

Lesson 86 How Reverence is Gained or Lost - 1

Memory Verse: Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.
Matthew 7:13,14

1) Reverence Can be Gained or Lost by the Example of the Ministers

1. When the sons of Eli, who were priests, disregarded God's instructions in how they should conduct the service of the sanctuary, what happened to the regard that the people had for the services of the sanctuary? **1 Samuel 2:12-17**

Now the sons of Eli were sons of _____; they _____ not the LORD. And the priests' _____ with the people was, that, when any man offered _____, the priest's _____ came, while the flesh was in _____, with a fleshhook of three teeth in his hand; And he _____ it into the pan, or kettle, or caldron, or pot; _____ that the fleshhook brought up the priest _____ for _____. So they did in Shiloh unto _____ the Israelites that came thither. Also _____ they burnt the _____, the priest's _____ came, and said to the _____ that sacrificed, Give _____ to roast for the _____; for he will _____ have sodden flesh of thee, but _____. And if any man _____ unto him, Let them not fail to _____ the fat presently, and _____ take as much as thy soul desireth; then he would _____ him, Nay; but thou shalt give it me _____: and if not, I will take it by _____. Wherefore the _____ of the young men was very _____ before the LORD: for men _____ the offering of the LORD. The people _____ (hated or detested) the offering of the Lord.

? Did the people GAIN reverence or did they LOSE reverence? (Circle the right one)

Note: There was to be **nothing slack and untidy** about those who appeared before Him when they came into His holy presence. And why was this? What was the object of all this carefulness? Was it merely to recommend the people to God? Was it merely to gain His approbation? 3SM 250.3

The reason that was given me was this, that a **right impression** might be made upon the people. **If** those who ministered in sacred office should **fail to manifest care**, and **reverence** for God, in their **apparel** and their **deportment**, the people would lose their awe and their reverence for God and His sacred service. 3SM 250.4

If the **priests** showed great **reverence** for God by being very **careful** and very **particular** as they came into His presence, **it gave the people an exalted idea of God and His requirements.**

It showed them that God was **holy**,

that His work was **sacred**,

and that **everything** in connection with His work must be **holy**;

that it must be free from everything like impurity and uncleanness;

and that all defilement must be put away from those who approach nigh to God. 3SM 250.5

The typical service was the **connecting link** between God and Israel. The sacrificial offerings were designed to **prefigure the sacrifice of Christ**, and thus to preserve in the hearts of the people an **unwavering faith in the Redeemer to come**. Hence, in order that the Lord might accept their sacrifices, and continue His presence with them, and, on the other hand, that the people might have a **correct**

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knowledge of the plan of salvation, and a **right understanding** of their duty, it was of the **utmost importance** that **holiness of heart** and **purity of life**, **reverence for God**, and **strict obedience** to His requirements, should be maintained by all connected with the sanctuary. ST, December 1, 1881 par. 8

? What was of the utmost importance in those who were connected with the sanctuary?

H_____ of heart

P_____ of life

R_____ for God

Strict O_____ to His requirements

? Why was this so important?

▶ The sanctuary and all its services prefigured the S_____ of C_____.

▶ It was to foster in the hearts of the people unwavering F_____ in the R_____ to come.

▶ So that their sacrifices could be A_____ of God (remember Cain's?) and His P_____ could continue to be with them.

▶ It was so that the people would have a correct K_____ of the plan of S_____.

▶ It was so that the people could have a right U_____ of their duty to God.

If the priests had great R_____ for God and followed His instructions and were very careful and particular when they came into His presence, the people would learn

▶ That God was H_____

▶ That His work was S_____,

▶ That E_____ in connection with His work must be H_____;

▶ That it must be free from all i_____ and U_____;

▶ That all D_____ must be put A_____ from those who approach nigh to _____.

? If the priests had great reverence and were particular to obey God exactly, would the people GAIN REVERENCE or would the LOSE REVERENCE? (Circle the right one)

2) Workers are Needed Full of Reverence and Zeal for God

2. How did the fishermen whom Jesus called respond? **Matthew 4:18-22**

And _____, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called _____, and _____ his brother, casting a _____ into the sea: for they were _____. And he saith unto them, _____ me, and I will _____ you _____ of _____. And they _____ left their nets, and _____ him. And going on from thence, he saw other two brethren, _____ the son of Zebedee, and _____ his brother, in a _____ with Zebedee their father, _____ their nets; and he _____ them. And they _____ left the ship and their father, and _____ him.

Note: The **prompt, unquestioning obedience** of these men, with **no promise of wages**, seems remarkable; but the words of Christ were an invitation that carried with it an impelling power. Christ would make these humble fishermen, **in connection with Himself**, the means of taking men out of the service of Satan, and placing them in the service of God. In this work they would **become his witnesses**, bearing to the world **His truth unmingled with the traditions and sophistries of men**.

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By **practicing** His virtues,
by **walking** and **working** with Him,
they were to be **qualified** to be fishers of men. GW 24.2

Thus were the first disciples appointed to the work of the gospel ministry. For three years they labored in connection with the Saviour, and

by His teaching,

His **works** of healing,

His **example**, they were prepared to carry on the work that He began.

By the **simplicity of faith,**

by **pure, humble service,**

the disciples were **taught** to carry **responsibilities** in God's cause. GW 24.3

There are lessons for us to learn from the experience of the apostles. These men were as true as steel to principle. They were men who would not fail nor be discouraged. **They were full of reverence and zeal for God**, full of noble purposes and aspirations. They were by nature as weak and helpless as any of those now engaged in the work, **but they put their whole trust in the Lord.** Wealth they had, but it consisted of mind and soul culture; and this **every one may have who will make God first and last and best in everything.** They toiled long to learn the lessons given them in the school of Christ, and they did not toil in vain. They bound themselves up with the mightiest of all powers, and were ever longing for a **deeper, higher, broader** comprehension of eternal realities, that they might successfully present the **treasures of truth** to a needy world. GW 25.1

Workers of this character are needed now, men who will **consecrate themselves without reserve** to the work of representing the kingdom of God to a world lying in wickedness. The world needs men of thought, men of principle, men who are constantly growing in understanding and discernment. There is great need of men who can use the press to the best advantage, that the truth may be given wings to speed it to every nation, and tongue, and people. GW 25.2

? Did the disciples GAIN or LOSE reverence as they learned from Christ? (Circle)

3. What prepared Ezra for his work? **Ezra 7:10**

For Ezra had _____ his _____ to _____ the _____ of the LORD, and to _____ it, and to _____ in Israel _____ and _____.

? How did Ezra prepare himself for his work?

a. He prepared his heart to S_____ the L_____ of God

b. He purposed to _____ what he learned from the L_____ of God

c. Then he determined to T_____ the S_____ and J_____ to the people.

? Did Ezra GAIN or LOSE reverence by this study? (Circle the right one)

What was the result of this kind of preparation?

Note: Wherever Ezra labored, **there sprang up a revival in the study of the Holy Scriptures.**

Teachers were appointed to instruct the people; **the law of the Lord was exalted and made honorable.** The books of the prophets were searched, and the passages foretelling the coming of the Messiah brought **hope** and **comfort** to many a sad and weary heart. PK 623.1

Between the **laws of men** and the **precepts of Jehovah** will come the **last great conflict** of the controversy between truth and error. Upon this battle we are now entering – a battle not between rival churches contending for the supremacy, but between the **religion of the Bible** and the **religions of**

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fable and tradition. The agencies which have united against truth are now actively at work. God's Holy Word, which has been handed down to us at so great a cost of suffering and bloodshed, is little valued. **There are few who really accept it as the rule of life.** Infidelity prevails to an alarming extent, not in the world only, but in the church. Many have come to **deny doctrines which are the very pillars of the Christian faith.** The great facts of **creation** as presented by the inspired writers, the **fall** of man, the **atonement**, the **perpetuity of the law** – these all are practically rejected by a large share of the **professedly** Christian world. Thousands who pride themselves on their knowledge regard it as an evidence of **weakness** to place **implicit confidence in the Bible**, and a proof of learning to **cavil** at the Scriptures and to **spiritualize** and **explain away** their most important truths. PK 625.2

Christians should be **preparing** for what is soon to break upon the world as an **overwhelming surprise**, and this **preparation** they should make
by **diligently studying the word of God**
and **striving to conform their lives to its precepts.**

The tremendous issues of eternity demand of us **something besides an imaginary religion**, a religion of words and forms, where truth is kept in the outer court. **God calls for a revival and a reformation.** The words of the Bible and the Bible alone, should be heard from the pulpit. But the Bible has been robbed of its power, and the result is seen in a lowering of the tone of spiritual life. In many sermons of today there is not that divine manifestation which **awakens the conscience** and brings life to the soul. The hearers cannot say, "Did not our heart burn within us, while He talked with us by the way, and while He opened to us the Scriptures?" Luke 24:32. **There are many who are crying out for the living God**, longing for the divine presence. **Let the word of God speak to the heart.** Let those who have heard only tradition and human theories and maxims, hear the voice of Him who can renew the soul unto eternal life. PK 626.1

We are coming to the final battle in the great controversy between truth and error. It will be an overwhelming surprise to the world, but it should not be to the Christian. How should we prepare for this time?

By D_____ studying the W_____ of God

And by striving to C_____ our lives to its P_____.

? Will the teachings of the Word of God INCREASE reverence or DECREASE it? (Circle)

4. When Ezra was told how the people had married heathens against God's instructions which He had given, Ezra prayed the prayer in Ezra 9:6-15, how did the people respond?
Ezra 10:1 Now when Ezra had _____, and when he had _____, weeping and casting himself _____ before the _____ of God, there assembled unto him out of Israel a very great _____ of men and women and children: for the people _____ very _____.

Ezra 10:3 Now therefore let us make a _____ with our _____ to put _____ all the wives, and such as are born of them, according to the counsel of my lord, and of those that _____ at the _____ of our God; and let it be _____ according to the _____.

Note: The **sorrow** of Ezra and his associates over the **evils that had insidiously crept into the very heart of the Lord's work**, wrought repentance. Many of those who had sinned were deeply affected.

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"The people wept very sore." Ezra 10:1. In a limited degree they **began to realize the heinousness of sin** and the **horror with which God regards it**. They saw the **sacredness of the law** spoken at Sinai, and **many trembled at the thought of their transgressions**. PK 622.1

? Did the people in Ezra's time GAIN or LOSE reverence? (Circle the right one)

In this age of the world, when Satan is seeking, through manifold agencies, to blind the eyes of men and women to the binding claims of the law of God, **there is need of men** who can cause many to "tremble at the commandment of our God." Ezra 10:3. **There is need of true reformers**, who will point transgressors to the great Lawgiver and teach them that "the law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul." Psalm 19:7. **There is need of men mighty in the Scriptures**, men whose every word and act exalts the statutes of Jehovah, men who seek to strengthen faith. **Teachers are needed, oh, so much, who will inspire hearts with reverence and love for the Scriptures**. PK 623.4

The **widespread iniquity prevalent today** may in a great degree be attributed to a **failure to study and obey the Scriptures**, for when the word of God is set aside, its power to restrain the evil passions of the natural heart is rejected. Men sow to the flesh and of the flesh reap corruption. PK 624.1

? What kind of people are needed today?

- ▶ They can cause many to T_____ at the C_____ of God
(at the thought of their T_____ of those commandments)
- ▶ They are true R_____
- ▶ They are M_____ in the S_____
- ▶ Their every _____ and _____ exalts the S_____ of Jehovah
- ▶ They seek to S_____ faith (in the **Word** of God and in the **God** of the Word)
- ▶ They will inspire R_____ and L_____ for the Scriptures

? Will such people inspire an INCREASE of reverence for God's Word or a DECREASE?

3) How to Distinguish False Teachers

5. What kind of ministers do the people seem to want? **2 Timothy 4:3,4**

For the time will _____ when they will not _____ sound doctrine; but after their _____ lusts shall they _____ to themselves _____, having _____ ears; And they shall turn _____ their ears from the _____, and shall be turned unto _____.

Note: Ministers of the gospel whose characters are otherwise almost faultless, **frequently do great harm** by allowing their **forbearance** toward the erring to **degenerate into toleration of their sins**, and even **participation** with them. In this **easygoing** way they **excuse and palliate that which the word of God condemns**; and after a time they become so **blinded** as even to **commend** the very ones whom **God commands them to reprove**. LP 322.1

? Will these kind of teachers help people to GAIN reverence or to LOSE it? (Circle)

6. What is the duty of a true minister of God? **2 Timothy 4:2**

Preach the _____; be _____ in season, out of season; _____, rebuke, _____ with all _____ and doctrine.

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Note: The **only safe-guard** against these dangers is to add to patience godliness, – to **reverence God, his character and his law**, and to **keep his fear ever before the mind**. **By communion with God, through prayer and the reading of his word**, we should **cultivate** such a **sense of the holiness of his character** that we shall **regard sin as he regards it**. LP 322.1

The **greatest want of the world** is the want of men –

men who will **not** be **bought** or **sold**,

men who in their **inmost** souls are **true** and **honest**,

men who **do not fear to call sin by its right name**,

men whose **conscience** is as **true to duty** as the needle to the pole,

men who will **stand for the right though the heavens fall**. Ed 57.3

? Will you choose to be one of these kind of people? YES NO

? Will this kind of person INCREASE in reverence or DECREASE in reverence? (Circle)

7. What is Jesus warning to His followers? **Matthew 7:13-20**

Enter ye in at the _____ gate: for _____ is the gate, and _____ is the way, that leadeth to _____, and _____ there be which go in thereat: Because _____ is the gate, and _____ is the way, which leadeth unto _____, and _____ there be that find it. B _____ of false prophets, which come to you in _____ clothing, but inwardly they are ravening _____. Ye shall _____ them by their _____. Do men gather _____ of thorns, or _____ of thistles? Even so every _____ tree bringeth forth _____ fruit; but a _____ tree bringeth forth _____ fruit. A _____ tree cannot bring forth _____ fruit, neither can a _____ tree bring forth _____ fruit. E _____ tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is _____ down, and cast into the _____. Wherefore by their _____ ye shall _____ them.

Note: Teachers of falsehood will arise to draw you away from the narrow path and the strait gate. Beware of them; though concealed in sheep's clothing, inwardly they are ravening wolves. Jesus gives a **test** by which false teachers may be distinguished from the true. "Ye shall know them by their fruits," He says. "Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?" MB 145.1

8. We are clearly told in **Isaiah 8:20** that if teachers do not speak according to God's Word, how much light do they have? _____ light.

To the _____ and to the _____: if they speak _____ according to this _____, it is because there is _____ light in them.

? Should we listen to instruction that turns us from obedience to the Word of God?

Proverbs 19:27 C _____, my son, to _____ the instruction that causeth to _____ from the _____ of knowledge.

Note: We are not bidden to prove them by their fair speeches and exalted professions. **They are to be judged by the word of God**. "To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word it is because there is no light in them." "Cease, my son, to hear the instruction that causeth to err from the words of knowledge." Isaiah 8:20; Proverbs 19:27.

What message do these teachers bring?

Does it lead you to reverence and fear God?

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Does it lead you to manifest your love for Him by **loyalty to His commandments**?

If men do not feel the weight of the moral law;

if they **make light of God's precepts**;

if they **break one of the least of His commandments**, and teach men so,

they shall be of no esteem in the sight of heaven.

We may know that **their claims are without foundation**.

They are doing the very work that originated with the prince of darkness, the enemy of God. MB 145.2

9. Is everyone who claims to be a Christian going to go to heaven? **Matthew 7:21**

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

? How will many think that they should go to heaven? Matthew 7:22

Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord,

have we not _____ in thy name?

and in thy name have _____ out _____?

and in thy name done many _____ works?

? What is God's answer to them? Matthew 7:23

And then will I profess unto them, I never _____ you: _____ from me, ye that work _____.

? Why does he answer them in this way? (see verse 21)

They did not _____ God's _____.

Note: Not all who profess His name and wear His badge are Christ's. Many who have taught in My name, said Jesus, will be found wanting at last. "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." MB 145.3

There are persons who believe that they are right, when they are wrong. While claiming Christ as their Lord, and professedly doing great works in His name, they are workers of iniquity. "With their mouth they show much love, but **their heart goeth after their covetousness.**" He who declares God's word is to them "as a very lovely song of one that hath a pleasant voice, and can play well on an instrument: for they **hear** Thy words, but they **do them not.**" Ezekiel 33:31, 32. MB 146.1

10. What is it that shows that we KNOW Him? **1 John 2:3-6**

And hereby we do _____ that we _____ him, if we _____ his commandments. He

that _____, I know him, and keepeth _____ his commandments, is a _____, and the

_____ is not in him. But whoso keepeth his _____, in him verily is the _____ of God

_____ : hereby know we that we are _____ him. He that _____ he abideth in him

ought himself also so to _____, even as _____ walked.

Note: A mere profession of discipleship is of **no value**. The faith in Christ which saves the soul is not what it is represented to be by many. "Believe, believe," they say, "and you need not keep the law." But **a belief that does not lead to obedience is presumption**. The apostle John says, "He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in

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him." 1 John 2:4. Let none cherish the idea that special providences or miraculous manifestations are to be the proof of the genuineness of their work or of the ideas they advocate. When persons will speak lightly of the word of God, and set their impressions, feelings, and exercises above the divine standard, we may know that they have no light in them. MB 146.2

Obedience is the test of discipleship. It is the keeping of the commandments that **proves the sincerity of our professions of love.** When the **doctrine** we accept **kills sin in the heart, purifies the soul from defilement, bears fruit unto holiness,** we may know that it is the **truth of God.** When benevolence, kindness, tenderheartedness, sympathy, are manifest in our lives; when the **joy of right doing** is in our hearts; when **we exalt Christ, and not self,** we may know that **our faith is of the right order.** "Hereby we do know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments." 1 John 2:3. MB 146.3

? What does the true teaching do in us?

It kills _____ in the heart,

It _____ the soul from defilement,

It bears fruit unto _____.

? Which kind of teachers will INCREASE our reverence for God?

Those who teach us to OBEY God's commandments? OR

Those who say we must JUST BELIEVE? Underline the right one.

4) Lack of Reverence will Result from Improper Training

11. Why did God punish Eli and his sons? **1 Samuel 3:11-13**

And the LORD said to Samuel, Behold, I will do a thing in Israel, at which both the ears of every one that heareth it shall tingle. In that _____ I will perform against _____ all things which I have _____ concerning his _____: when I begin, I will also make an _____. For I have _____ him that I will judge his _____ for ever for the _____ which he _____; because his sons made themselves vile, and he _____ them not.

God punished E_____ because he did not R_____ his sons when they did evil.

Note: Eli was **priest** and **judge** in Israel. He held the **highest and most responsible positions** among the people of God. As a man **divinely chosen** for the sacred duties of the priesthood, and set over the land as the **highest judicial authority,** he was looked up to as an **example,** and he wielded a **great influence** over the tribes of Israel. But although he had been appointed to govern the people, **he did not rule his own household.** Eli was an **indulgent** father. Loving peace and ease, **he did not exercise his authority to correct the evil habits and passions of his children.** Rather than contend with them or **punish** them, **he would submit to their will and give them their own way.** Instead of regarding the education of his sons as one of the **most important** of his responsibilities, he treated the matter as of little consequence. The priest and judge of Israel had not been left in darkness as to the **duty** of **restraining** and **governing** the children that God had given to his care. But **Eli shrank from this duty,** because it involved crossing the will of his sons, and would make it **necessary to punish and deny them.** Without weighing the **terrible consequences** that would follow his course, he **indulged his children in whatever they desired** and neglected the work of **fitting them** for the service of God and the duties of life. PP 575.1

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God had said of Abraham, "I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment." Genesis 18:19. But **Eli allowed his children to control him**. The father became subject to the children. The **curse** of transgression was apparent in the **corruption** and **evil** that marked the course of his sons. They had **no proper appreciation of the character of God or of the sacredness of His law**. His service was to them a common thing. From childhood they had been accustomed to the sanctuary and its service; but **instead of becoming more reverent**, they had lost all sense of its holiness and significance. The father had not corrected their want of reverence for his authority, had not checked their disrespect for the solemn services of the sanctuary; and when they reached manhood, they were full of the deadly fruits of **skepticism** and **rebellion**. PP 575.2

? What was the problem in Eli's household?

Eli allowed his sons to C _____ him and do whatever **they** desired.

He did not want to P _____ them for wrongdoing or D _____ them what they wanted.

? What was the result?

His sons did not respect Eli's A _____.

His sons did not R _____ the authority of God.

They treated the S _____ service as a C _____ thing instead of as holy.

They were full of S _____ and R _____.

? Did Eli's method of training his sons make them MORE reverent or LESS reverent?

5) Reverence Lost Through Copying Unbelievers

12. When Samuel was getting old, what did the people want? **1 Samuel 8:5-7**

And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a _____ to judge us _____ all the nations. But the thing displeased _____,

when they said, Give us a king to judge us. And Samuel _____ unto the LORD.

And the _____ said unto Samuel, _____ unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not _____ thee, but they have rejected _____, that I should not _____ over them.

? Why did the Israelites want a king? They wanted to be _____ all the N _____.

? Did God want them to be LIKE all the nations? YES NO

Deuteronomy 14:2 For thou art an _____ people unto the _____ thy God, and the LORD hath _____ thee to be a _____ people unto himself, _____ all the _____ that are upon the earth.

God had chosen them to be a H _____ and P _____ people A _____ all the nations. He wanted them to be A _____, not L _____, all the nations so that these nations could see the **blessing** of **obedience** to the God of heaven.

? Who did they reject by asking for a king to be like the nations? God said to Samuel: "They have not rejected _____, but they have rejected _____ that _____ should not R _____ over them."

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Note: When the Israelites first settled in Canaan they **acknowledged the principles of the theocracy**, and the nation **prospered** under the rule of Joshua. But increase of population and intercourse with other nations brought a **change**. The people **adopted** many of the customs of their heathen neighbors and thus **sacrificed to a great degree their own peculiar, holy character**. Gradually they **lost their reverence for God** and **ceased to prize the honor of being His chosen people**. Attracted by the pomp and display of heathen monarchs, they **tired of their own simplicity**. **Jealousy** and **envy** sprang up between the tribes. Internal **dissensions** made them **weak**; they were continually exposed to the invasion of their heathen foes, and the people were coming to believe that in order to maintain their standing among the nations, the tribes must be united under a strong central government. As they **departed from obedience to God's law**, they **desired to be freed from the rule of their divine Sovereign**; and thus the demand for a monarchy became widespread throughout Israel. PP 603.3

? What was the **change** that **caused** them to want a king and be **like** all the nations?

They adopted many of the C_____ of their heathen neighbors.

They sacrificed their own P_____, H_____ character.

They lost their R_____ for God.

They ceased to prize the H_____ of being God's C_____ people.

They were attracted by the P_____ and D_____ of heathen monarchs.

They were tired of their own S_____.

They departed from O_____ to God's _____.

So they were W_____; full of internal D_____.

And they wanted to be freed from the R_____ of their D_____ Sovereign.

The CAUSE of their Weakness and the invasion by heathen foes was this CHANGE which began by the increase of their i_____ (or association) with other nations..

? Did this change INCREASE or DECREASE their reverence for God? (Circle the right one)

6) Constant Contact with the Irreverent Causes Reverence to be Lost

13. What does the Bible say about Enoch?

Genesis 5:22-24 And Enoch _____ with God after he begat Methuselah _____ hundred years, and begat sons and daughters: And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years: And Enoch walked _____ God: and he was _____; for God _____ him.

Hebrews 11:5 By faith Enoch was _____ that he should not see _____; and was not _____, because God had _____ him: for before his translation he had this _____, that he _____ God.

Note: Notwithstanding the **prevailing iniquity**, there was a line of **holy men** who, elevated and ennobled by communion with God, lived as in the companionship of heaven. They were men of massive intellect, of wonderful attainments. **They had a great and holy mission – to develop a character of righteousness, to teach a lesson of godliness**, not only to the men of their time, but for future generations. Only a few of the most prominent are mentioned in the Scriptures; but all through the ages God had faithful witnesses, truehearted worshipers. PP 84.2

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? There were always 2 kinds of people on the earth. Who were they?

a. There was the prevailing i_____ . Those who did not serve God.

b. There were always F_____ witnesses, Truehearted W_____ of God.

? Which kind of people were most of the people? a or b?

? To which class did Enoch belong? a or b?

Enoch's walk with God was not in a trance or vision, but **in all the duties of his daily life**. He did not become a hermit, shutting himself entirely from the world; for he had a work to do for God in the world. In the **family** and in his intercourse with men, as a **husband** and **father**, a **friend**, a **citizen**, he was the **steadfast, unwavering servant of the Lord**. PP 85.1

Distressed by the increasing wickedness of the ungodly, and **fearing that their infidelity might lessen his reverence for God**, Enoch avoided constant association with them, and spent much time in solitude, giving himself to meditation and prayer. Thus he waited before the Lord, **seeking a clearer knowledge of His will, that he might perform it**. To him prayer was as the breath of the soul; he lived in the very atmosphere of heaven. PP 85.4

? How did Enoch walk with God?

In all the D_____ of his D_____ life.

Everywhere, all the time he was the S_____, U_____ servant of God.

He avoided C_____ A_____ with the ungodly.

He spent much time in M_____ and P_____.

? Did Enoch's walk with God cause Him to GAIN or LOSE Reverence for God?

14. Enoch warned the wicked to repent and told them the results of staying ungodly:

Jude 1:14,15 And Enoch also, the _____ from Adam, _____ of these, saying, Behold, the Lord _____ with ten thousands of his saints, To execute _____ upon all, and to convince all that are _____ among them of all their _____ deeds which they have _____ committed, and of all their hard _____ which ungodly sinners have spoken _____ him.

Note: Through holy **angels** God **revealed** to Enoch **His purpose to destroy the world by a flood**, and He also opened more fully to him the **plan of redemption**. By the **spirit of prophecy** He carried him down through the **generations that should live after the Flood**, and showed him the **great events connected with the second coming of Christ and the end of the world**. PP 85.5

He was **a fearless reprovcr of sin**. While he preached the love of God in Christ to the people of his time, and pleaded with them to forsake their evil ways, he **rebuked the prevailing iniquity** and warned the men of his generation that **judgment would surely be visited upon the transgressor**. It was the **Spirit of Christ** that spoke through Enoch; that Spirit is manifested, not alone in utterances of love, compassion, and entreaty; it is **not smooth things only** that are spoken by **holy** men. God puts into the heart and lips of His messengers truths to utter that are keen and cutting as a two-edged sword. PP 86.2

The **power of God** that wrought with His servant was felt by those who heard. **Some gave heed to the warning, and renounced their sins**; but the **multitudes mocked** at the solemn message, and went on **more boldly in their evil ways**. The servants of God are to bear a similar message to the world in the last days, and it will also be received with **unbelief** and **mockery**. The antediluvian world **rejected** the warning words of him who walked with God. **So will the last generation make light of the warnings of the Lord's messengers**. PP 86.3

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In the midst of a life of active labor, **Enoch steadfastly maintained his communion with God**. The greater and more pressing his labors, the more constant and earnest were his prayers. He continued to exclude himself, at certain periods, from all society. After remaining for a time among the people, laboring to benefit them by instruction and example, he would withdraw, to spend a **season in solitude, hungering and thirsting for that divine knowledge which God alone can impart**. Communing thus with God, Enoch came more and more to reflect the divine image. His face was radiant with a **holy light**, even the light that shineth in the face of Jesus. As he came forth from these divine communings, even the ungodly beheld with **awe** the impress of heaven upon his countenance. PP 86.4

The experience of Enoch and of John the Baptist represents what ours should be. Far more than we do, **we need to study the lives of these men** – he who was translated to heaven without seeing death, and he who, before Christ's first advent, was called to prepare the way of the Lord, to make His paths straight. 8T 329.2

? How did Enoch witness to others?

He preached the L_____ of God in C_____ to the people of his time

He pleaded with them to F_____ their E_____ ways

He R_____ the prevailing i_____

He W_____ the men of his generation that J_____ would surely come.

? How did the people respond to his message?

Some gave H_____ to the warning, and R_____ their sins

The multitudes M_____ at the solemn message

The multitudes went on more B_____ in their E_____ ways

? How did Enoch keep his reverence for God while working for the irreverent and ungodly?

He S_____ maintained his C_____ with God.

The G_____ and more pressing his L_____,
the more C_____ and E_____ were his prayers.

He continued to E_____ himself, at certain periods, from _____ society.

After remaining for a time among the P_____,

 Laboring to **benefit** them by i_____ and E_____,

He would W_____, to spend a season in S_____ because

He hungered and thirsted for that D_____ knowledge which _____
alone can impart.

? If people listened to Enoch, would they GAIN or LOSE reverence for God? (Circle)

7) Results of Association Affect Reverence

15. Why is it important to not to spend our time with ungodly persons? **Proverbs 1:10,15**

My son, if sinners _____ thee, _____ thou _____. ... My son, walk
_____ thou in the _____ with them; _____ thy foot from their _____.

Proverbs 14:12 There is a _____ which _____ right unto a man, but the
_____ thereof are the ways of _____.

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Proverbs 22:24,25 Make _____ friendship with an _____ man; and with a furious man thou shalt _____ go: Lest thou _____ his _____, and get a _____ to thy soul.

Psalm 1:1,2 B_____ is the man that walketh _____ in the counsel of the _____, nor _____ in the way of _____, nor _____ in the seat of the _____. But his _____ is in the _____ of the LORD; and in his _____ doth he _____ day and night.

Note: If the youth could be persuaded to **associate with the pure, the thoughtful, and the amiable**, the effect would be most salutary. If choice is made of **companions who fear the Lord, the influence will lead to truth, to duty, and to holiness**. A truly Christian life is a power for good. 4T 587.3

But, on the other hand, those who associate with men and women of **questionable morals, of bad principles and practices**, will soon be walking in the same path. The tendencies of the natural heart are downward. **He who associates with the skeptic will soon become skeptical**; he who chooses the companionship of the vile will most assuredly become vile. To **walk** in the counsel of the ungodly is the **first step** toward **standing** in the way of sinners and **sitting** in the seat of the scornful. 4T 587.3

I have been shown **how easily you are affected by surrounding influences**. Should you connect with associates whose minds are cast in an inferior mold, **you would become like them**. Unless the love and fear of God were before you, their thoughts would be your thoughts; **if they lacked reverence, you also would become irreverent**, if they were frivolous and given to pleasure seeking, **you would follow in the same path with a zeal and perseverance worthy of a better cause**. 5T 106.1

Choose for your associates those who hold religion and its practical influences in high respect. Keep the future life constantly in view. **Let not your associations put these thoughts out of your mind**. Nothing will so effectually banish serious impressions as intercourse with the vain, careless, and irreligious. Whatever intellectual greatness such persons may attain, **if they treat religion with levity or even with indifference, they should not be your chosen friends**. The more engaging their manners in other respects, the more should you **dread their influence** as companions, because **they would throw around you an irreligious, godless, irreverent influence** and yet **combine it with so many attractions** that it is **positively dangerous to morals**. OHC 256.4

Dare to be a Daniel. Dare to stand alone. ... A **cowardly** and **silent** reserve before evil associates, while you listen to their devices, **makes you one with them**. ... Have courage to do right. OHC 256.5

16. You are building your character for eternity – what kind of material are you putting into it? There are two ways to build, which way are you building? **1Corinthians 3:10-13**
According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the _____, and another _____ thereon. But let every man take heed _____ he _____ thereupon. For other _____ can no _____ lay than that is laid, which is _____. Now if any man build upon _____ foundation _____, _____, _____ stones, _____, _____, _____; Every man's _____ shall be made _____: for the day shall _____ it, because it shall be _____ by fire; and the fire shall _____ every man's _____ of what _____ it is.

Note: Let all who would form a right character choose associates who are of a **serious, thoughtful** turn of mind and who are **religiously inclined**. Those who have counted the cost and wish to build for

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eternity must put **good material** into their building. If they accept of rotten timbers, if they are **content with deficiencies of character**, the building is **doomed to ruin**. Let all take heed **how** they build. The **storm** of temptation will sweep over the building, and unless it is **firmly** and **faithfully** constructed it will not stand the test. 4T 588.1

Nothing can more effectually prevent or banish serious impressions and good desires than association with vain, careless, and corrupt-minded persons. Whatever attractions such persons may possess by their wit, sarcasm, and fun, **the fact that they treat religion with levity and indifference is sufficient reason why they should not be associated with.** The more engaging they are in other respects, the more should their influence be **dreaded** as companions because they throw around an irreligious life so many dangerous attractions. AH 461.2

Worldly associations attract and dazzle the senses so that piety, the fear of God, faithfulness, and loyalty have not power to keep men steadfast. The humble, unassuming life of Christ seems altogether **unattractive**. To many who claim to be sons and daughters of God, **Jesus**, the Majesty of heaven, is "as a root out of a dry ground: He hath no form nor comeliness." AH 461.3

Young friends, do not spend an hour in the company of those who would unfit you for the pure and sacred work of God. Do nothing before strangers that you would not do before your father and mother, or that you would be ashamed of before Christ and the holy angels. AH 463.3

Some may think these cautions are not needed by Sabbathkeepers, but those to whom they apply know what I mean. I tell you, young men, to **beware**; for you can do nothing that is not open to the eyes of angels and of God. You cannot do an evil work and others not be affected by it. While **your course of action reveals what kind of material is used in your own character building**, it also has a **powerful influence over others**. Never lose sight of the fact that **you belong to God**, that He has bought you with a price, and you must render an account to Him for all His entrusted talents. AH 463.4

17. What is God's instruction to His people? **2 Corinthians 6:17,18** Wherefore come _____ from among them, and be ye _____, saith the Lord, and _____ not the _____ thing; and I will _____ you, And will be a _____ unto you, and ye shall be my _____ and _____, saith the Lord Almighty.

Note: The world is **not** to be our criterion. **We are not to associate with the ungodly and partake of their spirit, for they will lead the heart away from God to the worship of false gods.** The steadfast soul, firm in the faith, can do much good; he can **impart blessings of the highest order** to those with whom he associates, for the law of the Lord is in his heart. But **we cannot willingly associate** with those who are trampling upon the law of God, and preserve our faith pure and untarnished. **We shall catch the spirit**, and unless we **separate** from them, we shall be bound up with them at last, to share their doom. AH 459.4

It was **by associating with idolaters and joining in their festivities** that the Hebrews were led to transgress God's law and bring His judgments upon the nation. So now it is by leading the followers of Christ to **associate** with the ungodly and **unite in their amusements** that Satan is most successful in alluring them into sin. "Come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean." God requires of His people now as great a **distinction** from the world, in **customs, habits, and principles**, as He required of Israel anciently. AH 460.1

? Does the choice of your friends affect your reverence for God? YES NO

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? What kind of friends will INCREASE reverence for God?

Those who are P_____, T_____, and amiable,

Those who F_____ the Lord

Those who hold religion and its P_____ influences in H_____ respect

Those who have C_____ to do right

Those who have a S_____, thoughtful turn of mind

Those who are R_____ inclined

Those who are S_____ and F_____ in the faith

Those who have the L_____ of the Lord in their heart

Those who show a great D_____ from the world,
in C_____, H_____, and P_____

? What kind of friends will DECREASE reverence for God?

Those who have questionable M_____

Those who have bad P_____ and P_____

Those who are S_____

Those who are V_____

Those whose minds are cast in an i_____ mold

Those who lack R_____

Those who are F_____ and given to P_____ seeking

Those who are V_____, C_____, and i_____.

Those who treat religion with L_____ or even with i_____

Those who use W_____, S_____, and F_____ treating R_____
with levity and indifference

Those who attract and D_____ the senses so that P_____, the F_____ of
God, F_____, and loyalty have not power to keep them steadfast.

Those to whom the H_____, U_____ life of Christ
seems altogether U_____.

Those who are T_____ upon the L_____ of God

? What is Satan's most successful way to allure us into sin?

He gets us to associate with the U_____ and U_____ in their A_____

By so doing, we will partake of their S_____ and they will lead our H_____
away from God to the worship of F_____ gods.

8) Marriage to one who does not honor God

18. What was God's instruction to the Israelites concerning marriage? **Deut. 7:3-6** Neither shalt thou make _____ with them; thy daughter thou shalt _____ give unto his _____, nor his daughter shalt thou _____ unto thy _____. For they will _____ away thy son from _____ me, that they may serve _____ gods: so will the anger of the LORD be kindled against you, and destroy thee suddenly. But thus shall ye

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_____ with them; ye shall destroy their _____, and break down their _____, and cut down their _____, and burn their graven images with _____. For thou art an _____ people unto the _____ thy God: the _____ thy God hath _____ thee to be a _____ people unto himself, _____ all people that are upon the face of the earth.

19. When they disregarded this, what was the result? **Judges 3:6,7**

And they _____ their daughters to be their wives, and _____ their daughters to their sons, and _____ their _____. And the children of Israel did _____ in the sight of the _____, and _____ the LORD their God, and served Baalim and the groves.

Note: They were not to contract marriages with the heathen; for **by so doing they would lose their reverence for God and His holy law**; they would be tempted to engage in the sinful practices of other nations, and would be seduced into idolatry. PP 138.1

Hundreds have **sacrificed Christ and heaven in consequence of marrying unconverted persons**. Can it be that the love and fellowship of Christ are of so little value to them that they prefer the companionship of poor mortals? **Is heaven so little esteemed** that they are willing to risk its enjoyments for one who has no love for the precious Saviour? AH 66.4

To connect with an unbeliever is to place yourself on Satan's ground. **You grieve the Spirit of God and forfeit His protection**. Can you afford to have such terrible odds against you in fighting the battle for everlasting life? AH 67.1

Ask yourself: "**Will not an unbelieving husband lead my thoughts away from Jesus?** He is a lover of pleasure more than a lover of God; will he not lead me to enjoy the things that he enjoys?" The path to eternal life is steep and rugged. Take no additional weights to retard your progress. AH 67.2

In forming an alliance with a heathen nation, and sealing the compact by marriage with an idolatrous princess, **Solomon rashly disregarded the wise provisions that God had made for maintaining the purity of His people**. The hope that this Egyptian wife might be converted was but a feeble excuse for the sin. In violation of a direct command to remain separate from other nations, the king united his strength with the arm of flesh. AH 64.2

20. There are two ways to travel on your life's journey. What are they? **Matthew 7:13,14**

Enter ye in at the _____ gate: for _____ is the gate, and _____ is the way, that leadeth to _____, and _____ there be which go in thereat: Because _____ is the gate, and _____ is the way, which leadeth unto _____, and _____ there be that find it.

► There is the B_____ way which leads to D_____. M_____ travel on it.

► The other is the N_____ way which leads to eternal L_____. F_____ travel on it.

These two ways are **opposite**, they go in **opposite** directions.

? What does Amos ask in **Amos 3:3**?

Can two walk _____, except they be _____?

When you marry, you will walk T_____ on one of these ways. If you don't

A_____, you cannot walk T_____. If you want to reach eternal L_____, you must travel on the N_____ way and you must choose someone for your life companion who is also **already** traveling on the _____ way.

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21. What warning does Paul give in **2 Corinthians 6:14,15**?

Be ye not _____ yoked together with _____: for what _____ hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what _____ hath light with darkness? And what _____ hath Christ with Belial? or what _____ hath he that believeth with an infidel?

Note: I would warn you to be **guarded** as to where you bestow your affections. ... Remember that your life belongs to Jesus, and that you are not to live for yourself alone. You are not to enter into the marriage relation with an **unbeliever**; for in so doing, you do exactly contrary to that which Jesus has commanded.

Shun those who are **irreverent**.

Shun one who is a **lover of idleness**;

Shun the one who is a **scoffer of hallowed things**.

Avoid the society of one who **uses profane language, or is addicted** to the use of even *one* **glass of liquor**.

Listen not to the proposals of a man who has no realization of his responsibility to God. OHC 257.2

The pure truth, which sanctifies the soul, will give you courage to **cut yourself loose** from the most pleasing acquaintance **whom you know does not love and fear God**, and knows nothing of the principles of true righteousness. We may always bear with a friend's infirmities and with his ignorance, but never with his vices. **Never marry an unbeliever.** OHC 257.3

I am only voicing to you the word of God, for **He declares that such a union will result in drawing away your heart from loving and serving Him.** ... As a child of God, you are permitted to contract marriage only in the Lord. ... Should you consent to unite your life with that of an unbeliever, you would be disregarding the Word of God and imperiling your soul. OHC 257.4

The heart yearns for human love, but this love is not strong enough, or pure enough, or precious enough to supply the place of the love of Jesus. **Only in her Saviour can the wife find wisdom, strength, and grace to meet the cares, responsibilities, and sorrows of life.** She should make Him her strength and her guide. **Let woman give herself to Christ before giving herself to any earthly friend**, and enter into no relation which shall conflict with this. Those who would find true happiness **must** have the blessing of Heaven upon all that they possess and all that they do. **It is disobedience to God that fills so many hearts and homes with misery.** My sister, unless you would have a home where the shadows are never lifted, do not unite yourself with one who is an enemy of God. AH 67.3

At first the unbelieving one may make no show of opposition in the new relation; but when the subject of Bible truth is presented for attention and consideration, the feeling at once arises: "You married me, knowing that I was what I am; I do not wish to be disturbed. From henceforth let it be understood that conversation upon your peculiar views is to be interdicted." **If the believer should manifest any special earnestness in regard to his faith, it might seem like unkindness toward the one who has no interest in the Christian experience.** AH 65.2

The believing one reasons that in his new relation he must concede somewhat to the **companion of his choice**. Social, worldly amusements are patronized. At first there is great reluctance of feeling in doing this, but the **interest in the truth becomes less and less**, and **faith is exchanged for doubt and unbelief**. No one would have suspected that the once firm, conscientious believer and devoted follower of Christ could ever become the doubting, vacillating person that he now is. **Oh, the change wrought by that unwise marriage!** AH 66.1

? Will you GAIN or LOSE reverence for God and His way if you marry an unbeliever?

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