

# Part 1 – The need for investigation

Claims on new light should we investigate them?

Is there a message for Gods people today?

Why do we need to investigate for ourselves?

Is ancient Israel (type) to meet the Israel of today (anti-type)?

# Text for Meditation

“New light will ever be revealed on the word of God to him who is in living connection with the Sun of Righteousness. Let no one come to the conclusion that there is no more truth to be revealed. The diligent, prayerful seeker for truth will find precious rays of light yet to shine forth from the word of God. Many gems are yet scattered that are to be gathered together to become the property of the remnant people of God. But light is not given simply to be a strength to the church, but to be shed upon those who are in darkness. The people of God are to show forth the praises of Him who hath called them out of darkness into His marvelous light. Christ has said of His people, “Ye are the light of the world,” and it is the mission of the light to shine out and illuminate the darkness.”

— Councils on Sabbath School Work p 34.1

# Lessons to learn and many to unlearn

“It is necessary that our unity today be of a character that will bear the test of trial.... **We have many lessons to learn, and many, many to unlearn.** God and heaven alone are infallible. Those who think that they will never **have to give up a cherished view,** never have occasion to **change an opinion, will be disappointed.** As long as we hold to our own ideas and opinions with determined persistency, we cannot have the unity for which Christ prayed.”

— **Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers p 30.2**

**We are on dangerous ground** when we cannot meet together like Christians, and courteously examine controverted points. I feel like fleeing from the place lest I receive the mold of those who cannot candidly investigate the doctrines of the Bible.

— **1 Selected Messages p 411.1**

Those who cannot impartially examine the evidences of a position that differs from theirs, are not fit to teach in any department of God's cause.

— **1 Selected Messages p 411.2**

# Investigation of Doctrine

“Investigation of Doctrine—There is no excuse for anyone in taking the position that there is no more truth to be revealed, and that all our expositions of Scripture are without an error. The fact that certain doctrines have been held as truth for many years by our people, is not a proof that our ideas are infallible. Age will not make error into truth, and truth can afford to be fair. No true doctrine will lose anything by close investigation.

— Councils to Writes and Editors p 35.2

We are living in perilous times, and it does not become us to accept everything claimed to be truth without examining it thoroughly; neither can we afford to reject anything that bears the fruits of the Spirit of God; but we should be teachable, meek and lowly of heart. There are those who oppose everything that is not in accord with their own ideas, and by so doing they endanger their eternal interest as verily as did the Jewish nation in their rejection of Christ.”

— Councils to Writes and Editors p 35.3

# God has precious light for his people

“When asked to hear the reasons of a doctrine that you do not understand, **do not condemn the message until you have given it a thorough investigation**, and know from the Word of God that it is not tenable. If I had an opportunity, I would speak to the students of every Sabbath-school in the land, lifting up my voice in earnest appeal that they **go to the Word of God, seeking for truth and light**. God has precious light to come to His people at this very time, and you should strive earnestly in your investigations to aim at nothing less than a thorough knowledge of every point of truth, that you may not be found in the day of God among those who have not lived by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”

— **Testimonies on Sabbath School Work p 59.2**

# When new light comes

“The momentous issues at stake through neglect of the Word of God should be carefully considered. **The study of the Bible is worthy of the best mental effort, the most sanctified ability. When new light** is presented to the church, it is perilous to shut yourselves away from it. Refusing to hear because you are **prejudiced against the message or the messenger** will not make your case excusable before God. To condemn that which you have not heard and do not understand will not exalt your wisdom in the eyes of those who are candid in their investigations of truth. And to speak with contempt of those whom God has sent with a message of truth, is folly and madness. If our youth are seeking to educate themselves to be workers in His cause, they should learn the way of the Lord, and live by every word that proceedeth out of His mouth. **They are not to make up their minds that the whole truth has been unfolded, and that the Infinite One has no more light for His people.** If they entrench themselves in the belief that the whole truth has been revealed, they will be in danger of discarding precious jewels of truth that shall be discovered as men turn their attention to the searching of the rich mine of God's Word.”

— **Testimonies on Sabbath School Work p 60.1**

# Precious Light is to shine

“Precious light is to shine forth from the Word of God, and let no one presume to dictate what shall or what shall not be brought before the people in the messages of enlightenment that He shall send, and so quench the Spirit of God. Whatever may be his position of authority, no one has a right to shut away the light from the people. When a message comes in the name of the Lord to His people, no one may excuse himself from an investigation of its claims. No one can afford to stand back in an attitude of indifference and self-confidence, and say: “I know what is truth. I am satisfied with my position. I have set my stakes, and I will not be moved away from my position, whatever may come. I will not listen to the message of this messenger; for I know that it can not be truth.” It was from pursuing this very course that the popular churches were left in partial darkness, and that is why the messages of heaven have not reached them.”

— Testimonies on Sabbath School Work p 65.1

# Take pains to hear the reasons

“...if a message comes that you do not understand, **take pains that you may hear the reasons the messenger may give**, comparing scripture with scripture, that you may know whether or not it is sustained by the Word of God. If you believe that the position taken have not the Word of God for their foundation, if the position you hold on the subject can not be controverted, then produce your strong reasons; for your position will not be shaken by coming in contact with error. There is no virtue or manliness in keeping up a continual warfare in the dark, closing your eyes lest you may see, closing your ears lest you may hear, hardening your heart in ignorance and unbelief lest you may have to humble yourselves and acknowledge that you have received light on some points of truth.”

— **Testimonies on Sabbath School Work p 65.2**



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“To hold yourselves aloof from **an investigation of truth** is not the way to carry out the Saviour's injunction to “search the Scriptures.” Is it digging for hidden treasures to call the result's of some one's labor a mass of rubbish, and make no critical examination to see **whether or not there are precious jewels of truth in the collection of thought which you condemn?** Will those who have almost everything to learn keep themselves away from every meeting where there is an opportunity to investigate the messages that come to the people, simply because they imagine the views held by the teachers of the truth may be **out of harmony with what they have conceived as truth?** Thus it was that the Jews did in the days of Christ, and **we are warned not to do as they did**, and be led to choose darkness rather than light, because there was in them **an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God**. No one of those who imagine that they know it all is too old or too intelligent to learn from the humblest of the messengers of the living God.”

—**Sabbath-School Worker, June 1, 1892**

— **Testimonies on Sabbath School Work p 65.2**

# Preaching Contrary to Established Doctrines

“The angel of the Lord by night opened the prison doors, and brought them forth, and said, **Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life.**” We see here that the men in authority are not always to be obeyed, even though they may profess to be teachers of Bible doctrine. There are many today who feel indignant and aggrieved that any voice should be raised presenting ideas that differ from their own in regard to points of religious belief. Have they not long advocated their ideas as truth? So the priests and rabbis reasoned in apostolic days: **What mean these men who are unlearned, some of them mere fishermen,** who are presenting ideas contrary to the doctrines which the learned priests and rulers are teaching the people? They have no right to meddle with the fundamental principles of our faith.”

— **Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers p 69.1**

# Beware that we do not refuse the light

“Jews were looking for the Messiah; but He did not come as they had predicted that He would, and if He were accepted as the Promised One, their learned teachers would be forced to acknowledge that they had erred. **These leaders had separated themselves from God**, and Satan worked upon their minds to lead them to reject the Saviour. Rather than yield their pride of opinion, **they closed their eyes to all the evidences of His Messiahship**, and they not only rejected the message of salvation themselves, but **they steeled the hearts of the people against Jesus**. Their history should be a solemn warning to us. We need never expect that when the Lord has light for His people, Satan will stand calmly by and make no effort to prevent them from receiving it. He will work upon minds to excite distrust and jealousy and unbelief. **Let us beware that we do not refuse the light God sends**, because it does not come in a way to please us.”

— **Testimonies for the Church vol 5 p 728.1**

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“...Let not God's blessing be turned away from us because we know not the time of our visitation. If there are any who do not see and accept the light themselves, let them not stand in the way of others. Let it not be said of this highly favored people, as of the Jews when the good news of the kingdom was preached to them:

“Ye entered not in yourselves, and them that were entering in ye hindered.”

— Testimonies for the Church vol 5 p 728.1

“We are taught in God's word that this is the time, above all others, when **we may look for light from heaven**. It is now that we are to expect a refreshing from the presence of the Lord. We should watch for the movings of God's providence as the army of Israel watched for “the sound of a going in the tops of the mulberry trees”—the appointed signal that heaven would work for them.”

— Testimonies for the Church vol 5 p 728.2

# Leaders will put you out of the synagogue

“22 These words spake his parents, because they feared the Jews: for the Jews had agreed already, that if any man did confess that he was Christ, **he should be put out of the synagogue.**”

— John 9:22

“42 Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest **they should be put out of the synagogue:**”

— John 12:42

“2 **They shall put you out of the synagogues:** yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service.”

— John 16:2

# The story of Nathanael

“If Nathanael had trusted to the rabbis for guidance, he would never have found Jesus. It was by seeing and judging for himself that he became a disciple. So in the case of many today whom prejudice withholds from good. How different would be the result if they would “come and see”!

— Desire of Ages p 140.5

“While they trust to the guidance of human authority, none will come to a saving knowledge of the truth. Like Nathanael, we need to study God's word for ourselves, and pray for the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit. He who saw Nathanael under the fig tree will see us in the secret place of prayer. Angels from the world of light are near to those who in humility seek for divine guidance..”

— Desire of Ages p 140.6

# Receive the truth, because it is truth

“Those who allow prejudice to bar the mind against the reception of truth cannot receive the divine enlightenment. Yet, when a view of Scripture is presented, many do not ask, Is it true—in harmony with God's word? but, **By whom is it advocated?** and unless it comes through the very channel that pleases them, they do not accept it. So **thoroughly satisfied are they with their own ideas** that they will not examine the Scripture evidence with a desire to learn, but refuse to be interested, merely because of their prejudices.”

— **Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers p 105.5**

“The Lord often works where we least expect Him; **He surprises us by revealing His power through instruments of His own choice**, while He passes by the men to whom we have looked as those through whom light should come. **God desires us to receive the truth upon its own merits—because it is truth.**”

— **Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers p 106.1**

# But beware of rejecting that which is truth

“But beware of rejecting that which is truth. The great danger with our people has been that of depending upon men and making flesh their arm. Those who have not been in the habit of searching the Bible for themselves, or weighing evidence, have confidence in the leading men and accept the decisions they make; and thus many will reject the very messages God sends to His people, if these leading brethren do not accept them.”

— Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers p 106.4

“No one should claim that he has all the light there is for God's people. The Lord will not tolerate this. He has said, “I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it.” Even if all our leading men should refuse light and truth, that door will still remain open. The Lord will raise up men who will give the people the message for this time.”

— Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers p 107.1



# We must study the truth for ourselves

“**We must study the truth for ourselves.** No man should be relied upon to think for us. No matter who he is, or in what position he may be placed, **we are not to look upon any man** as a criterion for us. We are to counsel together, and to be subject one to another; but at the same time we are to exercise the ability God has given us, in order to learn what is truth. **Each one of us must look to God for divine enlightenment.** We must individually develop a character that will stand the test in the day of God. **We must not become set in our ideas, and think that no one should interfere with our opinions.**”

— **Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers p 106.4**

“ When a point of doctrine that you do not understand comes to your attention, **go to God on your knees, that you may understand what is truth** and not be found as were the Jews fighting against God. While warning men to beware of accepting anything unless it is truth, we should also **warn them not to imperil their souls by rejecting messages of light**, but to press out of the darkness by earnest study of the word of God.” — **Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers p 107.1**

# Need of searching of the Scriptures

“Whatever may be man's intellectual advancement, let him not for a moment think that there is no **need of thorough and continuous searching of the Scriptures** for greater light. As a people, we are called individually to be students of prophecy. We must watch with earnestness that we may discern any ray of light which God shall present to us. We are to catch the first gleamings of truth; and through prayerful study, clearer light may be obtained, which can be brought before others.”

— **Gospel Workers p 300.1**

“ **When God's people are at ease, and satisfied with their present enlightenment, we may be sure that He will not favor them.** It is His will that they should be ever moving forward, to receive the increased and ever-increasing light which is shining for them.”

— **Gospel Workers p 300.2**

# Don't be self confident

“The present attitude of the church is not pleasing to God. There has come in a self-confidence that has led them to feel no necessity for more truth and greater light. We are living at a time when Satan is at work on the right hand and on the left, before and behind us; and yet as a people we are asleep. God wills that a voice shall be heard arousing His people to action.”

—Testimonies for the Church 5 p 703-709 — Gospel Workers p 300.3

“Every soul must look to God with contrition and humility, that He may guide and lead and bless. We must not trust to others to search the Scriptures for us. Some of our leading brethren have frequently taken their position on the wrong side; and if God would send a message and wait for these older brethren to open the way for its advancement, it would never reach the people. These brethren will be found in this position until they become partakers of the divine nature to a greater extent than ever they have been in the past.”

— Gospel Workers p 303.3

# A great work is to be done

“The rebuke of the Lord will rest upon those who would bar the way, that clearer light shall not come to the people. **A great work is to be done**, and God sees that our leading men have need of more light, **that they may unite with the messengers whom He sends to accomplish the work that He designs shall be done**. The Lord has raised up messengers, and endued them with His Spirit, and has said, “Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and show My people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.” [Isaiah 58:1.] Let no one run the risk of interposing between the people and the message of Heaven. This message will go to the people; and if there were no voice among men to give it, the very stones would cry out.”

— **Gospel Workers p 304.2**

# Let heaven Guide

“Brethren, we must not put our dependence in man. “Cease ye from man, whose breath is in his nostrils: for wherein is he to be accounted of? [Isaiah 2:22] You must hang your helpless souls upon Jesus. It does not become us to drink from the fountain of the valley when there is a fountain in the mountain. Let us leave the lower streams; let us come to the higher springs. If there is a point of truth that you do not understand, upon which you do not agree, investigate, compare scripture with scripture, sink the shaft of truth down deep into the mine of God's word. You must lay yourselves and your opinions on the altar of God, put away your preconceived ideas, and let the Spirit of heaven guide into all truth.”

—The Review and Herald, February 18, 1890. — Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers p 476

# Study Summary

- There will always be precious truths revealed in the word of God for those who are in living connection with the Sun or Righteousness
- If a message comes that you do not understand, **take pains that you may hear the reasons the messenger may give**
- God will send a message and messengers in a way that may be contrary to our own ideas and thinking
- With a humble, meek and lowly heart let us be teachable as we investigate the mine of truth
- When new light is presented to the church, it is perilous to shut yourselves away from it
- Will those who have almost everything to learn investigate the messages that comes to the people, do not prejudice themselves against the teachers of the truth because it may be **out of harmony with what they have conceived as truth?**