



Divinely Revealed Truth or Satan's Deception?

Why should we search the Scriptures?

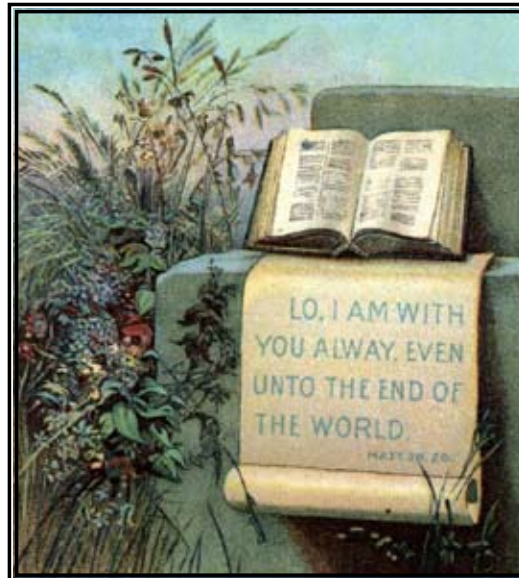
Question: Should we tolerate study of new doctrines? If so, aren't we setting ourselves up to be deceived?

"A brother asked, "Sister White, do you think we must understand the truth for ourselves? Why can we not take the truths that others have gathered together, and believe them because they have investigated the subjects, and then we shall be free to go on without the taxing of the powers of the mind in the investigation of all these subjects? Do you not think that these men who have brought out the truth in the past were inspired of God?" {CW 33.3}

"I dare not say they were not led of God, for Christ leads into all truth; but when it comes to inspiration in the fullest sense of the word, I answer, No. I believe that God has given them a work to do, but if they are not fully consecrated to God at all times, they will weave self and their peculiar traits of character into what they are doing, and will put their mold upon the work, and fashion men in religious experience after their own pattern. It is dangerous for us to make flesh our arm. We should lean upon the arm of Infinite Power. God has been revealing this to us for years. We must have living faith in our hearts and reach out for larger knowledge and more advanced light."--Review and Herald, March 25, 1890. {CW 34.1}

The question every one should ask is; can I leave my salvation to the pastor and such leading men and forsake personal investigation of the scriptures? Will such an investigation shatter my faith? Can't I just trust in the basics of our beliefs and still be saved?

These questions must be asked, for the time has come



*"Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me."
--John 5:39*

when various doctrines are entering the church, and they must be dealt with accordingly. We are told in the Scripture to "Despise not prophesyings", and to "Prove all things, holding fast to that which is good." But many will stop short of this for fear of being deceived! Is this fear rational or biblical?

"Some have feared that if in even a single point they acknowledge themselves in error, other minds would be led to doubt the whole theory of truth. Therefore they have felt that investigation should not be permitted, that it would tend to dissension and disunion. But is such is to be the result of investigation, the sooner it comes the better. If there are those whose faith in God's word will not stand the test of an investigation of Scriptures, the sooner they are revealed the better; for then the way will be opened to show them their error. We cannot hold that a position once taken, an idea once advocated, is not, under any circumstances, to be relinquished. There is but One who is infallible—He who is the way, the truth, and the life." --Testimonies to Ministers p. 105

"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 error. The fact that certain doctrines have been held as truth by

many years by our people, is not 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.”

“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 accordance with their own ideas, and by doing so they endanger their eternal interest as verily as did the Jewish nation in their rejection Christ.”

“How shall we search the Scriptures? Shall we drive our stakes of doctrine one after another, and then try to make the Scripture meet our established opinions? Or shall we take our ideas and views to the Scriptures and measures our theories on every side by the Scriptures of truth? Many who read and even teach the Bible, do not comprehend the precious truth they are teaching or studying.”—Counsels to Writers & Editors pp. 35, 36

The question has been asked me, “Do you think that the Lord has any more light for us as a people?” I answer that He has light that is new to us, and yet it is precious old light that is to shine forth from the Word of truth. We have only the glimmerings of the rays of the light that is yet to come to us. We are not making the most of the light which the Lord has already given us, and thus we fail to receive the increased light; we do not walk in light already shed upon us. {1SM 401.2}

Many SDA’s would be astounded to know what Ellen White foresaw taking place in the Church in the last days.

“Many will stand in our pulpits with the torch of false prophecy in their hands, kindled from the hellish torch of Satan.” {Last Day Events 17}

“Even Seventh-Day Adventists are in danger of closing the truth as it is in Jesus, because it contradicts something which they have taken for granted as truth but which the Holy Spirit teaches is not truth.” Testimonies to Ministers, p. 70:2

“All points of doctrine, even though they have been accepted as truth, should be brought to the law and

to the testimony; if they cannot stand this test, ‘there is no light in them.’” –5 Testimonies p. 575:0

“One thing is certain: Those Seventh-day Adventists who take their stand under Satan’s banner will first give up their faith in the warnings and reproofs contained in the Testimonies of God’s Spirit.--3SM 84 (1903). {Last Day Events 177.4}

“The very last deception of Satan will be to make of none effect the testimony of the Spirit of God. Where there is no vision, the people perish”.--1SM 48 (1890). {LDE 177.5}

These issues should agitate the mind and shake the very soul of every true-hearted, sincere Seventh-Day Adventist. Yet God in His mercy found it prudent to warn us of this very event taking place in the Church!

The Two Shakings Foretold in the SDA Church

“Soon the battle will be waged fiercely between those who serve God and those who serve Him not. Soon everything that can be shaken will be shaken, that those things that cannot be shaken may remain.” 9 Testimonies p. 15, 16

“Ministers and people lack spirituality and true godliness. Everything is to be shaken that can be shaken. God’s people will be brought into the most trying positions, and all must be settled, rooted, and grounded in the truth, or their steps will surely slide.” 9 Testimonies, p. 15, 16

Shaking # 1: Introduction of Falsehood

“When the shaking comes by the introduction of false theories, these surface readers, anchored nowhere, are like shifting sand. They slide into any position to suit the tenor of their feelings of bitterness.” Testimonies to Ministers, p. 112:1

“God will arouse His people; if other means fail, heresies will come among them, which will sift them, separating the chaff from the wheat. The Lord calls upon all who believe His word to awake out of sleep.” 5 Testimonies p. 707:3

Shaking # 2: Testimony of the True Witness

“I asked the meaning of the shaking I had seen and was shown that it would be caused by the straight testimony called forth by the True witness to the Laodiceans. This will have its effect upon the heart of the receiver, and will lead him to exalt the standard and pour forth the straight truth. Some will not bear this straight testimony. They will rise up against it, and this is what will cause a shaking among God’s people.”
—Early Writings p. 270:2

The Laodicean message applies to the people of God who profess to believe present truth.” 4T p. 87

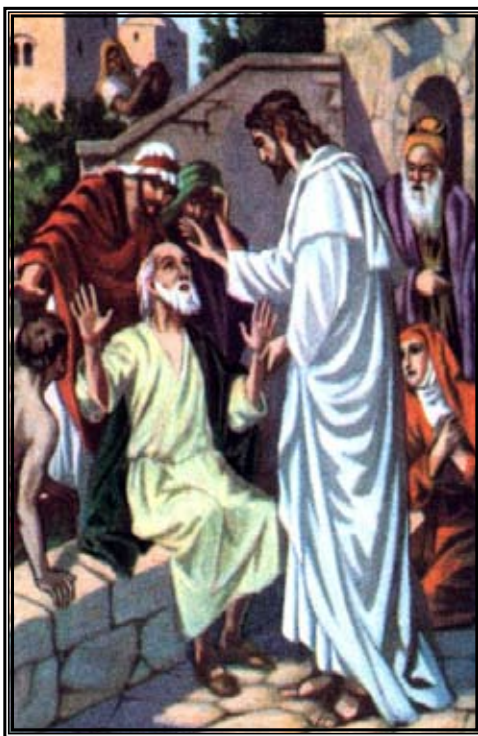
Rev 3:14-21. “And unto the angel (ministers) of the church of Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and True Witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

vs: 15, 16: I know thy works that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of my mouth.

vs: 17. “Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: The people of Laodicea are described as in a shocking state of spiritual deficiency; the cause of which can be attributed to their “blindness”. “The Lord here shows us that the message to be borne to his people by ministers whom he has called to warn the people, is not a peace-and-safety message. It is not merely theoretical, but practical in every particular. The people of God are represented in the message to the Laodiceans in a position of carnal security. They are at ease, believing themselves in an exalted condition of spiritual attainments.” {RH, September 16, 1873 par. 4}

Counsels to Writers and Editors: “Maintaining Truth Not to Preclude New Light.— It is a fact that we

have the truth, and we must hold with tenacity to the positions that cannot be shaken; but we must not look with suspicion upon any new light which God may send, and say, Really, we cannot see that we need any more light than the old truth which we have hitherto received, and in which we are settled. While we hold this position, the testimony of the True Witness applies to our cases its rebuke. ‘And knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.’ Those who feel rich and increased with goods and in need of nothing, are in a condition of blindness as to their true condition before God, and they know it not.” (emphasis added)



“And Jesus said, For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind”. John 9:39

“What greater deception can come upon human minds than a confidence that they are right, when they are all wrong? The message of the True Witness finds the people of God in a sad deception, yet honest in that deception. They know not that their condition is deplorable in the sight of God. While those addressed are flattering themselves that they are in an exalted spiritual condition, the message of the True Witness breaks their security by the startling denunciation of their true situation of spiritual blindness, poverty, and wretchedness. The testimony, so cutting and severe, cannot be a mistake; for it is the True Witness who speaks, and his testimony must be correct. It is difficult for those who feel secure in their attainments, who are believing themselves to be rich in spiritual

knowledge, to receive the message which declares that they are deceived and in need of every spiritual grace. The unsanctified heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked.” {RH, September 16, 1873 }

Why do the Shakings come? There are two reasons:

1. The people of God are “asleep”. They need something to prompt them to search the Scriptures and make sure they are grounded in present truth!
2. There must be a means to separate the “chaff”

(unfaithful) from the “wheat” (faithful).

“Men and women are in the last hours of probation, and yet are careless and stupid, and ministers have no power to arouse them; they are asleep themselves. Sleeping preachers preaching to a sleeping people! 2 Testimonies p. 337:2

“I saw that the testimony of the True Witness has not been half heeded. The solemn testimony upon which the destiny of the church hangs has been lightly esteemed, if not entirely disregarded. This testimony must work deep repentance; all who truly receive it will obey it and be purified. {EW 270.3}

“The shaking of God blows away multitudes like dry leaves.--4T 89 (1876). {LDE 180.1}

“Chaff like a cloud will be borne away on the wind, even from places where we see only floors of rich wheat.”

“The church may appear as about to fall, but it does not fall. It remains, while the sinners in Zion will be sifted out--the chaff separated from the precious wheat. This is a terrible ordeal, but nevertheless it must take place.--2SM 380 (1886). {LDE 180.5}

“Some will go out from among us who will bear the ark no longer. But these cannot make walls to obstruct the truth; for it will go onward and upward to the end.--TM 409, 411 (1898). {LDE 179.4}

“The great issue so near at hand will weed out those whom God has not appointed and He will have a pure, true, sanctified ministry prepared for the latter rain.--3SM 385 (1886). {LDE 179.2}

“Ministers and doctors may depart from the faith, as the Word declares they will, and as the messages that God has given His servant declare they will.--7MR 192 (1906). {LDE 179.5}

The only way to deal with the “shakings” is not to refuse to study for fear of being deceived, but rather to study so we can know for sure what is substantiated by

the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy and what is not. We must not let the hellish shadow of prejudice control our hearts and minds when investigating new doctrine. Why should we fear when we have the Word of God by our side? God will not let one go astray!

We cannot entertain the idea that we know all the truth, neither can we afford to be drawn into error. The safe path is to humbly search the word with an honest heart, saying, “Whatever your will Lord, I will do!” Then we shall be led into all truth by the Holy Spirit, unmovable, rooted and grounded in present truth.

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