

WHO WE ARE

*TWENTY-YEAR SPAN OF STATEMENTS ON
SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST IDENTITY*

By Fred Bischoff



NOTES

Introduction

A recurring theme over the last two active decades of Ellen White's life was specifying the elements that provided the identity of Seventh-day Adventists. It is clear from the evidence of the history of these twenty years that an attack was being made on that identity, from within even more than from without.

That the issue of identity is at the root of the great controversy between Christ and Satan can be seen from Isa. 14:14, Lucifer's desire to be "like the Most High"; from Gen. 3:5, the serpent's lie that Eve would be "as God" by taking for herself the fruit; from Matt. 3:17, the Father affirming Jesus' identity, "This is My Beloved Son"; from Matt. 4:3, the devil's introduction to his temptation of Jesus, "If Thou be the Son of God"; from John 4:12, the question of the Samaritan woman, "Art Thou greater than our father Jacob?"; from John 8:25, the question of the Jews, "Who are Thou?"; and even from John 18:33, the question of Pilate, "Art Thou the King of the Jews?" Our individual and corporate identities are given us by God, and we lose them at our eternal peril.

That the Seventh-day Adventists were raised up with a special identity and mission puts a responsibility on us that is poorly appreciated. The confusion we have suffered over who we are is due in large part to an attitude of elitism that is fundamental to fallen human nature, which looks for any reason to feel one is better than another. But the identity has nothing to do with comparative value or goodness. The success of the mission can only be accomplished with the

attitude Jesus had at the core of His identity--"Then shall you know that I am, and that I do nothing of Myself." (John 8:28). Like Paul, we must each embrace the reality "that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing" (Rom. 7:18); that "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief" (1 Tim. 1:15); that "unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ" (Eph. 3:8).

So let us look at these astounding statements from the past, that challenge us in a special way some one hundred years into the delay caused by the insubordination of our forefathers (20MR 313.1), a history that we have yet to come to acknowledge as we ought in the spirit of Daniel (Dan. 9:4-19; compare Lev. 26:40-42). May these words, as it were engraved with letters of fire, burn their way into our souls, challenging us to embrace our God-given responsibilities with an ever deepening repentance (AA 561.1&2).

There are at least nine variations that she used to characterize the items that provide us our identity:

"Made Us (Them) What We (They) Are (Seventh-day Adventists)"

"Made Us a Separate People"

"Made Us as a People What We Are"

"Made Seventh-day Adventists What They Are"

"Made Us as a Peculiar People What We Are"

"Made What They Are, Seventh-day Adventists"

"Made the Seventh-day Adventist People What They Are"

"Made Us a People Denominated"

"Made Us (Them) Seventh-day Adventists"

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The first statements begin with issues connected with the Salamanca vision, regarding a move to de-emphasize the Sabbath in, and remove the name “Seventh-day Adventist” from the *Sentinel* magazine. The crisis continued through her years of Australian exile, and only intensified upon her return, with the Kellogg and Ballenger apostasies. The issues involved with each unfolding situation should be subjects of deep historical inquiry and research, and accompanying desire to learn from the mistakes of the past, for “these things were our examples, to the intent we should not” keep repeating those mistakes. For “all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.” (1 Cor. 10:6, 11-13). These statements from our past are part of God’s “way to escape” the loss of our identity.

“Again and again I have been shown that the past experiences of God’s people are not to be counted as dead facts. We are not to treat the record of these experiences as we would treat a last year’s almanac. The record is to be kept in mind, for history will repeat itself. The darkness of the mysteries of the night is to be illuminated with the light of heaven.” {PM 175.3}

All bolding is supplied, and the “made us” statement is underlined to highlight its location. At the end of the statements a summary table is given of the items so identified as central to our identity.

1890

November 21

The religion of Jesus is endangered. It is being mingled with worldliness. Worldly policy is taking the place of the true piety and wisdom that comes from above, and God

will remove His prospering hand from the conference. Shall the ark of the covenant be removed from this people? Shall idols be smuggled in? Shall false principles and false precepts be brought into the sanctuary? Shall antichrist be respected? Shall **the true doctrines and principles given us by God**, which have **made us what we are**, be ignored? Shall God's instrumentality, the publishing house, become a mere political, worldly institution? This is directly where the enemy, through blinded, unconsecrated men, is leading us. {CW 95.3} {21MR 448.3} [source Ms 29, 1890, Diary Nov. 20-24, 11/21/1890]

December

Those who have a hold of the truth theoretically, with their finger tips as it were, who have not brought its principles into the inner sanctuary of the soul, but have kept the vital truth in the outer court, will see nothing **sacred** in **the past history of this people which has made them what they are**, and has **established them** as earnest, determined, missionary workers in the world. {2SM 388.4} {1NL 61.7} {PC 13.3} The **truth for this time** is precious; but those whose hearts have not been broken by falling on the rock Christ Jesus, will not see and understand what is truth. They will accept that which pleases their ideas, and will begin to manufacture another foundation than that which is laid. They will flatter their own vanity and esteem, thinking that they are capable of removing the pillars of our faith, and replacing them with pillars they have devised. {LS 430.3} [source Ms. 28, 1890, December 1890]

1891

March

The message we have to bear is not a message that men need cringe to declare. They are not to seek to cover it, to conceal its origin and purpose. Its advocates must be men who will not hold their peace day nor night. As those who have made solemn vows to God, and who have been



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commissioned as the messengers of Christ, as stewards of the mysteries of the grace of God, we are under obligation to declare faithfully the whole counsel of God. We are not to make less prominent **the special truths** that have separated us from the world, and **made us what we are**; for they are fraught with eternal interests. God has given us light in regard to the things that are now taking place in the last remnant of time, and with pen and voice we are to proclaim the truth to the world, not in a tame, spiritless way, but in demonstration of the Spirit and power of God. The mightiest conflicts are involved in the furtherance of the message, and the results of its promulgation are of moment to both heaven and earth. {TM 470.1} {Ev 121.2}1890 {HM, November 1, 1893 par. 10} {LS 329.1} {SpTA02b 121.1}1892 {PH133 12.1}1892 {1888 956.1}March 1891

compare:

We are not to make less prominent **the special truths** that have separated us from the world, and **made us what we are**; for they are fraught with eternal interests. God has given us light in regard to the things that are now taking place, and with pen and voice we are to proclaim the truth to the world. But it is the life of Christ in the soul, it is the active principle of love imparted by the Holy Spirit, that alone will make our words fruitful. **The love of Christ is the force and power of every message for God that ever fell from human lips.** {GW 288.3} {RC 216.2}[no dates]

compare also:

Those men who lifted the burdens when the work went hard should be called into your councils. It is due them, and they should have a voice in the plans devised. There should be no confederacy formed with unbelievers, neither should there be a certain number who think as you think, and say "amen" to all your plans which you may propose. No confederacies are to be formed among our own people after the manner and customs of the world. I was shown especially the dangers in doing this. The world is not to be our criterion. Let the Lord work. Let

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the Lord's voice be heard. We are to bear a clear-cut message to the world. We are not to heed the counsels to follow the plans which will be suggested to make less prominent the **special truths which are of vital interest**, which have **separated us out from the world** and **made us what we are**. {1888 926.2}[source Ms. 40, 1890, March 1891]

March 17

God wants every one here to receive of his Spirit. He wants to give us of his power. He wants us to acknowledge **his dealing with us in the past**. We are not to discredit or despise it and go to work in a different way. It is best for us to work where God works, and to **recognize his leadings all the way** along, from the time when the mighty cleaver of truth took us out from the world and **made us a separate people**. {GCDB, March 20, 1891 par. 34} [delivered March 17, 1891]

1892

December 19

Let none entertain the thought, however, that we can dispense with **organization**. It has cost us much study, and many prayers for wisdom that we know God has answered, to erect this **structure**. It has been built up by his direction, through much sacrifice and conflict. Let none of our brethren be so deceived as to attempt to tear it down, for you will thus bring in a condition of things that you do not dream of. In the name of the Lord, I declare to you that it is to stand, strengthened, established, and settled. At God's command, "Go forward," we advanced when the difficulties to be surmounted made the advance seem impossible. We know how much it has cost to work out **God's plans in the past**, which has **made us as a people what we are**. Then let every one be exceedingly careful not to unsettle minds in regard to those things that God has ordained for our prosperity and success in advancing his cause. {GCDB, January 29, 1893 par. 4} [source Letter 32, 1892] {CET 197.3} {TM 27.3} {Ev 64.2} {GCDB, February 20, 1899, par. 13} {GCB, April 10, 1903 par. 17} {RH, October 12, 1905 par. 21}



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GCDB, January 29, 1893 follows with:

The work is soon to close. The members of the church militant who have proved faithful will become the church triumphant. In reviewing our past history, having travelled 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, and his teaching in our past history. 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 depositories 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 of holiness of character, and to send the message of warning, and of comfort, of hope and love, to those who are in the darkness of error and sin. {GCDB, January 29, 1893 par. 5}

1893

February 7

Some are flattering themselves that a more auspicious time is coming, when God will vindicate his honor by lifting up his holy law. Many who now look upon the cross as too heavy to bear, think they will then obey the truth, and triumph with it. But in maintaining the right, it is not safe, because of circumstances, to yield in any degree **firm adherence to duty**, or to teach others that they may yield with comparative safety. Such a course is like that of Judas, who sold his Lord to his enemies, fully believing that Christ would manifest his miraculous power, and give his enemies another evidence of his divinity. Judas never recovered the ground lost through his presumption. To place ourselves in a position where we have an appearance of yielding, is a new position



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for this people. It is a new experience, a departure from **the principles to which we have adhered**, which have **made us what we are today**, a people whom God has prospered, a people who have the Lord of hosts with them. {RH, February 7, 1893 par. 2}

1896

October 12

If the managers are swaying the institution away from the principles which it was created to maintain, which they have been doing, then a change must be made. To let things go on as they have been going is decidedly wrong. The very first thing to be done is to secure harmony of action, to clear away the difficulties and mark out a sphere of action. **Christian principles** in accordance with our faith must be maintained at any cost. Let us not be met with the statement that the adoption of Christian **health reform principles** in such an institution is simply impossible. These principles must be adopted and maintained. When this cannot be done, then let the institution be closed. The doctrines of Seventh-day Adventists are not to be sounded in the ears of guests and patients, but the **principles** which have **made Seventh-day Adventists what they are** should be lived out, and show a people **in everything obedient** to our great Leader Jesus Christ. The institution has not been conducted after God's order. It must return to the principles given in the lessons of Christ. {20MR 110.2} (10/12/1896) (Letter 73; to Dr. Maxson, Chrystal Springs)

November 8

...We have a sleepless adversary, and he is constantly at work upon human minds that have not had a personal experience in the **teachings** of the people of God for the **past fifty years**. Some will take the truth applicable to their time, and place it in the future. **Events in the train of prophecy** that had their **fulfillment away in the past** are made future, and thus by these theories the faith of some is undermined.

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From the light that the Lord has been pleased to give me, you are in danger of doing the same work, presenting before others **truths** which have **had their place** and **done their specific work for the time**, in **the history of the faith of the people of God**. You recognize these facts in Bible history as true, but apply them to the future. They have their force still in **their proper place**, in **the chain of events** that have **made us as a people what we are** today, and as such they are to be presented to those who are in the darkness of error. The true workers of Jesus Christ are to cooperate with their brethren who have had an experience in the work from **the very rise of the third angel's message**. These followed on step by step, receiving light and truth as they advanced, bearing one test after another, lifting the cross that lay directly in their pathway, and pressing on to know the Lord, whose goings forth are prepared as the morning. You and other of our brethren must accept the truth as God has given it to **His students of prophecy**, as they have been led by genuine, living experience, advancing point by point, tested, proved, and tried, until the truth is to them a reality. From their voices and pens the truth in bright, warm rays has gone to all parts of the world, and that which was to them testing truth, as brought by the Lord's delegated messengers, is testing truth to all to whom this message is proclaimed.

The **burden** of the warning now to come to the people of God, nigh and afar off, is the **third angel's message**. And those who are seeking to understand this message will not be led by the Lord to make an application of the Word that will undermine **the foundation** and remove **the pillars of the faith** that has **made Seventh-day Adventists what they are today**. The **truths** that have been **unfolding in their order**, as we have advanced along **the line of prophecy** revealed in the Word of God, are truth, sacred, eternal truth today. Those who **passed over the ground** step by step in **the past history of our experience**, seeing the **chain of truth in the prophecies**, were prepared to accept and obey every ray of light. They were praying, fasting, searching, digging for the truth as for hidden treasures, and the **Holy Spirit, we know, was teaching and guiding us**. Many theories

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were advanced, bearing a semblance of truth, but so mingled with misinterpreted and misapplied scriptures, that they led to dangerous errors. Very well do we know **how every point of truth was established**, and the **seal set upon it by the Holy Spirit of God**. And all the time voices were heard, "Here is the truth," "I have the truth; follow me." But the warnings came, "Go not ye after them. I have not sent them, but they ran." (See Jeremiah 23:21.) {2SM 102 to 103.1} [source Ms31, 1896 to John Bell, 11/8/1896] {17MR 3.1} to {17MR 4.2}

Many will honestly search the Word for Light as those in the past have searched it; and they see light in the Word. But they did not pass over the ground in their experience, when these **messages of warning were first proclaimed**. Not having had this experience, some do not appreciate the **value of the truths** that have been to us as **waymarks**, and that have **made us as a peculiar people what we are**. They do not make a right application of the Scriptures, and thus they frame theories that are not correct. It is true that they quote an abundance of Scripture, and teach much that is true; but truth is so mixed with error as to lead to wrong conclusions. Yet because they can weave Scripture into their theories, they think that they have a straight chain of truth. Many who did not have an **experience in the rise of the messages**, accept these erroneous theories, and are led into false paths, backward instead of forward. This is the enemy's design. {2SM 110.4} [source Ms32, 1896 to John Bell, 12/6/1896] {17MR 12.5}

Theories will be continually agitated to divert the mind, to unsettle the faith. Those who have had the **actual experience** in the unfolding of the **prophecies**, have been **made what they are** today, **Seventh-day Adventists**, by these **prophecies**. They are to stand with their loins girt about with truth, and with the whole armor on. Those who have not had this experience are privileged to hold the message of truth with the same confidence. The light that God has been pleased to give His people will not weaken their confidence in **the path in which He has led them in the past**, but will strengthen them to hold fast the faith. We must hold the beginning of our

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confidence firm unto the end. {2SM 115.3} [source Ms32, 1896 to John Bell, 12/6/1896] {17MR 22.1}

1897

May 6

If these men who have gone out from us, had, as faithful stewards, searched deep into the word of God, and heeded Paul's words of the sixth chapter of Ephesians, they would now have been standing more and still more firmly in the faith. . . . These men have yielded up the **Bible truth** which has made us what we are, Seventh-day Adventists. They have thought to wrap themselves up in a spurious sanctification, which will accord with any false theories that men may choose to accept. They have not added to their faith, but have detracted from it. . . . {7MR 176.2} [source Letter 143, 1897, 5/6/1897]

1898

December 3

No **line of our faith** that has made us what we are is to be weakened. We have the old **landmarks of truth, experience, and duty**, and we are to stand firm in defense of **our principles**, in full view of the world. With hearts filled with interest and solicitude, we are to give the invitation to those in the highways and the byways. Medical missionary work is to be done. But this is only one part of the work that is to be accomplished, and it is not to be made all and in all. It is to be to the work of God as the hand is to the body. There may be unworthy ones connected with the ministry, yet no one can ignore the ministry without ignoring God. {CH 521.2} {8T 160.2} (Letter 123, 12/3/1898)

compare 1899:

There is to be no change in the features of our work. It is to stand as clear and distinct as prophecy has made it. We are to



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enter into no confederacy with the world, supposing that by so doing we could accomplish more. If any stand in the way, to hinder the advancement of the work in the lines that God has appointed, they will displease God. No **line of our faith** that has made us what we are, is to be weakened. We have the old **landmarks of truth, experience, and duty**, and we are to stand firmly in defence of **our principles**, in full view of the world. {GCDB, March 2, 1899 par. 4} {CTr 350.5}

compare 1900:

There is to be no change in the general features of our work. It is to stand as clear and distinct as **prophecy** has made it. We are to enter into no confederacy with the world, supposing that by so doing we could accomplish more. If any stand in the way, to hinder the advancement of the work in **the lines** that God has appointed, they will displease God. No **line of truth** that has made the Seventh-day Adventist people what they are is to be weakened. We have the **old landmarks of truth, experience, and duty**, and we are to stand firmly in defense of **our principles**, in full view of the world. {6T 17.2} {CW 52.3} {AUCR, January 1, 1901 par. 7} {4MR 70.2} [late 1900; see also 6T 4]

1900

February 17

Plants must be made in the cities. Now is the time to give **the third angel's message**. But this cannot be done in church buildings. Camp meetings must be held, not one mammoth camp meeting, but several camp meetings in different places. The holding of camp meetings is one of the most successful ways of working for the Lord. These meetings should continue two or three weeks, and during this time earnest work should be done for believers and unbelievers. The work done at these meetings should never be of a cheap, low grade. Men of the best spiritual gifts should attend, men who can give **the messages for this time**, and properly bring out the **features of our faith** which make us what we are--



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Seventh-day Adventists. {10MR 350.2} {14MR 165.2} [source Letter 28, 1900, 2/17/1900]

June 18

The temperance question is to have special attention. Work in this line may be called medical missionary work, but that work in its relation to the work of the third angel's message is ever to be recognized as the hand to the body. In America it has been made the head and not the hand. **The gospel ministry** is not to be treated as it has been treated,--as something hardly worthy to be recognized. It is **God's appointed means**, the **very means which has made us what we are**, and its work is to be carried forward in the same lines and in the same way, because it is God's. Nothing is to be devised to stand as a memorial of man's greatness or woman's greatness. {KC 123.2} [source Letter 86, 1900 to A. G. Daniells, 6/18/1900]

September 8

Temptation is coming in the form of a **union of church and state**. There are those who would obliterate the marks of distinction between those who believe the truth and those who think it of no importance. But we are ever to keep plainly in view **the distinct features of our faith**, which have **made us what we are**. When we see those who for nearly a lifetime have been standing on the **platform of truth**, deciding that they can just as well as not unite with the men who do not recognize the law of Jehovah, seeking their influence and support, our hearts are made sad. They think they can occupy a noncommittal position. Thus believers slip away from **the truth** to the side of unbelievers, and the enemy exults. {20MR 28.5} [source Ms 82, 1900, diary while crossing Pacific, 9/8/1900]

1903

April 5

Your ideas are so mystical that they are destructive to **the**

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real substance, and the minds of some are becoming confused in regard to **the foundation of our faith**. If you allow your mind to become thus diverted, you will give a wrong mold to the work that has **made us what we are**--Seventh-day Adventists. {5BIO 292.7} [source Letter 52, 1903, to J. H. Kellogg, 4/5/1903]

October 25

Dr. Kellogg has taken the position before those not of our faith that the Battle Creek Sanitarium is undenominational, and has thus placed our work in a false light. He made indistinct the line of demarcation between worldlings and those who hold in trust **the most solemn truth ever given** to mortals. Thus God has been greatly dishonored. The **truth that has made us what we are** is the **same as it always has been**. We must now more distinctly define the medical missionary work. As John the Baptist prepared the way for Christ's first coming, so we are to prepare the way for His second coming. {BCL 88.2} [source Let. 256, 1903, to the Officers of the Int. M. M. & B. Association, 10/25/1903]

November 20

I am required by God to bear testimony against *Living Temple* decidedly. Whatever your associates may say concerning this book, I take the position now and forever that it is a snare. No union will be formed by our people as a whole upon the theories that you have begun to present in that book. You may regard this forever decided. As a people we shall stand firm on **the platform that has withstood test and trial**. We shall hold to **the sure pillars of our faith**. The **principles of truth that God has revealed to us** are **our only foundation**. They have **made us what we are**. {4MR 59.5} [source Let. 253, 1903, to J. H. Kellogg, 11/20/1903]

compare:

As a people, we are to stand firm on the **platform of eternal truth** that has withstood test and **trial**. We are to hold to the



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sure **pillars of our faith**. The **principles of truth that God has revealed to us** are our **only true foundation**. They have **made us what we are**. The lapse of time has not lessened their value. It is the constant effort of the enemy to remove these truths from their setting, and to put in their place spurious theories. He will bring in everything that he possibly can to carry out his deceptive designs. But the Lord will raise up men of keen perception, who will give **these truths their proper place** in the plan of God. {SpTB02 51.2} [1904] {CW 52.2}

December

If your faith in the Word of God is strengthened; if you will fully accept **the truths that have called us out of the world** and **made us a people denominated by the Lord as His peculiar treasure**; if you will unite with your brethren in standing by **the old landmarks**, then there will be unity. But you remain in unbelief, unsettled as to the true foundation of faith; there can be no hope of any more unity in the future than there has been in the past. {11MR 319.1} (Letter 23, 1904, to J. H. Kellogg, Dec. 1903, per SpM341 and index of letters)

December 21

The **messages** that God has given through His servant **John** are now to be proclaimed as of special importance. This is our work--to revive **the sacred truths** that called us out from the world and **made us what we are**. We are not to yield up one feature of the faith, but are to hold our confidence firm unto the end. We are to give no place to doctrines that are not in harmony with **the truth for this time**. {UL 369.7} [source Letter 270, to Edson White, 12/21/1903]

1904

August

At this time, when we are so near the end, shall we become so like the world in practice that men may look in vain to

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find **God's denominated people**? Shall any man sell **our peculiar characteristics** as **God's chosen people** for any advantage the world has to give? Shall the favor of those who transgress the law of God be looked upon as of great value? Shall those whom **the Lord has named His people** suppose that there is any power higher than the great I AM? Shall we endeavor to blot out the **distinguishing points of faith** that have **made us Seventh-day Adventists**? {Ev 121.3} [source Ms 84, 1905, 8/1904]

August 3

We are to unify, but not on a platform of error. That which has been said in the testimonies in regard to *Living Temple*, and its misleading sentiments, is not overdrawn. Some of its theories are misleading, and their influence will be to close the minds of those who receive them against **the truth for this time**. Men may **explain and explain** in regard to these theories, nevertheless they are contrary to the truth. Scriptures are misplaced and misapplied, taken out of their connection and given a wrong application. Thus those are deceived who have not a vital, personal experience in **the truths that have made us as a people what we are**. {SpTB02 47.2} {15MR 259.2} {BCL 111.5} [source Let. 281, 1904, to Dr. W. H. Riley, 8/3/1904]

Messages of every order and kind have been urged upon Seventh-day Adventists, to take the place of **the truth which, point by point**, has been sought out by prayerful study, and testified to by the miracle-working power of the Lord. But the **way-marks** which have **made us what we are**, are to be preserved, and they will be preserved, as God has signified through His word and the testimony of His Spirit. He calls upon us to hold firmly, with the grip of faith, to the **fundamental principles** that are based upon **unquestionable authority**. {SpTB02 59.1} {CW 52.1}

1905

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January 26

Sunday afternoon I spoke again in the Tabernacle. The meeting had been advertised, and there were present many citizens of Battle Creek who were not of our faith. At this meeting I assured my hearers that we held the **same principles of truth** that we had so many times set before them in past years. I assured them that no phase of our message had been changed to meet scientific or spiritualistic philosophy, but that we hold as firmly as ever to **the strong-holds of our faith, which have made the Seventh-day Adventist people what they are**. We have built our house upon the eternal Rock, the Rock of Ages. {RH, January 26, 1905 par. 17}

February 25

The enemy has worked upon the minds of some, and has led them to do **violence to our past experience** by mingling with the truth erroneous and false theories. He has led ministers and teachers to weave into their doctrines some pleasing figures of his own invention. Every deviation from the **truth as we have advocated it in the past** is a departure from **truth that has been witnessed by the Holy Spirit**, and upon which God has **placed His seal**. {7MR 189.2} {BTS, March 1, 1915 par. 2}

Truth must stand in its own order, linked only with truth. Unbelief disturbs the balance of **the system of truth**, and tends to destroy the whole. The mind that cherishes sentiments that tend to destroy **the foundation of the faith that has made us what we are** becomes confused, and cannot discern between truth and error. {7MR 189.3} {BTS, March 1, 1915 par. 3}

The **truths that have been substantiated by the manifest working of God** are to stand fast. Let no one presume to move a **pin** or a **foundation-stone** from the structure. Those who attempt to undermine the **pillars of our faith** are among those of whom the Bible says that “in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits,

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and doctrines of devils." {7MR 189.4} [source Letter 87, 1905, to Brother and Sister Haskell, 2/25/1905] {BTS, March 1, 1915 par. 4}

March 29

I am instructed to say to those who endeavor to tear down the **foundation** that has **made us Seventh-day Adventists:** We are God's commandment keeping people. For the **past fifty years** every phase of heresy has been brought to bear upon us, to becloud our minds regarding the teaching of the Word--especially concerning the **ministration of Christ in the heavenly sanctuary**, and the **message of heaven for these last days**, as given by the **angels of the fourteenth chapter of Revelation**. Messages of every order and kind have been urged upon Seventh-day Adventists, to take the place of **the truth which, point by point, has been sought out** by prayerful study and testified to by the **miracle-working power of the Lord**. But the **waymarks** which have **made us what we are**, are to be preserved, and they will be preserved, as God has signified through His word and the testimonies of His Spirit. He calls upon us to hold firmly with the grip of faith, to the **fundamental principles** that are **based upon unquestionable authority**. {4MR 246.1} [source Let. 95, 1905, 3/14/1905] {MR760 7.2} [source Ms 44, 1905, 3/29/1905]

May 24

Let not any man enter upon the work of tearing down the **foundations of the truth** that have **made us what we are**. God has led His people forward **step by step** though there were pitfalls of error on every side. Under the wonderful guidance of a plain, "Thus saith the Lord," **a truth has been established that has stood the test of trial**. When men arise and attempt to draw away disciples after them, meet them with **the truths that have been tried as by fire**. {MR760 9.3} [source Ms 62, 1905, 5/24/1905] {YRP235.2}

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May 25

Let the truths that are the foundation of our faith be kept before the people. Some will depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. They talk science, and the enemy comes in and gives them an abundance of science; but it is not the science of salvation. It is not the science of humility, of consecration, or of the sanctification of the Spirit. We are now to understand what **the pillars of our faith** are,—the **truths** that have **made us as a people what we are**, leading us on **step by step**. {CW 29.1} {RH, May 25, 1905 par. 23}

June 23

From our own **personal experience** we can speak of **the truth** that has **made us what we are, - Seventh-day Adventists**. **Truth felt within** is most precious, but **truth confirmed by the testimony of the word and by the Holy Spirit's power** is of the highest value. We can confidently say, The truth that has come to us **through the Holy Spirit's working** is **not a lie**. The evidences given for **the last half century** bear the evidence of the Spirit's power. In the word of God we have found **the truth that substantiates our faith**. We have watched the influence of the heresies that have come in, and we have seen them come to naught. God has given us **sacred, holy truths**. Let us hold them fast. I am instructed to say that we are now to present these truths, in plainness and simplicity, to the people of God. {PC 257.1} [source Let. 183, 1905, 6/23/1905]

November 20

Satan is striving continually to bring in fanciful suppositions in regard to **the sanctuary**, degrading the wonderful representations of **God and the ministry of Christ** for our salvation into something that suits the carnal mind. He removes its presiding power from the hearts of believers, and supplies its place with fantastic theories invented to make void **the truths of the atonement**, and destroy our

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confidence in **the doctrines which we have held sacred since the third angel's message was first given**. Thus he would rob us of our faith in **the very message** that has made us a separate people, and has given character and power to our work. {SpTB07 17.3} [source Ms. 108, 1905, 11/20/ 1905]

December 4

The great apostasy, which is developing and increasing and waxing stronger, . . . will continue to do so until the Lord shall descend from heaven with a shout. We are to hold fast **the first principles of our denominated faith**, and go forward from strength to increased faith. Ever we are to **keep the faith that has been substantiated by the Holy Spirit of God from the earlier events of our experience until the present time**. We need now larger breadth, and deeper, more earnest, unwavering faith in the leadings of the Holy Spirit. If we needed the manifest proof of the Holy Spirit's power to confirm truth in the beginning, after the passing of the time, we need today all the evidence in the **confirmation of the truth**, when souls are departing from the faith and giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. There must not be any languishing of soul now. {UL 352.2}

If ever there was a period of time when we needed the Holy Spirit's power in our discourses, in our prayers, in every action proposed, it is now. We are **not to stop at the first experience**, but **while we bear the same message to the people, this message is to be strengthened and enlarged**. We are to **see and realize the importance of the message** made certain by its divine origin. We are to follow on to know the Lord, that we may know that His going forth is prepared as the morning. Our souls need the quickening from the Source of all power. We may be strengthened and confirmed in the past experience that holds us **to the essential points of truth** which have made us what we are--Seventh-day Adventists. {UL 352.3} {SpTB07 57.2&3}

The **past fifty years** have not dimmed one **jot or principle of our faith** as we received **the great and wonderful**



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evidences that were made certain to us in **1844**, after the passing of the time. The languishing souls are to be confirmed and quickened according to His Word. And many of the ministers of the gospel and the Lord's physicians will have their languishing souls quickened according to the word. Not a word is changed or denied. That **which the Holy Spirit testified to** as truth after the passing of the time, in our great disappointment, is **the solid foundation of truth**. [The] **pillars of truth** were revealed, and we accepted the **foundation principles that have made us what we are**-**Seventh-day Adventists**, keeping the commandments of God and having the faith of Jesus. {UL 352.4} {SpTB07 58.1} [source Let. 326, 1905, to W. C. White, 12/4/1905] {NYI, February 7, 1906 par. 2-4}

December 11

Elder Ballenger's proofs are not reliable. If received, they would destroy the faith of God's people in **the truth** that has **made us what we are**. We must be decided on this subject, for the points that he is trying to prove by Scripture are not sound. They do not prove that **the past experience** of God's people was a fallacy. We had **the truth**: we were **directed by the angels** of God. It was **under the guidance of the Holy Spirit** that the presentation of **the sanctuary** question was given. It is eloquence for everyone to keep silent in regard to the features of our faith in which they acted no part. {MR760 19.3} [source Let. 329, to Brother Burden, 12/11/1905] {PH020 15.1} {LLM 150.3} {2NL 157.5&6} {PC 208.3}

December 24

Those who passed through these **experiences** are to be as firm as a rock to the **principles** that have **made us Seventh-day Adventists**. They are to be workers together with God, binding up the testimony and sealing the law among His disciples. Those who took part in the establishment of our work upon a foundation of Bible truth, those who know the waymarks that have pointed out the right path, are to be regarded as workers of the highest value. They can speak

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from personal experience, regarding the truths entrusted to them. These men are not to permit their faith to be changed to infidelity; they are not to permit the banner of the third angel to be taken from their hands. They are to hold the beginning of their confidence firm unto the end. {2SM 389.4} [source Ms. 129, 1905, 12/24/1905]

1906

June 2

We are very sorry to see the result of gathering a large number to Battle Creek. Ministers who have been believers in the **foundation truths** that have **made us what we are—Seventh-day Adventists**; ministers who went to Battle Creek to teach and strengthen the truths of the Bible, are now, when old and gray-headed, turning from the **grand truths of the Bible** and accepting infidel sentiments. This means that the next step will be a denial of a **personal God**, pulling down **the bulwarks of the faith** that is plainly revealed in the Scriptures. **The sanctuary** question is the **foundation of our faith**. {MR760 26.3} [source Let. 208, 1906, 6/2/1906] {4MR 248.3} {20MR 66.3}

Compare:

We are very sorry to see the result of gathering a large number to Battle Creek. Ministers who have been believers in the **foundation truths** that have **made us what we are--Seventh-day Adventists--**ministers who went to Battle Creek to teach and uphold the truth of the Bible, are now, when old and grey-headed, turning from the **grand truths of the Bible** and accepting infidel sentiments. This means that the next step will be a denial of a **personal God**, pulling down **the bulwarks of the faith** that is plainly revealed in the Scriptures. In the Word is given the warning, "Some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils" (1 Timothy 1:4). {MR760 28.2}

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1907

July 4

We are now to labor unceasingly to get the truth before Jew and Gentile. Instead of going over and over the same ground to establish the faith of those who should never have accepted a doubt regarding the **third angel's message**, let our efforts be given to making known **the truth** to those who have never heard it. God calls upon us to make known to all men the **truths** that have **made us what we are**—Seventh-day Adventists." {MR760 30.2} [source Ms. 125, 7/4/1907] {1SAT 385.4} {PC 61.1}

1908

April 2

In this age the Lord is sending his servants with **no ordinary message**, but with **special truths** that must come before believers of every rank and tongue. Many of our church-members have never studied fully into the more **sure word of prophecy**, and do not understand **the facts that have made us what we are**. All should bring into exercise the powers of the intellect, that they may clearly understand the **different phases of present truth**, and especially the **subjects of prophecy** which were opened to us when the **message of Christ's soon coming was first heralded**. {RH, April 2, 1908 par. 3}

June 6

In our sanitariums a **pure religious influence** should be paramount. Solemn impressions are to be made on the minds of those who come for treatment. The **very highest interests** are to be given the first attention. The **accumulated light of the past**, which has **made us what we are**,--**Seventh-day Adventists**,--is to shine forth through us to the world. The light of truth is to illuminate and irradiate all our sanitariums.



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The helpers are to be light-bearers to the world. {LLM 380.2}
[source Ms. 63, 1908, 6/3/1908]

1909

August 19

In our experience we shall see one and another start up with new theories in regard to what is truth, and, irrespective of what the influence of the advocacy of such theories may be on the mind of the hearers, they will launch out into the work of advocating their ideas, even though these teachings may be in opposition to the **belief** that has called out Seventh-day Adventists from the world, and **made them what they are.** The Lord would have those who **understand the reasons for their faith** rest in their belief of that which they have been **convinced is truth**, and not be turned from the faith by the presentation of human sophistries. . . . [Colossians 2:8 quoted] {RH Aug. 19, 1909, par. 4} {7BC 906.15}



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Summary Table

These descriptions are phrases that are completed by “. . . made us what we are” or its equivalent. These have been clustered by theme, with much overlap with between themes. If the key term has more than one occurrence, it is listed as a heading of the group of occurrences. The statements often have other terms, not all in the table, clustered around the term used directly with the “made us” observation this is listed here.

Term	Phrases				Reference
	Modifier	Term (may modify)	Term	Modifier	
Belief			belief	called out from the world	RH 9/19/09 par 4
Faith	the	features of our	faith		10MR 350.2
	the distinct	features of our	faith		20MR 28.5
	the	pillars of the	faith		2SM 103.1
	the sure	pillars of our	faith		4MR 59.5
		line of our	faith		CH 521.2
	distinguishing	points of	faith		Ev 121.3
	The	strong-holds of our	faith		RH, January 26, 1905 par. 17
the	foundation of the	faith		7MR 189.4	
Foundation	the	foundation			4MR 246.1
	only true	foundation			4MR 59.5
		foundations of the	truth		MR760 9.3

Platform	the	platform		withstood test and trial	4MR 59.5
Truth(s)	the	truth			BCL 88.2; PC 257.1; MR760 19.3
	the	truths			15MR 259.2; CW 29.1; MR760 30.2
	the	truths		called us out of the world	11MR 319.1
		Bible	truth		7MR 176.2
	the	foundation	truths		MR760 26.3
	the essential	points of	truth		UL 352.3
	the	sacred	truths	called us out from the world	UL 369.7
	the	special	truths	separated us from the world	TM 470.1
	the	special	truths	of vital interest	1888 926.2
	the	mighty cleaver of	truth		GCDB 3/20/91 par. 3
	line of	truth		6T 17.2	
	truths . . . as	waymarks		2SM 110.4	
Waymarks		way-marks			CW 52.1; 4MR 246.1
Principles	the	principles			20MR 110.2; 2SM 389.4
	the	principles		to which we have adhered	RH 2/7/93, par. 2
	the	principles of	truth	that God has revealed to us	4MR 59.5
	the	foundation	principles		UL 352.4
	true	doctrines and	principles	given us by God	21MR 448.3

Message	the	very	message		SpTB07 17.3
Facts	the	facts			RH 4/2/1908 par 3.
Light	accumulated	light of the	past		LLM 380.2
Organization		organization/ structure	God's plans	in the past	GCDB 1/29/93, par. 4
Ministry	the gospel	ministry is	God's appointed means	the very means	KC 123.2
Work	the	work			5BIO 292.7
History	the past	history	of this people		2SM 388.4
Prophecies	the	unfolding of the	prophecies		2SM 115.3
Events	the chain of	events			2SM 102.3