be _____, and _____ to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the _____ of Jesus Christ; As _____ children, not _____ yourselves according to the _____ lusts in your _____: But as he which hath _____ you is _____, so _____ ye _____ in all manner of _____; Because it is written, Be ye _____; for I am _____. And if ye call on the _____, who without respect of persons _____ according to every man's _____, pass the _____ of your sojourning here in _____: Forasmuch as ye _____ that ye were not _____ with _____ things, as _____ and _____, from your _____ conversation received by _____ from your _____; But with the _____ blood of _____, as of a _____ without blemish and without _____.

How can this be possible for us? Jesus tells us the only way in **John 15:5**

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I am the _____, ye are the _____: He that _____ in me, and I _____ him, the same bringeth forth _____ fruit: for _____ ye can _____.

Note: Without Christ we can do **nothing**. The pure principles of uprightness, virtue, and goodness are **all from God**. A conscientious discharge of **duty**, Christ-like **sympathy**, **love** for souls and love for your own soul, **because you belong to God**, and have been **bought with the precious blood of Christ**, will make you a laborer together with God, and **endow you with persuasive, drawing power**. You must respect your own faith in order successfully to introduce it to others. By **example** as well as **precept**, you must **show** that you **revere 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**. Angels are around you, and could your eyes be opened, you would behold them. **Let your conduct be such that you will leave the impression upon every soul with whom you associate that a pure and holy atmosphere surrounds you**. One vain word, one trifling laugh, may balance a soul in the wrong direction. **Terrible** are the consequences of **not** having a **constant connection with God**. RH, December 8, 1891 par. 11

8. We have a part to act in our choices. What should we avoid? **1 Peter 2:11,12**

Dearly beloved, I beseech you as _____ and _____, _____ from fleshly lusts, which _____ against the _____; Having your conversation _____ among the _____: that, whereas they _____ against you as evildoers, they may _____ your _____, which they shall behold, _____ in the day of visitation.

1 Thessalonians 5:22 A _____ from all _____ of evil.

Note: Abstain from all evil. **Common sins**, however insignificant they may be regarded, **will impair your moral sense**,

and **extinguish** the inward impression of the Spirit of God.

The **character of the thoughts** leaves its **imprint** upon the soul, and **all** low conversation **pollutes** the mind.

All evil works **ruin** to those who commit it.

God may and will **forgive** the repenting sinner, but though forgiven, the soul is **marred**; the **power of the elevated thought** possible to the unimpaired mind is **destroyed**.

Through all time the soul bears the **scars**.

Then let us **seek** for that **faith** which **works** by **love** and **purifies** the heart,

that we may **represent** the **character** of Christ to the world.--RH, December 8, 1891 par. 12

9. We have things to avoid, but we also have things to strengthen in our lives.

1 Peter 3:8 Finally, be ye all of one mind, having _____ one of another, _____ as brethren, be pitiful, be _____.

Matthew 7:12 Therefore _____ things whatsoever ye _____ that men should _____ to _____, _____ ye even _____ to _____: for this is the _____ and the _____.

Note: There are virtues that are to be daily strengthened. A **reverence for justice and equity is to be cultivated**. He who **permits in himself that which he condemns in others** is doing himself a great wrong. RH, April 13, 1905 par. 7

"Love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous." **Cherish a supreme reverence for justice and truth**,

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and a **hatred for all cruelty and oppression**. Do unto others as you would wish them to do to you. **God forbids you to favor self, to the disadvantage of another.** RH, April 13, 1905 par. 8

10. What will be the result of choosing God's ways? **Psalm 15:1-3**

LORD, who shall _____ in thy tabernacle? who shall _____ in thy holy hill? He that walketh _____, and worketh _____, and speaketh the _____ in his _____. He that backbiteth _____ with his _____, nor doeth _____ to his neighbour, nor _____ up a _____ against his neighbour.

2 Corinthians 6:7 By the _____ of truth, by the _____ of God, by the _____ of righteousness on the _____ hand and on the _____.

Note: Let every soul **believe** in Christ, and **receive** the **power** that Christ has **promised**, that he may be a child of God, **holding the truth conscientiously**, its principles interwoven with his words, his spirit, and all his works. Thus Christians may become a **refining, purifying influence**, working against false religion and infidelity. Their **presence** brings with it the **grand influence of heavenly principles**, making them, through Christ, an **honor** to the gospel. They **increase** in power to communicate the sanctifying grace of heaven, **gaining continually in influence through their increasing reverence for the truth**. **Their hearts are filled with the peace of Christ.** TDG 353.5

11. We each have an individual responsibility. Jesus says in **Revelation 3:20,21:**

Behold, I stand at the _____, and _____: if any man _____ my voice, and _____ the door, I will _____ to him, and will sup _____ him, and he _____ me. To him that _____ will I grant to _____ with _____ in my _____, even as I also _____, and am set down _____ my Father in his _____.

Zechariah 3:7 Thus saith the LORD of hosts; _____ thou wilt walk in _____ ways, and _____ thou wilt _____ my charge, _____ thou shalt also _____ my house, and shalt also _____ my courts, and I will _____ thee _____ to walk among these that _____ by.

Note: **It is now high time that we repent.** All the people of God should interest themselves in the work of doing good. They should **unite heart and soul in earnest endeavor to uplift and enlighten** their fellow men. They should **put on the wedding garment** that Christ has provided, that they may be **prepared** to work in His lines. They should not receive the grace of God in vain. **With humble, devoted reverence they should labor** on the right hand and on the left, consecrating to God their **entire** service and **all** their capabilities. 6T 297.1

There must be an awakening among the people of God. The entire church is to be **tested**. The worldly-wise man, who meditates and plans, and whose business is ever in his mind, should seek to **become wise in matters of eternal interest**. If he would **put forth as much energy** to secure the **heavenly treasure** and the life which measures with the life of God as he does to secure worldly gain, what could he not accomplish? 6T 297.2

The **unfaithful** steward did not enrich himself with his master's goods; he merely **wasted** them. He let **idleness** take the place of sincere, wholehearted labor. He was **unfaithful** in the **appropriation** of his lord's goods. Unfaithful steward, do you not see that you will lose your soul if you do not **co-operate** with God and make the most of your talents for the Master?

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Your mind was given that you might understand how to work.

Your eyes were given that you might be keen to discern your God-given opportunities.

Your ears are to listen for the commands of God.

Your knees are to bow three times a day in heartfelt prayer.

Your feet are to run in the way of God's commandments.

Thought, effort, talent, should be put into **exercise**, that you may be prepared to **graduate** into the school above and **hear** from the lips of One who has overcome all temptations in our behalf the words: "To him that **overcometh** will I grant to sit with Me in My throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with My Father in His throne." "Thus saith the Lord of hosts; **If** thou wilt walk in My ways, and **if** thou wilt keep My charge, **then** thou shalt also judge My house, and shalt also keep My courts, and I will give thee places to walk among these that stand by." Revelation 3:21; Zechariah 3:7. **If you do not co-operate** with the Lord **by giving yourself to Him** and **doing His service** you will be judged **unfit** to be a subject of His pure, heavenly kingdom. 6T 297.3

12. Jesus gave a parable of a king who made a wedding feast for his son. When it was time for the feast, he sent out a call to those who had been invited. What was their reply?

Matthew 22:2,3 The _____ of heaven is _____ unto a certain _____, which made a _____ for his _____, And _____ forth his _____ to _____ them that were _____ to the _____: and they would _____.

Luke 14:17-20 And _____ his servant at supper time to _____ to them that were bidden, _____; for _____ things are now _____. And they _____ with one consent began to make _____. The _____ said unto him, I have _____ a piece of ground, and I must needs _____ and _____ it: I pray thee have me _____. And another said, I have _____ five yoke of _____, and I _____ to _____ them: I pray thee have me _____. And another said, I have _____ a wife, and therefore I _____ come.

They all made E _____ why they could not _____.

What did the king do about the wedding feast? **Matthew 22:8,9**

Then saith he to his _____, The wedding is _____, but they which were bidden were not _____. Go ye therefore into the _____, and as _____ as ye shall find, _____ to the _____.

Luke 14:21 So that servant _____, and shewed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry _____ to his servant, Go out _____ into the _____ and _____ of the city, and bring in hither the _____, and the _____, and the _____, and the _____.

A second call was given to the P _____, the M _____, the H _____, and the B _____.

When this call was given, many came, but were they enough? **Luke 14:22** And the servant said, Lord, it is _____ as thou hast _____, and yet there is _____.

One more call was to go out, the final call to the wedding feast: **Luke 14:23**

And the lord said unto the servant, _____ out into the _____ and _____, and

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compel them to _____ in, that my house may be _____.

What is God's final call of mercy to the world – the final call to the wedding feast?

Revelation 14:6-7 And I saw another _____ fly in the midst of heaven, having the _____ gospel to _____ unto them that _____ on the earth, and to _____ nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a _____ voice, _____ God, and give _____ to him; for the _____ of his judgment _____ come: and _____ him that _____ heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

Revelation 14:8 And there followed _____ angel, saying, Babylon is _____, is fallen, that _____ city, _____ she made _____ nations _____ of the wine of the wrath of her _____.

Revelation 14:9-11 And the _____ angel followed them, saying with a _____ voice, If any man _____ the _____ and his _____, and receive his _____ in his _____, or in his _____, The same shall _____ of the wine of the wrath of _____, which is poured out without _____ into the _____ of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with _____ and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who _____ the _____ and his _____, and whosoever receiveth the _____ of his name.

13. Will there be guests at the marriage supper of the Lamb? **Revelation 14:12**

_____ is the _____ of the saints: _____ are they that _____ the commandments of _____, and the _____ of _____.

Revelation 19:7-9 Let us be _____ and _____, and give _____ to him: for the _____ of the Lamb is come, and his _____ hath made herself _____. And to her was _____ that she should be _____ in fine _____, clean and _____: for the fine _____ is the _____ of saints. And he saith unto me, Write, _____ are they which are _____ unto the _____ supper of the _____. And he saith unto me, These are the _____ sayings of _____.

Will YOU be at this marriage supper in heaven, or will you be one of those who made E_____ that you had "more important" things to do and could not come?

Note: Upon us has shone great light in regard to the last days of this earth's history. **Let not our lack of wisdom and energy give evidence of spiritual blindness.** God's messengers must be clothed with power. **They must have for the truth an elevating reverence** that they do not now possess. The Lord's **solemn, sacred message of warning** must be proclaimed in the **most difficult fields** and in the **most sinful cities** – in **every place** where the light of the third angel's message has not yet dawned. To **everyone** is to be given the **last call** to the marriage supper of the Lamb. CH 218.1

In proclaiming the message, **God's servants will be called upon to wrestle with numerous perplexities and to surmount many obstacles.** Sometimes the work will go **hard**, as it did when the pioneers were establishing the institutions in Battle Creek, in Oakland, and in other places.

But let all do their best,

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making the Lord their **strength**,
avoiding all selfishness,
and **blessing others** by their good works. CH 218.2

The Lord is testing and trying His people, to see who will be **loyal** to the principles of His truth. **Our work is to proclaim to the world the first, second, and third angel's messages.** In the discharge of our duties, we are neither to despise nor fear our enemies. **To bind ourselves up by contracts with those not of our faith is not in the order of God.** We are to treat with **kindness** and **courtesy** those who refuse to be loyal to God, but **we are never, never to unite with them in counsel regarding the vital interests of His work; for this is not the way of the Lord.** Putting our trust in God, we are to **move steadily forward**, doing his work with **unselfishness**, in **humble dependence upon Him**, committing ourselves and all that concerns our present and future to **His wise providence**, holding the beginning of our confidence firm unto the end, remembering that it is not because of our worthiness that we receive the blessings of heaven, but because of the worthiness of Christ, and our acceptance, through faith in Him, of God's abounding grace. KC 75.1

I pray that my brethren may realize that **the third angel's message means much to us**, and that the observance of the true Sabbath is to be **the sign that distinguishes those who serve God from those who serve Him not**. Let those who have become sleepy and indifferent awake. **We are called to be holy**, and we should **carefully avoid** giving the impression that it is of little consequence whether or not we retain the peculiar features of our faith. **Upon us rests the solemn obligation of taking a more decided stand for truth and righteousness than we have taken in the past.** The **line of demarcation** between those who keep the commandments of God and those who do not, **is to be revealed with unmistakable clearness**. We are conscientiously to honor God, diligently using every means of **keeping in covenant relation with Him**, that we may receive His blessings, – the blessings so **essential** for the people who are to be so severely tried. **To give the impression that our faith, our religion, is not a dominating power in our lives, is greatly to dishonor God.** Thus we turn from His commandments, which are our life, denying that He is our God and we His people. KC 75.2

14. How should we relate to those who speak unkindly to us? **Proverbs 15:1**

A _____ answer turneth _____ wrath: but _____ words stir up _____.

2 Corinthians 5:20 Now then we are _____ for _____, as though _____ did _____ you by _____: we pray you in Christ's _____, be ye reconciled to God.

We are Christ's A _____, His representatives. How did he respond?

1 Peter 2:23 Who, when he was _____, reviled _____; when he _____, he _____ not; but _____ himself to him that judgeth _____.

Proverbs 16:32 He that is _____ to _____ is _____ than the _____; and he that _____ his _____ than he that _____ a city.

Note: Reverence God and His purchased possession. Be **careful** of your manners, because you are **Christ's representative**. Guard your words carefully, and labor earnestly for the conviction and conversion of sinners. Keep the heart uplifted to God in prayer. When unkind, untrue words are spoken to you, do not lose control of yourself. Remember that "a soft answer turneth away wrath" (Proverbs 15:1), and that he that rules his spirit is greater than he that taketh a city. {TDG 70.5}

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15. What is God's purpose for each one of us? **2 Peter 3:18**

But _____ in _____, and in the _____ of our Lord and _____
Jesus Christ. To him be _____ both _____ and for ever. Amen.

Note: Those who fear and **reverence** God, He will delight to honor. Man may be **so elevated** as to form the **connecting link** between heaven and earth. He came from the hand of his Creator with a symmetrical character, **endowed with such capacities for improvement** that, combining divine influence with human effort, he might elevate himself almost to an angel's sphere. Yet, when thus elevated, he will be **unconscious** of his goodness and greatness. 4T 340.2

God has given man **intellectual faculties** capable of the highest cultivation. Had the Brethren B seen the natural **coarseness** and **roughness** of their characters, and with assiduous care **cultivated and trained the mind**, strengthening their weak points of character and overcoming their glaring defects, some of them would have been accepted as Christ's messengers. But as they now are, God cannot accept any one of them as His representative. **They have not sufficiently realized the need of improvement to cause them to seek for it.** Their minds have not been trained by study, observation, reflection, and a constant effort to thoroughly discipline themselves for the duties of life. **The means of improvement are within the reach of all.** None are so poor or so busy but that **with Jesus to help them** they can make **improvements** in their **life** and **character**. 4T 340.3

16. **Proverbs 4:18,19** gives us the contrast between those who are living the truth in their daily life and those who are inconsistent in their daily lives.

But the _____ of the _____ is as the _____ light, that shineth _____ and more unto the _____ day. The _____ of the _____ is as _____: they know _____ at what they _____.

Note: **If** those who **profess** to believe present truth were indeed **representatives of the truth**, living up to all the light which shines upon their pathway, they would **constantly** exert upon others an **influence** for good, thus **leaving a bright track heavenward** for all who are brought in contact with them. But a lack of faithfulness and integrity among its professed friends is a serious hindrance to the prosperity of God's cause. Satan works through men who are under his control. The sanitarium, the church, and other institutions at Battle Creek have less to fear from the infidel and the open blasphemer than from **inconsistent professors of Christ**. These are the Achans in the camp, who bring shame and defeat. These are the ones who keep back the blessing of God and dishearten the zealous, self-denying workers in the cause of Christ. 4T 563.4

17. Where will you stand? Who will use you to promote his cause? God or Satan
God calls to each one of us to stand with Him in the Great Controversy – 100%.

Proverbs 23:19,26 Hear thou, my son, and be _____, and _____ thine _____ in the _____.

My son, _____ me thine _____, and let thine eyes _____ my _____.

Note: God's invitation comes to each youth, "My son, give Me thine heart; I will keep it pure; I will satisfy its longings with true happiness." **God loves to make the youth happy, and that is why He would have them give their hearts into His keeping**, that all the God-given faculties of the being may be kept

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in a vigorous, healthful condition. They are holding God's gift of life. He makes the heart beat; he gives strength to every faculty. Pure enjoyment will not debase one of God's gifts. **We sin against our own bodies, and sin against God, when seeking pleasures which separate our affections from God.** The youth are to consider that they are placed in the world **on trial**, to see whether they have **characters** that will fit them to live with angels. YI, January 5, 1887 par. 4

When your associates urge you into paths of vice and folly, and all around you are **tempting you** to forget God, to destroy the capabilities God has intrusted to you, and to debase all that is noble in your nature, **resist them.** Remember that you are the Lord's property, bought with a price, the suffering and agony of the Son of God. YI, January 5, 1887 par. 5

God says, "My son, give me thy heart." Will you **refuse** him that which **you cannot give with merit** because it is his already, – that which **you cannot refuse without ruin to your own soul?**

He asks your **heart**; give it to him, it is his own.

He asks your **intellect**; give it to him, it is his own, lent you in trust.

He asks your **money**; it is his own, give it to him.

"Ye are not your own; ye are bought with a price." YI, January 5, 1887 par. 6

The Lord Jesus claims your service. He loves you. If you doubt His love, look to Calvary. The light reflected from the cross shows you the **magnitude** of that love which no tongue can tell. "He that keepeth My commandments, he it is that loveth Me." We are to become **acquainted** by **diligent study** with the commandments of God; and then **show** that we are His obedient sons and daughters. YI, January 5, 1887 par. 7

The mercies of God surround you every moment; and **it would be profitable for you to consider how and whence your blessings come every day.** Let the precious blessings of God awaken **gratitude** in you. You cannot number the blessings of God, the constant loving-kindness expressed to you, for they are as numerous as the refreshing drops of rain. Clouds of mercy are hanging over you, and ready to drop upon you. **If you will appreciate the valuable gift of salvation, you will be sensible of daily refreshment, of the protection and love of Jesus; you will be guided in the way of peace.** YI, January 5, 1887 par. 8

Look upon the glorious things of God in nature, and let your heart go out in gratitude to the Giver. There is in nature's book profitable study for the mind. **Be not thankless and reckless.** Open the eyes of your understanding; see the **beautiful harmony in the laws of God in nature,** and be **awed,** and **reverence your Creator,** the Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth. See Him, by the eye of faith, bending over you in love, saying with compassion, "My son, my daughter, give Me thy heart." **Make the surrender to Jesus,** and then with grateful hearts you can say, "I know that my Redeemer liveth." Your faith in Jesus will give **strength** to every purpose, **consistency** to the character. All your happiness, peace, joy, and success in this life are dependent upon genuine, trusting faith in God. **This faith will prompt true obedience to the commandments of God.** Your **knowledge** and **faith** in God is the **strongest restraint** from every evil practice, and the **motive to all good.** Believe in Jesus as one who **pardons your sins,** one who **wants you to be happy** in the mansions He has gone to prepare for you. He **wants you to live in His presence;** to have eternal life and a crown of glory. YI, Jan. 5, 1887 par. 9

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