

ONE MOVE

Realigning With The Prophetic Plan

AS A PEOPLE, WE EXIST BETWEEN TWO DOORS. One is open, one closed. The open door belongs to Jesus, flung wide with invitation into the Most Holy Place and into His heart. The closed door belongs to us as a corporate body, slammed shut in 1888, effectively blocking the Holy Spirit's influence over our theology and His access to our hearts. There is only one move we can make as a people to realign ourselves with the prophetic plan, just one move—into “Christ our righteousness” as our message and our experience.

BETWEEN TWO DOORS—OUR HISTORIC POSITION

Revelation 3:7-8—Behold, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it.

Revelation 3:20—Behold, I stand at the door and knock.

Early Course-setting Visions

Early Writings, pp. 81-84—William Miller saw “a curiously wrought casket” and “to the casket there was a key attached.”

Early Writings, pp. 78-79—Ellen White saw “a vast temple was supported by one immense pillar” to which was “tied a Lamb all mangled and bleeding.”

Review and Herald, Dec. 31, 1852—The words addressed to the Laodicean church, describe their present condition perfectly.

THE WAY OF LIFE—1876 vs. CHRIST, THE WAY OF LIFE—1883

THE INSPIRED DIAGNOSIS

a. “Argumentative Discourses”

Faith and Work, pp. 15-16—On the one hand, religionists generally have divorced the law and the gospel, while we have, on the other hand, almost done the same from another standpoint. We have not held up before the people the righteousness of Christ and the full significance of His great plan of redemption. We have left out Christ and His matchless love, brought in theories and reasonings, and preached argumentative discourses.

b. “Not Detached Items”

Selected Messages, vol. 2, p. 87—The truth for this time is broad in its outlines, far reaching, embracing many doctrines; but these doctrines are not detached items, which mean little; they are united by golden threads, forming a complete whole, with Christ as the living center.

c. “Like the Offering of Cain— Christless”

1888 Materials, p. 810—The danger has been presented to me again and again of entertaining, as a people, false ideas of justification by faith. I have been shown for years that Satan would work in a special manner to confuse the mind on this point. The law of God has been largely dwelt upon and has been presented to congregations, almost as destitute of the knowledge of Jesus Christ and His relation to the law as was the offering of Cain.

Let the subject be made distinct and plain that it is not possible to effect anything in our standing before God or in the gift of God to us through creature merit. Should faith and works purchase the gift of salvation for anyone, then the Creator is under obligation to the creature. Here is an opportunity for falsehood to be accepted as truth. If any man can merit salvation by anything he may do, then he is in the same position as the Catholic to do penance for his sins. Salvation, then, is partly of debt, that may be earned as wages. If man cannot, by any of his good works, merit salvation, then it must be wholly of grace, received by man as a sinner because he receives and believes in Jesus. It is wholly a free gift. Justification by faith is placed beyond controversy” (*Faith and Works*, pp. 19-20).

d. *The Cross “Strangely Neglected”*

1888 Materials, pp. 842, 844-855—The preaching of Christ crucified has been strangely neglected by our people. Many who claim to believe the truth have no knowledge of faith in Christ by experience. . . There must be a life-giving power in the ministry. Life must be infused into the missionaries in every place, that they may go forth giving the trumpet no uncertain sound, but with heaven-sent, awakening power, such as can be found only in the preaching of Jesus Christ—His love, His forgiveness, His grace.

e. *“The Law” As Our Focus “Until we are as Dry as the hill of Gilboa”*

1888 Materials, p. 560—As a people, we have preached the law until we are as dry as the hills of Gilboa that had neither dew nor rain. We must preach Christ in the law, and there will be sap and nourishment in the preaching that will be as food to the famishing flock of God. We must not trust in our own merits at all, but in the merits of Jesus of Nazareth.

WHEN THE SPIRIT CAME KNOCKING. . .

Testimonies to Ministers, pp. 91-92—The Lord in His great mercy sent a most precious message to His people through elders Waggoner and Jones. This message was to bring more prominently before the world the uplifted Savior, the sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. It presented justification through faith in the Surety; it invited the people to receive the righteousness of Christ, which is made manifest in obedience to all the commandments of God. Many had lost sight of Jesus. They needed to have their eyes directed to His divine person, His merits, and His changeless love for the human family. All power is given into His hands, that He may dispense rich gifts unto men, imparting the priceless gift of His own righteousness to the helpless human agent. This is the message that God commanded to be given to the world. It is the third angel’s message, which is to be proclaimed with a loud voice, and attended with the outpouring of His spirit in a large measure. . . The message of the gospel of His grace was to be given to the church in clear and distinct lines, that the world should no longer say that Seventh-day Adventists talk the law, the law, but do not teach or believe Christ.

AND WE SHUT THE DOOR

1888 Materials, p. 1575—Satan succeeded in shutting away from our people, in a great measure, the special power of the Holy Spirit that God longed to impart to them. The enemy prevented them from obtaining that efficiency which might have been theirs in carrying the truth to the world, as the apostles proclaimed it after the day of Pentecost. The light that is to lighten the whole earth with its glory was resisted, and by the action of our own brethren has been in a great degree kept away from the world.

ONE SUBJECT WILL SWALLOW UP ALL OTHERS

Review and Herald, December 23, 1890—One interest will prevail, one subject will swallow up every other—Christ our righteousness.

Review and Herald, Nov. 22, 1892—The loud cry of the third angel has already begun in the revelation of the righteousness of Christ, the sin-pardoning Redeemer. This is the beginning of the light of the angel whose glory shall fill the whole earth.

Gospel Workers, p. 161—The thought that the righteousness of Christ is imputed to us, not because of any merit on our part, but as a free gift from God, is a precious thought. The enemy of God and man is not willing that this truth should be clearly presented; for he knows that if the people receive it fully, his power will be broken.

This comprehensive statement reveals at least ten components to the Latter Rain message:

1. The cross as the prominent focus.
2. The universal scope of the cross in making atonement for all sin.
3. Justification by faith.
4. Obedience to all God’s commandments as the manifestation of salvation and *not* the ground of salvation.
5. The divinity of the one hanging on the Cross.
6. The merits of Christ as alone sufficient for salvation.
7. The changeless and universal quality of God’s love.
8. The great controversy theme.
9. The righteousness of Christ (salvation) given as a free gift.
10. The helplessness of the human agent.

There is not a point that needs to be dwelt upon more earnestly, repeated more frequently, or established more firmly in the minds of all than the impossibility of fallen man meriting anything by his own best good works. Salvation is through faith in Jesus Christ alone (*Faith and Works*, p. 19).

The theme that attracts the heart of the sinner is Christ and Him crucified. On the cross of Calvary, Jesus stands revealed to the world in unparalleled love. Present Him thus to the hungering multitudes and the light of His love will win men from darkness to light, from transgression to obedience and true holiness (*Review & Herald*, 11-2-1892).