

THE FUTURE IS IN GOD'S HANDS

Do not Worry about Tomorrow

TRUSTING HIM, DO WHAT IS RIGHT TODAY

"If you have given yourself to God, to do His work, you have no need to be anxious for tomorrow. He, whose servant you are, knows the end from the beginning. The events of tomorrow, which are hidden from your view, are open to the eyes of Him who is omnipotent.

"When we take into our hands the management of things with which we have to do, and depend upon our own wisdom for success, we are taking a burden which God has not given us, and are trying to bear it without His aid. We are taking upon ourselves the responsibility that belongs to God, and thus are really putting ourselves in His place. We may well have anxiety and anticipate danger and loss, for it is certain to befall us. **But when we really believe that God loves us and means to do us good we shall cease to worry about the future.** We shall trust God as a child trusts a loving parent. Then our troubles and torments will disappear, for our will is swallowed up in the will of God.

"Christ has given us no promise of help in bearing today the burdens of tomorrow. He has said, 'My grace is sufficient for thee' (2 Corinthians 12:9); but, like the manna given in the wilderness, His grace is bestowed daily, for the day's need. Like the hosts of Israel in their pilgrim life, we may find morning by morning the bread of heaven for the day's supply.

"One day alone is ours, and during this day we are to live for God. For this one day we are to place in the hand of Christ, in solemn service, all our purposes and plans, casting all our care upon Him, for He careth for us. 'I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.' 'In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength.' Jeremiah 29:11; Isaiah 30:15.

"If you will seek the Lord and be converted every day; if you will of your own spiritual choice be free and joyous in God; if with gladsome consent of heart to His gracious call you come wearing the yoke of Christ,—the yoke of obedience and ser-

vice,—**all your murmurings will be stilled, all your difficulties will be removed, all the perplexing problems that now confront you will be solved.**"—*Mount of Blessing, 100-101.*

"There are many whose hearts are aching under a load of care because they seek to reach the world's standard. They have chosen its service, accepted its perplexities, adopted its customs. Thus their character is marred and their life made a weariness. The continual worry is wearing out the life forces. Our Lord desires them to lay aside this yoke of bondage. He invites them to accept His yoke; He says, 'My yoke is easy, and My burden is light.' **Worry is blind and cannot discern the future; but Jesus sees the end from the beginning. In every difficulty He has His way prepared to bring relief.** 'No good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly.' Matthew 11:30; Psalm 84:11.

"Our heavenly Father has a thousand ways to provide for us of which we know nothing. **Those who accept the one principle of making the service of God supreme, will find perplexities vanish and a plain path before their feet.**

"The faithful discharge of today's duties is the best preparation for tomorrow's trials. Do not gather together all tomorrow's liabilities and cares and add them to the burden of today. 'Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.' Matthew 6:34.

"Let us be hopeful and courageous. Despondency in God's service is sinful and unreasonable. He knows our every necessity. **To the omnipotence of the King of kings our covenant-keeping God unites the gentleness and care of the tender shepherd.** His power is absolute, and it is the pledge of the sure fulfillment of His promises to all who trust in Him. **He has means for the removal of every difficulty,** that those who serve Him and respect the means He employs may be sustained. His love is as far above all other love as the heavens are above the earth. **He watches over His children with a love that is measureless and everlasting.**

"In the darkest days, when appearances seem most forbidding, have faith in God. He is working

out His will, doing all things well in behalf of His people. **The strength of those who love and serve Him will be renewed day by day.**

“He is able and willing to bestow upon His servants all the help they need. He will give them the wisdom which their varied necessities demand.”—*Ministry of Healing, 481-482.*

“If God, the divine artist, gives to the simple flowers, that perish in a day, their delicate and varied colors, how much greater care will He have for those who are created in His own image? . . . **If men love and obey God, and do their part, God will provide for all their wants . . .** No man can add one cubit to his stature, no matter how solicitous he may be to do so. It is no less unreasonable to be troubled about the morrow and its needs. **Do your duty, and trust in God;** for He knows of what things you have need . . . **He watches over us with more tenderness than does a mother over an afflicted child . . .** God is a friend in perplexity and affliction, a protector in distress, a preserver in the thousand dangers that are unseen to us.

“God dwells in every abode; He hears every word that is spoken, listens to every prayer that is offered, tastes the sorrows and disappointments of every soul . . . **In His care we may safely rest.**

“**God helps the feeble, and strengthens those who have no strength.** In the fields where the trials and the conflicts and poverty are the greatest, God’s workmen must have increased protection. To those laboring in the heat of the conflict, God says, ‘The Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand.’

“**Our Lord adapts Himself to our special needs. He is a shade on our right hand.** He walks close by our side, ready to supply all our necessities. **He comes very near to those who are engaged in willing service for Him.** He knows every one by name. O what assurances we have of the tender love of Christ.”—*Sons and Daughters of God, 16.*

“**All who have chosen God’s service are to rest in His care.** Christ pointed to the birds flying in the heavens, to the flowers of the field, and bade His hearers consider these objects of God’s creation. ‘Are not ye of much more value than they?’ He said. Matt. 6:26, R.V. The measure of divine attention bestowed on any object is proportionate to its rank in the scale of being. The little brown sparrow is watched over by Providence. The flowers of the field, the grass that carpets the earth, share the notice and care of our heavenly Father. The great Master Artist has taken thought for the lilies, making them so beautiful that they outshine the glory of Solomon. How much more does He care for man,

who is the image and glory of God. He longs to see His children reveal a character after His similitude. As the sunbeam imparts to the flowers their varied and delicate tints, so does God impart to the soul the beauty of His own character.

“All who choose Christ’s kingdom of love and righteousness and peace, making its interest paramount to all other, are linked to the world above, and every blessing needed for this life is theirs. In the book of God’s providence, the volume of life, we are each given a page. That page contains every particular of our history; even the hairs of the head are numbered. God’s children are never absent from His mind.

“ ‘Be not therefore anxious for the morrow.’ ” Matt. 6:34, R.V. **We are to follow Christ day by day. God does not bestow help for tomorrow.** He does not give His children all the directions for their life journey at once, lest they should become confused. He tells them just as much as they can remember and perform. **The strength and wisdom imparted are for the present emergency.** ‘If any of you lack wisdom,’—for today,—‘let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.’ James 1:5.”—*Desire of Ages, 313.*

“We need to trust in Jesus daily, hourly. He has promised that as our day is, our strength shall be. **By His grace we may bear all the burdens of the present and perform its duties.** But many are weighed down by the anticipation of future troubles. They are constantly seeking to bring tomorrow’s burdens into today. Thus a large share of all their trials are imaginary. For these, Jesus has made no provision. **He promises grace only for the day.** He bids us not to burden ourselves with the cares and troubles of tomorrow; for ‘sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.’

“The habit of brooding over anticipated evils is unwise and unchristian. In thus doing we fail to enjoy the blessings and to improve the opportunities of the present. **The Lord requires us to perform the duties of today and to endure its trials.** We are **today** to watch that we offend not in word or deed. We must **today** praise and honor God. By the exercise of living faith **today** we are to conquer the enemy. We must **today** seek God and be determined that we will not rest satisfied without His presence. **We should watch and work and pray as though this were the last day that would be granted us. How intensely earnest, then, would be our life.** How closely would we follow Jesus in all our words and deeds.”—*5 Testimonies, 200.*

“Not by their wealth, their education, or their

position does God estimate men. He estimates them by their purity of motive and their beauty of character. He looks to see how much of His Spirit they possess and how much of His likeness their life reveals. **To be great in God's kingdom is to be as a little child in humility, in simplicity of faith, and in purity of love . . .**

"Many are unable to make definite plans for the future. Their life is unsettled. They cannot discern the outcome of affairs, and this often fills them with anxiety and unrest. **Let us remember that the life of God's children in this world is a pilgrim life. We have not wisdom to plan our own lives. It is not for us to shape our future.** 'By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.' Hebrews 11:8.

"Christ in His life on earth made no plans for Himself. He accepted God's plans for Him, and day by day the Father unfolded His plans. So should we depend upon God, that our lives may be the simple outworking of His will. As we commit our ways to Him, He will direct our steps.

"Too many, in planning for a brilliant future, make an utter failure. **Let God plan for you. As a little child, trust to the guidance of Him** who will 'keep the feet of His saints.' 1 Samuel 2:9. **God never leads His children otherwise than they would choose to be led, if they could see the end from the beginning and discern the glory of the purpose which they are fulfilling as co-workers with Him.**"—*Ministry of Healing, 477-479.*

"Many have their present wants supplied; yet they will not trust the Lord for the future. They manifest unbelief and sink into despondency and gloom at anticipated want. Some are in continual trouble lest they shall come to want and their children suffer. When difficulties arise or when they are brought into strait places—when their faith and their love to God are tested—they shrink from the trial and murmur at the process by which God has chosen to purify them. Their love does not prove pure and perfect, to bear all things.

"The faith of the people of the God of heaven should be strong, active, and enduring—the substance of things hoped for. Then the language of such will be, 'Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless His holy name,' for He hath dealt bountifully with me."—*Story of Redemption, 128-129.*

"The past is contained in the book where all things are written. We cannot blot out the record; but **if we choose to learn them, the past will teach**

us its lessons. As we make it our monitor, we may also make it our friend. As we call to mind that in the past which is disagreeable, let it teach us not to repeat the same error. In the future let nothing be recorded which will cause regret in the by and by.

"We may now avoid a bad showing. **Every day we are making our history. Yesterday is beyond our amendment or control; today only is ours.** Then let us not grieve the Spirit of God today, for tomorrow we shall not be able to recall what we have done. Today will then be yesterday.

"Let us seek to follow the counsel of God in all things, for He is infinite in wisdom. Though in the past we have come short of doing what we might have done for our children and youth, **let us now repent and redeem the time . . . The message, 'Go forward,' is still to be heard and repeated.** The varying circumstances taking place in our world call for labor that will meet these peculiar developments. **The Lord has need of men who are spiritually sharp and clear-sighted, men who are certainly receiving manna fresh from heaven.** The Holy Spirit works upon the hearts of such men, and God's Word flashes light into the mind, revealing to them more than ever before the true wisdom."—6 *Testimonies, 149-150.*

"The work rests upon us to perfect holiness. **When God sees us doing all we can on our part, then He will help us. Angels will aid us,** and we shall be strong through Christ strengthening us. Do not neglect secret prayer. **Pray for yourself. Grow in grace. Advance. Don't stand still, don't go back. Onward to victory.** Courage in the Lord, my dear boy. Battle with the great adversary only a little longer, and then release will come, and the armor will be laid off at the feet of our dear Redeemer. **Press through every obstacle. If the future looks somewhat clouded, hope on, believe on. The clouds will disappear, and light again shine.** Praise God, my heart says, praise God for what He has done for you."—1 *Testimonies, 663.*

"Many neglect to lay up for themselves a treasure in heaven by doing good with the means that God has lent them. **They distrust God and have a thousand fears in regard to the future. Like the children of Israel they have evil hearts of unbelief.** God provided this people with abundance, as their needs required; but they borrowed trouble for the future. They complained and murmured in their travels that Moses had led them out to kill them and their children with hunger. **Imaginary want closed their eyes and hearts from seeing the goodness and mercies of God in their journeyings.**

and they were ungrateful for all His bounties. So also are the distrustful, professed people of God in this age of unbelief and degeneracy. They fear that they may come to want, or that their children may become needy, or that their grandchildren will be destitute. They dare not trust God. **They have no genuine faith in Him who has entrusted them with the blessings and bounties of life, and who has given them talents to use to His glory in advancing His cause.**—*2 Testimonies, 656-657.*

“For every trial, God has provided help. When Israel in the desert came to the bitter waters of Marah, Moses cried unto the Lord. **The Lord did not provide some new remedy; He called attention to that which was at hand.** A shrub which He had created was to be cast into the fountain to make the water pure and sweet. When this was done, the people drank of the water and were refreshed. **In every trial, if we seek Him, Christ will give us help. Our eyes will be opened to discern the healing promises recorded in His Word.** The Holy Spirit will teach us how to appropriate every blessing that will be an antidote to grief. **For every bitter draft that is placed to our lips, we shall find a branch of healing.**

“We are not to let the future, with its hard problems, its unsatisfying prospects, make our hearts faint, our knees tremble, our hands hang down. ‘Let him take hold of My strength,’ says the Mighty One, ‘that he may make peace with Me; and he shall make peace with Me.’ Isaiah 27:5. **Those who surrender their lives to His guidance and to His service will never be placed in a position for which He has not made provision.** Whatever our situation, if we are doers of His Word, we have a Guide to direct our way; whatever our perplexity, we have a sure Counselor; whatever our sorrow, bereavement, or loneliness, we have a sympathizing Friend.

“If in our ignorance we make missteps, the Saviour does not forsake us. We need never feel that we are alone. Angels are our companions. The Comforter that Christ promised to send in His name abides with us. In the way that leads to the City of God there are no difficulties which those who trust in Him may not overcome. There are no dangers which they may not escape. **There is not a sorrow, not a grievance, not a human weakness, for which He has not provided a remedy.**”—*Ministry of Healing, 248-249.*

“Many look back to the Israelites, and marvel at

their unbelief and murmuring, feeling that they themselves would not have been so ungrateful; but when their faith is tested, even by little trials, they manifest no more faith or patience than did ancient Israel. When brought into strait places, they murmur at the process by which God has chosen to purify them. **Though their present needs are supplied, many are unwilling to trust God for the future, and they are in constant anxiety lest poverty shall come upon them,** and their children shall be left to suffer. Some are always anticipating evil or magnifying the difficulties that really exist, so that their eyes are blinded to the many blessings which demand their gratitude. **The obstacles they encounter, instead of leading them to seek help from God, the only Source of strength, separate them from Him,** because they awaken unrest and repining.

“Do we well to be thus unbelieving? Why should we be ungrateful and distrustful? Jesus is our friend; all heaven is interested in our welfare; and **our anxiety and fear grieve the Holy Spirit of God. We should not indulge in a solicitude that only frets and wears us, but does not help us to bear trials.** No place should be given to that distrust of God which leads us to make a preparation against future want the chief pursuit of life, as though our happiness consisted in these earthly things. **It is not the will of God that His people should be weighed down with care. But our Lord does not tell us that there are no dangers in our path.** He does not propose to take His people out of the world of sin and evil, but He points us to a never-failing refuge.”—*Patriarchs and Prophets, 293-294.*

“The plans of the enemies of His work may seem to be firm and well established, but He can overthrow the strongest of these plans, and in His own time and way He will do this, when He sees that our faith has been sufficiently tested and that we are drawing near to Him and making Him our counselor.

“In the darkest days, when appearances seem so forbidding, fear not. Have faith in God. He is working out His will, doing all things well in behalf of His people. **The strength of those who love and serve Him will be renewed day by day.** His understanding will be placed at their service, that they may not err in the carrying out of His purposes.

“There is to be no despondency in God’s service. Our faith is to endure the pressure brought to

THE FUTURE IS IN GOD'S HANDS

Do not Worry about Tomorrow

TRUSTING HIM, DO WHAT IS RIGHT TODAY

W
M

1
3
2
0

Continued from the preceding tract in this series

bear upon it. **God is able and willing to bestow upon His servants all the strength they need.** He will more than fulfill the highest expectations of those who put their trust in Him.”—*Sons and Daughters of God*, 219.

“**Turn to the Lord, ye prisoners of hope. Seek strength from God, the living God.** Show an unwavering, humble faith in His power and His willingness to save. From Christ is flowing the living stream of salvation. He is the Fountain of life, the Source of all power. **When in faith we take hold of His strength, He will change, wonderfully change, the most hopeless, discouraging outlook.** He will do this for the glory of His name.

“**God calls upon His faithful ones, who believe in Him, to talk courage to those who are unbelieving and hopeless.** May the Lord help us to help one another and to prove Him by living faith.”—*8 Testimonies*, 12.

“**In reviewing our past history, having traveled over every step of advance to our present standing, I can say, Praise God!** As I see what the Lord has wrought, I am filled with astonishment, and with confidence in Christ as leader. **We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history.**

“We are debtors to God to use every advantage He has entrusted to us to beautify the truth by holiness of character, and to send the messages of warning, and of comfort, of hope and love, to those who are in the darkness of error and sin.”—*Life Sketches*, 196.

“In reviewing our past history, having traveled over every step of advance to our present standing, I can say, Praise God! As I see what God has wrought, I am filled with astonishment, and with confidence in Christ as leader. We have nothing to fear for the future except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us.

“**We are now a strong people, if we will put**

our trust in the Lord; for we are handling the mighty truths of the Word of God. We have everything to be thankful for. If we walk in the light as it shines upon us from the living oracles of God, we shall have large responsibilities, corresponding to the great light given us of God. **We have many duties to perform because we have been made the depositaries of sacred truth to be given to the world** in all its beauty and glory. We are debtors to God to use every advantage He has entrusted to us to beautify the truth by holiness of character, and to send the messages of warning, and of comfort, of hope and love, to those who are in the darkness of error and sin.”—*Testimonies to Ministers*, 31.

“God has in His Word opened before us the great events of the future—all that it is essential for us to know—and He has given us a safe guide for our feet amid all its perils; but it is Satan’s purpose to **destroy men’s confidence in God, to make them dissatisfied with their condition in life, and to lead them to seek a knowledge of what God has wisely veiled from them,** and to despise what He has revealed in His Holy Word.

“There are many who become restless when they cannot know the definite outcome of affairs. **They cannot endure uncertainty, and in their impatience they refuse to wait to see the salvation of God.** Apprehended evils drive them nearly distracted. They give way to their rebellious feelings, and run hither and thither in passionate grief, **seeking intelligence concerning that which has not been revealed.** If they would but trust in God, and watch unto prayer, they would find divine consolation. Their spirit would be calmed by communion with God. The weary and the heavy-laden would find rest unto their souls if they would only go to Jesus; but when they neglect the means that God has ordained for their comfort, and resort to other sources, hoping to learn what God has withheld, they commit the error of Saul, and thereby gain only a knowledge of evil.

“God is not pleased with this course, and has expressed it in the most explicit terms. **This impa-**

tient haste to tear away the veil from the future reveals a lack of faith in God and leaves the soul open to the suggestions of the master deceiver.”—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, 686-687.

“Let all our brethren and sisters beware of anyone who would set a time for the Lord to fulfill His word in regard to His coming, or in regard to any other promise He has made of special significance. ‘It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in His own power.’ False teachers may appear to be very zealous for the work of God, and may expend means to bring their theories before the world and the church; but as they mingle error with truth, their message is one of deception, and will lead souls into false paths.”—*Testimonies to Ministers*, 55. (For much more on this aspect of trying to penetrate the future, read 1 SM 185-192.)

“Jesus is waiting with longing desire to open before His people the glory that will attend His second advent, and to carry them forward to a contemplation of the landscapes of bliss. There are wonders to be revealed. A long lifetime of prayer and research will leave much unexplored and unexplained. But **what we know not now will be revealed hereafter. The work of instruction begun here will be carried on to all eternity.** The Lamb, as He leads the hosts of the redeemed to the Fountain of living waters, will impart rich stores of knowledge; **He will unravel mysteries in the works and providence of God that have never before been understood.**

“We can never by searching find out God. **He does not lay open His plans to prying, inquisitive minds. We must not attempt to lift with presumptuous hand the curtain** behind which He veils His majesty. The apostle exclaims: ‘How unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out!’ It is a proof of His mercy that there is the hiding of His power, that He is enshrouded in the awful clouds of mystery and obscurity; for to lift the curtain that conceals the divine presence is death. **No mortal mind can penetrate the secrecy in which the Mighty One dwells and works.** We can comprehend no more of His dealings with us and the motives that actuate Him than He sees fit to reveal. He orders everything in righteousness, and we are not to be dissatisfied and distrustful, but to bow in reverent submission. **He will reveal to us as much of His purposes as it is for our good to know; and beyond that we must trust the hand that is omnipotent, the heart that is full of love.**”—*5 Testimonies*, 301-302.

“There are many things we shall not compre-

hend; but **we have the blessed assurance that what we know not now, we shall know hereafter.**”—*1 Selected Messages*, 184.

ONLY GOD KNOWS THE FUTURE

“I Am means an eternal presence; **the past, present, and future are alike to God. He sees the most remote events of past history, and the far distant future** with as clear a vision as we do those things that are transpiring daily. **We know not what is before us, and if we did, it would not contribute to our eternal welfare.** God gives us an opportunity to exercise faith and trust in the great I Am.”—*1 Bible Commentary*, 1099.

“**God had a knowledge of the events of the future, even before the creation of the world.** He did not make His purposes to fit circumstances, but He allowed matters to develop and work out. He did not work to bring about a certain condition of things, but He knew that such a condition would exist. The plan that should be carried out upon the defection of any of the high intelligences of heaven—this is the secret, the mystery which has been hid from ages. And an offering was prepared in the eternal purposes to do the very work which God has done for fallen humanity.”—*6 Bible Commentary*, 1082.

“Let those who are oppressed under a sense of sin remember that there is hope for them. **The salvation of the human race has ever been the object of the councils of heaven.** The covenant of mercy was made before the foundation of the world. It has existed from all eternity, and is called the everlasting covenant. **So surely as there never was a time when God was not, so surely there never was a moment when it was not the delight of the eternal mind to manifest His grace to humanity.**”—*7 Bible Commentary*, 934.

“With searching glance, Christ takes in the scene before Him as He stands upon the steps of the temple court. **With prophetic eye He looks into futurity, and sees not only years, but centuries and ages.**”—*Desire of Ages*, 157.

“As Christ’s earthly ministry drew to a close, and He realized that He must soon leave His disciples to carry on the work without His personal supervision, **He sought to encourage them and to prepare them for the future.** He did not deceive them with false hopes. **As an open book He read what was to be.**”—*Acts of the Apostles*, 21.

“As the wheellike complications were under the guidance of the hand beneath the wings of the cheru-

1 bim, so **the complicated play of human events is**
3 **under divine control.** Amidst the strife and tumult
2 of nations He that sitteth above the cherubim still
0 guides the affairs of this earth.

“The history of nations speaks to us today. To every nation and to every individual God has assigned a place in His great plan. **Today men and nations are being tested by the plummet in the hand of Him who makes no mistake.** All are by their own choice deciding their destiny, and God is overruling all for the accomplishment of His purposes.

“The prophecies which the great I AM has given in His Word, uniting link after link in the chain of events, from eternity in the past to eternity in the future, tell us where we are today in the procession of the ages and what may be expected in the time to come. **All that prophecy has foretold as coming to pass, until the present time, has been traced on the pages of history, and we may be assured that all which is yet to come will be fulfilled in its order.**

“Today the signs of the times declare that **we are standing on the threshold of great and solemn events. Everything in our world is in agitation.** Before our eyes is fulfilling the Saviour’s prophecy of the events to precede His coming: ‘Ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars . . . Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.’ Matthew 24:6, 7.

“**The present is a time of overwhelming interest to all living.** Rulers and statesmen, men who occupy positions of trust and authority, thinking men and women of all classes, have their attention fixed upon the events taking place about us. They are watching the relations that exist among the nations. **They observe the intensity that is taking possession of every earthly element, and they recognize that something great and decisive is about to take place—that the world is on the verge of a stupendous crisis.**”—*Prophets and Kings*, 536-537.

“Through centuries of persecution, conflict, and darkness, God has sustained His church. **Not one cloud has fallen upon it that He has not prepared for; not one opposing force has risen to counterwork His work, that He has not foreseen.** All has taken place as He predicted. He has not left His church forsaken, but has traced in prophetic declarations what would occur, and that which His Spirit inspired the prophets to foretell has been brought about. **All His purposes will be fulfilled.**

His law is linked with His throne, and no power of evil can destroy it. Truth is inspired and guarded by God; and it will triumph over all opposition.”—*Acts of the Apostles*, 11-12.

“**Against every evildoer God’s law utters condemnation.** He may disregard that voice, he may seek to drown its warning, but in vain. It follows him. **It makes itself heard. It destroys his peace. If unheeded, it pursues him to the grave.** It bears witness against him at the judgement. A quenchless fire, it consumes at last soul and body.

“‘What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?’ ” Mark 8:36, 37.

“This is a question that demands consideration by every parent, every teacher, every student—by every human being, young or old. **No scheme of business or plan of life can be sound or complete that embraces only the brief years of this present life and makes no provision for the unending future.** Let the youth be taught to take eternity into their reckoning. **Let them be taught to choose the principles and seek the possessions that are enduring**—to lay up for themselves that ‘treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth;’ to make to themselves friends ‘by means of the mammon of unrighteousness,’ that when it shall fail, these may receive them ‘into the eternal tabernacles.’ Luke 12:33; 16:9, R.V.

“**All who do this are making the best possible preparation for life in this world. No man can lay up treasure in heaven without finding his life on earth thereby enriched and ennobled.**

“‘Godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.’ 1 Timothy 4:8.”—*Education*, 144-145.

“The word, ‘Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love,’ is applicable to many living in this time. God calls for immediate repentance and reformation. **It is time for a great change to take place among the people who are looking for the second appearing of their Lord. Soon strange things will take place. God will hold us responsible for the way in which we treat the truth.** Our purity of faith and action will decide our future.

“**God is in earnest with us. To every man He has given his work. Everyone is to do his part. A clear, decided testimony is to be borne; for a people is to be prepared to meet a time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation.**”—*Medical Ministry*, 37-38.

OUR ASSURANCE OF A WONDERFUL FUTURE

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

“By faith we should look to the hereafter and grasp the pledge of God of a growth of intellect, the human faculties uniting with the divine, and every power of the soul being brought into direct contact with the Source of light. We may rejoice that all that has perplexed us in the providences of God will then be made plain.”—5 Testimonies, 706.

“This assurance of the future life was that for which Israel had so long waited.”—Desire of Ages, 211.

“John was strengthened to live in the presence of his glorified Lord, and then were presented before him in holy vision the purposes of God for future ages. The glorious attractions of the heavenly home were made known to him. He was permitted to look upon the throne of God, and to behold the white-robed throng of redeemed ones. He heard the music of heavenly angels, and the songs of triumph from those who had overcome by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony.”—*Sanctified Life*, 78.

“As we draw near to Jesus, and rejoice in the fullness of His love, our doubt and darkness will disappear in the light of His presence.

“The apostle Paul says that God ‘hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son.’ Colossians 1:13. And everyone who has passed from death unto life is able to ‘set to his seal that God is true.’ John 3:33. **He can testify, ‘I needed help, and I found it in Jesus. Every want was supplied, the hunger of my soul was satisfied;** and now the Bible is to me the revelation of Jesus Christ. Do you ask why I believe in Jesus? Because He is to me a divine Saviour. Why do I believe the Bible? Because I have found it to be the voice of God to my soul.’ **We may have the witness in ourselves that the Bible is true, that Christ is the Son of God.** We know that we are not following cunningly devised fables.

“Peter exhorts his brethren to ‘grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.’ 2 Peter 3:18. **When the people of God are**

growing in grace, they will be constantly obtaining a clearer understanding of His Word. They will discern new light and beauty in its sacred truths. This has been true in the history of the church in all ages, and thus it will continue to the end. ‘The path of the righteous is as the light of dawn, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.’ Proverbs 4:18, R.V., margin.

“By faith we may look to the hereafter and grasp the pledge of God for a growth of intellect, the human faculties uniting with the divine, and every power of the soul being brought into direct contact with the Source of light. We may rejoice that all which has perplexed us in the providences of God will then be made plain, things hard to be understood will then find an explanation; and where our finite minds discovered only confusion and broken purposes, we shall see the most perfect and beautiful harmony. ‘Now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.’ 1 Corinthians 13:12.”—*Steps to Christ*, 112-113.

“Look up, look up, and let your faith continually increase. Let this faith guide you along the narrow path that leads through the gates of the city into the great beyond, the wide, unbounded future of glory that is for the redeemed. ‘Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.’ James 5:7, 8.

“The nations of the saved will know no other law than the law of heaven. All will be a happy, united family, clothed with the garments of praise and thanksgiving. Over the scene the morning stars will sing together, and the sons of God will shout for joy, while God and Christ will unite in proclaiming. ‘There shall be no more sin, neither shall there be any more death.’

“ ‘And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one Sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before Me, saith the Lord.’ **‘The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together’** ‘The Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.’ **‘In that day shall the Lord of hosts be for a crown of glory, and for a diadem of beauty, unto the residue of His people.’ ”—*Prophets and Kings*, 732-733.**