

The Testimonies Slighted

This is one of the most solemn chapters in the entire Spirit of Prophecy. Please read it with a humble attitude, praying that God will help you see yourself better, and that He will help you repent of your secret transgressions—and draw closer to Him! We cannot be too much in earnest! Time is short. Soon the Final Crisis will break, suddenly, unexpectedly upon the world. We who have so much light must be living in the light, walking closely with Jesus every day, or Satan will imperceptibly cause us to slip away. It would be a tragedy if anyone of us are lost. May it not be, is my prayer.

The following consists of excerpts from 5 Testimonies, 62 to 84. Important principles are revealed here. How earnestly must we strive to be counted at last among the redeemed. —*uf*

“The truth of God is not in harmony with the traditions of men, nor does it conform to their opinions. Like its divine Author, it is unchangeable, the same yesterday, today, and forever. **Those who separate from God will call darkness light, and error truth.** But darkness will never prove itself to be light, nor will error become truth.

“The minds of many have been so darkened and confused by worldly customs, worldly practices, and worldly influences that all power to discriminate between light and darkness, truth and error, seems destroyed. I had little hope that my words would be understood; but when the Lord moved upon me so decidedly, I could not resist His Spirit. **Knowing that you were involving yourselves in the snares of Satan, I felt that the danger was too great for me to keep silent.**

“For years the Lord has been presenting the situation of the church before you. Again and again reproofs and warnings have been given . . . I carried a heavy burden for the church, while those who should have felt to the very depths of their souls were comparatively easy and unconcerned. I knew not what to do or what to say. **I had no confidence in the course which many were pursuing, for they were doing the very things which the Lord had warned them not to do.**

“That God who knows their spiritual condition declares: They have cherished evil and separated from Me. They have gone astray, every one of them. Not one is guiltless. They have forsaken Me, the Fountain of living waters, and have hewed out to

them broken cisterns that can hold no water. Many have corrupted their ways before Me. Envy, hatred of one another, jealousy, evil surmising, emulation, strife, bitterness, is the fruit that they bear. **And they will not heed the testimony that I send them. They will not see their perverse ways and be converted,** that I should heal them.

“Many are looking with self-complacency upon the long years during which they have advocated the truth. They now feel that they are entitled to a reward for their past trials and obedience. But **this genuine experience in the things of God in the past makes them more guilty before Him for not preserving their integrity and going forward to perfection.** The faithfulness for the past year will never atone for the neglect of the present year. A man’s truthfulness yesterday will not atone for his falsehood today . . .

“Yet now when I send you a testimony of warning and reproof, many of you declare it to be merely the opinion of Sister White. You have thereby insulted the Spirit of God. You know how the Lord has manifested Himself through the spirit of prophecy. Past, present, and future have passed before me. I have been shown faces that I had never seen, and years afterward I knew them when I saw them. **I have been aroused from my sleep with a vivid sense of subjects previously presented to my mind; and I have written, at midnight, letters that have gone across the continent and, arriving at a crisis, have saved great disaster to the cause of God.** This has been my work for many years. A power has impelled me to reprove and rebuke wrongs that I had not thought of. Is this work of the last thirty-six years from above or from beneath? . . .

“Most assuredly; and the reproof he [Paul] sent them was written just as much under the inspiration of the Spirit of God as were any of his epistles. **But when these reproofs came, some would not be corrected. They took the position that God had not spoken to them through Paul,** that he had merely given them his opinion as a man, and they regarded their own judgment as good as that of Paul.

“So it is with many among our people who have drifted away from the old landmarks and who have followed their own understanding. What a great relief it would be to such could they quiet their conscience with the belief that my work is not

of God. **But your unbelief will not change the facts in the case.** You are defective in character, in moral and religious experience. **Close your eyes to the fact if you will, but this does not make you one particle more perfect. The only remedy is to wash in the blood of the Lamb.**

“If you seek to turn aside the counsel of God to suit yourselves, **if you lessen the confidence of God’s people in the testimonies He has sent them, you are rebelling against God as certainly as were Korah, Dathan, and Abiram.** You have their history. You know how stubborn they were in their own opinions. They decided that their judgment was better than that of Moses and that Moses was doing great injury to Israel. Those who united with them were so set in their opinions that, notwithstanding the judgments of God in a marked manner destroyed the leaders and the princes, the next morning the survivors came to Moses and said: ‘Ye have killed the people of the Lord.’ We see what fearful deception will come upon the human mind. **How hard it is to convince souls that have become imbued with a spirit which is not of God. As Christ’s ambassador, I would say to you: Be careful what positions you take.** This is God’s work, and you must render to Him an account for the manner in which you treat His message . . .

“**If you refuse to believe until every shadow of uncertainty and every possibility of doubt is removed you will never believe.** The doubt that demands perfect knowledge will never yield to faith. Faith rests upon evidence, not demonstration. **The Lord requires us to obey the voice of duty, when there are other voices all around us urging us to pursue an opposite course.** It requires earnest attention from us to distinguish the voice which speaks from God. **We must resist and conquer inclination, and obey the voice of conscience without parleying or compromise, lest its promptings cease** and will and impulse control. **The word of the Lord comes to us all who have not resisted His Spirit by determining not to hear and obey. This voice is heard in warnings, in counsels, in reproof.** It is the Lord’s message of light to His people. If we wait for louder calls or better opportunities, the light may be withdrawn, and we left in darkness.

“By once neglecting to comply with the call of God’s Spirit and His Word, when obedience involves a cross, many have lost much—how much they will never know till the books are opened at the final day. The pleadings of the Spirit, neglected today because pleasure or inclination leads in an opposite direction, may be powerless to convince, or even impress, tomorrow. **To improve the opportunities**

of the present, with prompt and willing hearts, is the only way to grow in grace and the knowledge of the truth. **We should ever cherish a sense that, individually, we are standing before the Lord of hosts;** no word, no act, no thought, even, should be indulged, to offend the eye of the Eternal One. **We shall then have no fear of man or of earthly power,** because a Monarch, whose empire is the universe, who holds in His hands our individual destinies for time and eternity, is taking cognizance of all our work. If we would feel that in every place we are the servants of the Most High, we would be more circumspect; our whole life would possess to us a meaning and a sacredness which earthly honors can never give.

“The thoughts of the heart, the words of the lips, and every act of the life, will make our character more worthy, if the presence of God is continually felt. **Let the language of the heart be: ‘Lo, God is here.’ Then the life will be pure, the character unspotted,** the soul continually uplifted to the Lord. You have not pursued this course at Battle Creek. I have been shown that painful and contagious disease is upon you, which will produce spiritual death unless it is arrested . . .

“**Let no man flatter himself that he is a successful man unless he preserves the integrity of his conscience, giving himself wholly to the truth and to God.** We should move steadily forward, never losing heart or hope in the good work, whatever trials beset our path, whatever moral darkness may encompass us. **Patience, faith, and love for duty are the lessons we must learn. Subduing self and looking to Jesus is an everyday work. The Lord will never forsake the soul that trusts in Him and seeks His aid.** The crown of life is placed only upon the brow of the overcomer. There is, for everyone, earnest, solemn work for God while life lasts. As Satan’s power increases and his devices are multiplied, skill, aptness, and sharp generalship should be exercised by those in charge of the flock of God. **Not only have we each a work to do for our own souls, but we have also a duty to arouse others to gain eternal life.**

“It pains me to say, my brethren, that **your sinful neglect to walk in the light has enshrouded you in darkness.** You may now be honest in not recognizing and obeying the light; **the doubts you have entertained, your neglect to heed the requirements of God, have blinded your perceptions** so that darkness is now to you light, and light is darkness. God has bidden you to go forward to perfection. **Christianity is a religion of progress.** Light from God is full and ample, waiting our demand upon it. **Whatever blessings the Lord may**

give, He has an infinite supply beyond, an inexhaustible store from which we may draw. Skepticism may treat the sacred claims of the gospel with jests, scoffing, and denial. **The spirit of worldliness may contaminate the many and control the few; the cause of God may hold its ground only by great exertion and continual sacrifice, yet it will triumph finally.**

“The word is: Go forward; discharge your individual duty, and leave all consequences in the hands of God. If we move forward where Jesus leads the way we shall see His triumph, we shall share His joy. **We must share the conflicts if we [are to later] wear the crown of victory.** Like Jesus, we must be made perfect through suffering. Had Christ’s life been one of ease, then might we safely yield to sloth. Since His life was marked with continual self-denial, suffering, and self-sacrifice, we shall make no complaint if we are partakers with Him. **We can walk safely in the darkest path if we have the Light of the world for our guide.**

“The Lord is testing and proving you. He has counseled, admonished, and entreated. **All these solemn admonitions will either make the church better or decidedly worse. The oftener the Lord speaks to correct or counsel, and you disregard His voice, the more disposed will you be to reject it again and again,** till God says: ‘Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out My hand, and no man regarded; but ye have set at nought all My counsel, and would none of My reproof: I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; when your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you. Then shall they call upon Me, but I will not answer; they shall seek Me early, but they shall not find me; for that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the Lord: they would none of My counsel: they despised all My reproof. Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices.’

“Are you not halting between two opinions? Are you not neglecting to heed the light which God has given you? Take heed lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God. You know not the time of your visitation. The great sin of the Jews was that of neglecting and rejecting present opportunities. **As Jesus views the state of His professed followers today, He sees base ingratitude, hollow formalism, hypocritical insincerity, pharisaical pride and apostasy . .**

“I entreat you who have long professed the faith and who still pay outward homage to Christ: Do

not deceive your own souls. **It is the whole heart that Jesus prizes. The loyalty of the soul is alone of value in the sight of God.** ‘If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong to thy peace!’ ‘Thou, . . . even thou’—**Christ is at this moment addressing you personally, stooping from His throne, yearning with pitying tenderness** over those who feel not their danger, who have no pity for themselves.

“Many have a name to live while they have become spiritually dead. These will one day say: ‘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.’ Woe will be pronounced against thee, **if thou loiter and linger until the Sun of Righteousness shall set; the blackness of eternal night will be thy portion.** Oh, that the cold, formal, worldly heart may be melted! Christ shed not only tears for us, but His own blood. Will not these manifestations of His love arouse us to deep humiliation before God? **It is humility and self-abasement that we need, to be approved of God . .**

“The spirit of Christ should so control our character and conduct that our influence may ever bless, encourage, and edify. **Our thoughts, our words, our acts, should testify that we are born of God and that the peace of Christ rules in our hearts.** In this way we throw around us the gracious radiance of which the Saviour speaks when He enjoins upon us to let our light shine forth to men. **Thus we are leaving a bright track heavenward.** In this way all who are connected with Christ may become more effectual preachers of righteousness than by the most able pulpit effort without this heavenly unction. **Those light bearers shed forth the purest radiance that are the least conscious of their own brightness,** as those flowers diffuse the sweetest fragrance that make the least display.

“Our people are making very dangerous mistakes. **We cannot praise and flatter any man without doing him a great wrong;** those who do this will meet with serious disappointment. **They trust too fully to finite man and not enough to God,** who never errs . .

“I have been shown that the spirit of the world is fast leavening the church. You are following the same path as did ancient Israel. There is the same falling away from your holy calling as God’s peculiar people. You are having fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness. **Your concord with unbelievers has provoked the Lord’s displeasure.** You know not the things that belong to your peace, and they are fast being hid from your eyes.

Your neglect to follow the light will place you in a more unfavorable position than the Jews upon whom Christ pronounced a woe.

“I have been shown that **unbelief in the testimonies has been steadily increasing as the people backslide from God. It is all through our ranks, all over the field. But few know what our churches are to experience.**

“**I saw that at present we are under divine forbearance, but no one can say how long this will continue.** No one knows how great the mercy that has been exercised toward us. But few are heartily devoted to God. There are only a few who, like the stars in a tempestuous night, shine here and there among the clouds.

“**Many who complacently listen to the truths from God’s Word are dead spiritually, while they profess to live.** For years they have come and gone in our congregations, but they seem only less and less sensible of the value of revealed truth. **They do not hunger and thirst after righteousness. They have no relish for spiritual or divine things.** They assent to the truth, but are not sanctified through it. **Neither the Word of God nor the testimonies of His Spirit make any lasting impression upon them.** Just according to the light, the privileges, and opportunities which they have slighted will be their condemnation. **Many who preach the truth to others are themselves cherishing iniquity.** The entreaties of the Spirit of God, like divine melody, the promises of His Word so rich and abundant, its threatenings against idolatry and disobedience—all are powerless to melt the world-hardened heart.

“**Many of our people are lukewarm. They occupy the position of Meroz, neither for nor against, neither cold nor hot. They hear the words of Christ, but do them not.** If they remain in this state, He will reject them with abhorrence. **Many of those who have had great light, great opportunities, and every spiritual advantage praise Christ and the world with the same breath.** They bow themselves before God and mammon. They make merry with the children of the world, and yet claim to be blessed with the children of God. **They wish to have Christ as their Saviour, but will not bear the cross and wear His yoke.** May the Lord have mercy upon you; for **if you go on in this way, nothing but evil can be prophesied concerning you.**

“The patience of God has an object, but you are defeating it. **He is allowing a state of things to come that you would fain see counteracted by and by, but it will be too late.** God commanded

Elijah to anoint the cruel and deceitful Hazael king over Syria, that he might be a scourge to idolatrous Israel. **Who knows whether God will not give you up to the deceptions you love? Who knows but that the preachers who are faithful, firm, and true may be the last who shall offer the gospel of peace to our unthankful churches? It may be that the destroyers are already training under the hand of Satan and only wait the departure of a few more standard-bearers to take their places, and with the voice of the false prophet cry, ‘Peace, peace,’ when the Lord hath not spoken peace. I seldom weep, but now I find my eyes blinded with tears; they are falling upon my paper as I write. It may be that ere long all prophesyings among us will be at an end, and the voice which has stirred the people may no longer disturb their carnal slumbers.**

“**When God shall work His strange work on the earth, when holy hands bear the ark no longer, woe will be upon the people. Oh, that thou hadst known, even thou, in this thy day, the things that belong unto thy peace!** Oh, that our people may, as did Nineveh, repent with all their might and believe with all their heart, that God may turn away His fierce anger from them.

“**I am filled with pain and anguish as I see parents conforming to the world and allowing their children to meet the worldly standard at such a time as this.** I am filled with horror as the condition of families professing present truth is opened before me. **The profligacy of youth and even children is almost incredible.** Parents do not know that secret vice is destroying and defacing the image of God in their children. **The sins which characterized the Sodomites exist among them.** The parents are responsible; for they have not educated their children to love and obey God. They have not restrained them nor diligently taught them the way of the Lord. They have allowed them to go out and to come in when they chose, and to associate with worldlings. These worldly influences which counteract parental teaching and authority are to be found largely in so-called good society. **By their dress, looks, amusements, they surround themselves with an atmosphere which is opposed to Christ.**

“Our only safety is to stand as God’s peculiar people. **We must not yield one inch to the customs and fashions of this degenerate age, but stand in moral independence, making no compromise with its corrupt and idolatrous prac-**

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**PART TWO
OF TWO**

Continued from the preceding tract in this series

tices.

“It will require courage and independence to rise above the religious standard of the Christian world. They do not follow the Saviour’s example of self-denial; they make no sacrifice; they are constantly seeking to evade the cross which Christ declares to be the token of discipleship.

“What can I say to arouse our people? **I tell you not a few ministers who stand before the people to explain the Scriptures are defiled. Their hearts are corrupt, their hands unclean.** Yet many are crying, ‘Peace, peace;’ and the workers of iniquity are not alarmed. The Lord’s hand is not shortened that He cannot save, nor His ear heavy that He cannot hear; but **it is our sins that have separated us from God.** The church is corrupt because of her members who defile their bodies and pollute their souls . .

“**There are men among us in responsible positions who hold that the opinions of a few conceited philosophers, so called, are more to be trusted than the truth of the Bible or the testimonies of the Holy Spirit.** Such a faith as that of Paul, Peter, or John is considered old-fashioned and insufferable at the present day. It is pronounced absurd, mystical, and unworthy of an intelligent mind.

“**God has shown me that these men are Haazels to prove a scourge to our people. They are wise above what is written.** This unbelief of the very truths of God’s Word because human judgment cannot comprehend the mysteries of His work is found in every district, in all ranks of society. It is taught in most of our schools and comes into the lessons of the nurseries. **Thousands who profess to be Christians give heed to lying spirits.** Everywhere the spirit of darkness in the garb of religion will confront you.

“If all that appears to be divine life were such in reality; **if all who profess to present the truth to the world were preaching for the truth and not against it, and if they were men of God guided by His Spirit,—then might we see something cheering amid the prevailing moral darkness.** But the spirit of antichrist is prevailing to such an extent as never before. Well may we exclaim: ‘Help, Lord; for the godly man ceaseth; for the faithful fail from among the children of men.’ I know that **many think far too favorably of the present time. These ease-loving souls will be engulfed in the general ruin.** Yet we do not despair. We have been inclined to think

that where there are no faithful ministers there can be no true Christians, but this is not the case. **God has promised that where the shepherds are not true He will take charge of the flock Himself.** God has never made the flock wholly dependent upon human instrumentalities. **But the days of purification of the church are hastening on apace. God will have a people pure and true. In the mighty sifting soon to take place we shall be better able to measure the strength of Israel. The signs reveal that the time is near when the Lord will manifest that His fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly purge His floor.**

“**The days are fast approaching when there will be great perplexity and confusion. Satan, clothed in angel robes, will deceive, if possible, the very elect.** There will be gods many and lords many. Every wind of doctrine will be blowing. Those who have rendered supreme homage to ‘science falsely so called’ will not be the leaders then. **Those who have trusted to intellect, genius, or talent will not then stand at the head of rank and file. They did not keep pace with the light. Those who have proved themselves unfaithful will not then be entrusted with the flock. In the last solemn work few great men will be engaged. They are self-sufficient, independent of God, and He cannot use them.**

“The Lord has faithful servants who in the shaking, testing time will be disclosed to view. **There are precious ones now hidden who have not bowed the knee to Baal.** They have not had the light which has been shining in a concentrated blaze upon you. But it may be under a rough and uninviting exterior the pure brightness of a genuine Christian character will be revealed. In the day time we look toward heaven but do not see the stars. They are there, fixed in the firmament, but the eye cannot distinguish them. In the night we behold their genuine luster.

“**The time is not far distant when the test will come to every soul. The mark of the beast will be urged upon us. Those who have step by step yielded to worldly demands and conformed to worldly customs will not find it a hard matter to yield to the powers that be, rather than subject themselves to derision, insult, threatened imprisonment, and death. The contest is between the commandments of God and the commandments of men. In this time the gold will be separated from the dross in the church.** True godliness will be clearly distinguished from the appearance and

tinsel of it. **Many a star that we have admired for its brilliancy will then go out in darkness. Chaff like a cloud will be borne away on the wind, even from places where we see only floors of rich wheat.** All who assume the ornaments of the sanctuary, but are not clothed with Christ's righteousness, will appear in the shame of their own nakedness.

"When trees without fruit are cut down as cumberers of the ground, **when multitudes of false brethren are distinguished from the true, then the hidden ones will be revealed to view,** and with hosannas range under the banner of Christ. **Those who have been timid and self-distrustful will declare themselves openly for Christ and His truth.** The most weak and hesitating in the church will be as David—willing to do and dare. The deeper the night for God's people, the more brilliant the stars. **Satan will sorely harass the faithful; but, in the name of Jesus, they will come off more than conquerors.** Then will the church of Christ appear 'fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners.'

"**The seeds of truth that are being sown by missionary efforts will then spring up and blossom and bear fruit.** Souls will receive the truth who will endure tribulation and praise God that they may suffer for Jesus. 'In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.' **When the overflowing scourge shall pass through the earth, when the fan is purging Jehovah's floor, God will be the help of His people.** The trophies of Satan may be exalted on high, but the faith of the pure and holy will not be daunted. . .

"**Many have exalted science and lost sight of the God of science.** This was not the case with the church in the purest times.

"**God will work a work in our day that but few anticipate.** He will raise up and exalt among us those who are taught rather by the unction of His Spirit than by the outward training of scientific institutions. These facilities are not to be despised or condemned; they are ordained of God, but they can furnish only the exterior qualifications. **God will manifest that He is not dependent on learned, self-important mortals.**

"**There are few really consecrated men among us, few who have fought and conquered in the battle with self. Real conversion is a decided change of feelings and motives; it is a virtual taking leave of worldly connections,** a hastening from their spiritual atmosphere, a withdrawing from the controlling power of their thoughts, opinions, and influences. **The separation causes pain and bit-**

terness to both parties. It is the variance which Christ declares that He came to bring. But the converted will feel a continual longing desire that their friends shall forsake all for Christ, knowing that, unless they do, there will be a final and eternal separation. **The true Christian cannot, while with unbelieving friends, be light and trifling.** The value of the souls for whom Christ died is too great.

"He 'that forsaketh not all that he hath,' says Jesus, 'cannot be My disciple.' **Whatever shall divert the affections from God must be given up.** Mammon is the idol of many. Its golden chain binds them to Satan. **Reputation and worldly honor** are worshiped by another class. The life of **selfish ease and freedom from responsibility** is the idol of others. **These are Satan's snares, set for unwary feet.** But these slavish bands must be broken; the flesh must be crucified with the affections and lusts.

"**We cannot be half the Lord's and half the world's. We are not God's people unless we are such entirely.** Every weight, every besetting sin, must be laid aside. **God's watchmen will not cry, 'Peace, peace,' when God has not spoken peace. The voice of the faithful watchmen will be heard:** 'Go ye out from thence, touch no unclean thing; go ye out of the midst of her; be ye clean that bear the vessels of the Lord.'

"**The church cannot measure herself by the world nor by the opinion of men nor by what she once was. Her faith and her position in the world as they now are must be compared with what they would have been if her course had been continually onward and upward. The church will be weighed in the balances of the sanctuary. If her moral character and spiritual state do not correspond with the benefits and blessings God has conferred upon her, she will be found wanting.**

"The light has been shining clear and definite upon her pathway, and the light of 1882 [*this testimony was penned in 1882; we have received even more light through the Spirit of Prophecy since that year*] calls her to an account. If her talents are unimproved, if her fruit is not perfect before God, if her light has become darkness, she is indeed found wanting. The knowledge of our state as God views it, seems to be hidden from us. **We see, but perceive not; we hear, but do not understand; and we rest as unconcerned as if the pillar of cloud by day, and the pillar of fire by night, rested upon our sanctuary. We profess to know God, and to believe the truth, but in works deny Him.** Our deeds are directly adverse to the principles of truth and righteousness, by which we profess to be governed."—*Ellen G. White, The Testimonies Slighted, 5 Testimonies, 64-67, 69-73, 75-84.*

“I am filled with sadness when I think of our condition as a people. The Lord has not closed heaven to us, but our own course of continual backsliding has separated us from God. Pride, covetousness, and love of the world have lived in the heart without fear of banishment or condemnation. Grievous and presumptuous sins have dwelt among us. And yet the general opinion is that the church is flourishing and that peace and spiritual prosperity are in all her borders.

“The church has turned back from following Christ her Leader and is steadily retreating toward Egypt. Yet few are alarmed or astonished at their want of spiritual power. Doubt, and even disbelief of the testimonies of the Spirit of God, is leavening our churches everywhere. Satan would have it thus. Ministers who preach self instead of Christ would have it thus. The testimonies are unread and unappreciated. God has spoken to you. Light has been shining from His Word and from the testimonies, and both have been slighted and disregarded. The result is apparent in the lack of purity and devotion and earnest faith among us.”—5 Testimonies, 217.

“God keeps a reckoning with the nations. Through every century of this world’s history evil workers have been treasuring up wrath against the day of wrath; and when the time fully comes that iniquity shall have reached the stated boundary of God’s mercy, His forbearance will cease. When the accumulated figures in heaven’s record books shall mark the sum of transgression complete, wrath will come, unmixed with mercy, and then it will be seen what a tremendous thing it is to have worn out the divine patience. This crisis will be reached when the nations shall unite in making void God’s law.

“The days will come when the righteous will be stirred to zeal for God because of the abounding iniquity. None but divine power can stay the arrogance of Satan united with evil men; but in the hour of the church’s greatest danger most fervent prayer will be offered in her behalf by the faithful remnant, and God will hear and answer at the very time when the guilt of the transgressor has reached its height. He will ‘avenge His own elect, which cry day and night unto Him, though He bear long with them.’ They will be jealous for the honor of God. They will be zealous in prayer, and their faith will grow strong.”—5 Testimonies, 524.

“With unerring accuracy the Infinite One still keeps an account with all nations. While His mercy

is tendered with calls to repentance, this account will remain open; but when the figures reach a certain amount which God has fixed, the ministry of His wrath commences. The account is closed. Divine patience ceases. There is no more pleading of mercy in their behalf.

“The prophet, looking down the ages, had this time presented before his vision. **The nations of this age have been the recipients of unprecedented mercies.** The choicest of heaven’s blessings have been given them, but increased pride, covetousness, idolatry, contempt of God, and base ingratitude are written against them. They are fast closing up their account with God.

“But that which causes me to tremble is the fact that those who have had the greatest light and privileges have become contaminated by the prevailing iniquity. Influenced by the unrighteous around them, many, even of those who profess the truth, have grown cold and are borne down by the strong current of evil. **The universal scorn thrown upon true piety and holiness leads those who do not connect closely with God to lose their reverence for His law.** If they were following the light and obeying the truth from the heart, this holy law would seem even more precious to them when thus despised and set aside. **As the disrespect for God’s law becomes more manifest, the line of demarcation between its observers and the world becomes more distinct.** Love for the divine precepts increases with one class according as contempt for them increases with another class.

“The crisis is fast approaching. The rapidly swelling figures show that the time for God’s visitation has about come. Although loath to punish, nevertheless He will punish, and that speedily. **Those who walk in the light will see signs of the approaching peril; but they are not to sit in quiet, unconcerned expectancy of the ruin, comforting themselves with the belief that God will shelter His people in the day of visitation. Far from it. They should realize that it is their duty to labor diligently to save others, looking with strong faith to God for help.** ‘The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.’

“The leaven of godliness has not entirely lost its power. **At the time when the danger and depression of the church are greatest, the little company who are standing in the light will be sighing and crying for the abominations that are done in the land. But more especially will their prayers arise in behalf of the church because its members are doing after the manner of the world.**

“The earnest prayers of this faithful few will not be in vain. When the Lord comes forth as an avenger, **He will also come as a protector of all those who**

have preserved the faith in its purity and kept themselves unspotted from the world. It is at this time that God has promised to avenge His own elect which cry day and night unto Him, though He bear long with them.

“The command is: ‘Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof.’ These sighing, crying ones had been holding forth the words of life; they had re-proved, counseled, and entreated. Some who had been dishonoring God repented and humbled their hearts before Him. **But the glory of the Lord had departed from Israel; although many still continued the forms of religion, His power and presence were lacking.**

“In the time when His wrath shall go forth in judgments, **these humble, devoted followers of Christ will be distinguished from the rest of the world by their soul anguish,** which is expressed in lamentation and weeping, reproofs and warnings. While others try to throw a cloak over the existing evil, and excuse the great wickedness everywhere prevalent, **those who have a zeal for God’s honor and a love for souls will not hold their peace to obtain favor of any.** Their righteous souls are vexed day by day with the unholy works and conversation of the unrighteous. **They are powerless to stop the rushing torrent of iniquity, and hence they are filled with grief and alarm. They mourn before God to see religion despised in the very homes of those who have had great light.** They lament and afflict their souls because pride, avarice, selfishness, and deception of almost every kind are in the church. The Spirit of God, which prompts to reproof, is trampled underfoot, while the servants of Satan triumph. God is dishonored, the truth made of none effect.

“The class who do not feel grieved over their own spiritual declension, nor mourn over the sins of others, will be left without the seal of God . . .

“No superiority of rank, dignity, or worldly wisdom, no position in sacred office, will preserve men from sacrificing principle when left to their own deceitful hearts. **Those who have been regarded as worthy and righteous prove to be ringleaders in apostasy and examples in indifference** and in the abuse of God’s mercies. Their wicked course He will tolerate no longer, and in His wrath He deals with them without mercy.

“It is with reluctance that the Lord withdraws

His presence from those who have been blessed with great light and who have felt the power of the Word in ministering to others. They were once His faithful servants, favored with His presence and guidance; but they departed from Him and led others into error, and therefore are brought under the divine displeasure.

“The day of God’s vengeance is just upon us. **The seal of God will be placed upon the foreheads of those only who sigh and cry for the abominations done in the land.** Those who link in sympathy with the world are eating and drinking with the drunken and will surely be destroyed with the workers of iniquity. ‘The eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and His ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.’

“Our own course of action will determine whether we shall receive the seal of the living God or be cut down by the destroying weapons. Already a few drops of God’s wrath have fallen upon the earth; but when the seven last plagues shall be poured out without mixture into the cup of His indignation, then it will be forever too late to repent and find shelter. No atoning blood will then wash away the stains of sin. . .

“Not one of us will ever receive the seal of God while our characters have one spot or stain upon them. It is left with us to remedy the defects in our characters, to cleanse the soul temple of every defilement. Then the latter rain will fall upon us as the early rain fell upon the disciples on the Day of Pentecost. . .

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

“Now is the time to prepare. The seal of God will never be placed upon the forehead of an impure man or woman. It will never be placed upon the forehead of the ambitious, world-loving man or woman. It will never be placed upon the forehead of men or women of false tongues or deceitful hearts. **All who receive the seal must be without spot before God—candidates for heaven.**”—5 Testimonies, 208-216.