

# 1 Protect Your Mind and Surrender Your Will to Jesus



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**Graham F. Watts, Sr.**

**VISION:** To hear the midnight cry, "The bridegroom comes, go out to meet Him" (Matthew 25:6) and become like Him when I see Him as He is (1 John 3:2).

**MISSION:** Purify myself even as Christ is pure (1 John 3:3) to be glad, to rejoice, give honor to Christ and be ready for the marriage of the Lamb (Revelation 19:7).

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**VALUES:** Follow the Lamb wherever He goes (Revelation 14:4), be without fault before God (Revelation 14:5), be perfect even as my Father in heaven is perfect (Matthew 5:48), wear the Lamb's fine, clean and white linen (Revelation 19:8) do righteously (1 John 3:10) and walk humbly with God (Micah 6:8).

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**OVERALL AIM:** Studies presented here unveil Bible knowledge to inquiring minds to prompt the following inquiries: "Are our feet on the rock of ages? Are we one with Christ as He is one with the Father" (John 10:30 in Evangelism, {Ev} 199.1)? Am I crucified with Christ (Galatians 2:20)?

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26 **PURPOSE/REASON FOR/WHY**

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28 The focus of this study is surrender of the will and mind to the Holy  
29 Spirit.

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31 **OBJECTIVES/WHAT WE WANT TO ACCOMPLISH**

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33 At the end of this study, the reader recognizes the need to reject  
34 the wisdom of human reasoning in matters of faith and spirituality  
35 and submit wholly to the wisdom of the Holy Spirit.

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38 **SIGNIFICANCE: SO WHAT**

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40 "The [training] of a human being who has reached the years of  
41 intelligence, [particularly in spiritual matters], should differ from  
42 the training of ...animals. The beast is taught only submission to its  
43 master. For the beast, the master is mind, judgment and will" (Mind,  
44 Character and Personality, Volume Two {2MCP} 707.1). "It is **NOT**  
45 God's purpose that any [human] mind should be thus dominated..." (2MCP  
46 707.2). "God alone is to be the guide of man's conscience. The  
47 truth is to be preached wherever an opening is found for it. The  
48 Word of God is to be explained to those who know not the truth (see  
49 Matthew 28:19-20). This is the work of **God's ministers**. They **are**  
50 **NOT to teach [people] to look to them or to seek to control the**  
51 **consciences of others**" (2MCP 709.1); [rather], "**They should teach the**  
52 **people... to depend upon... Christ**" (Signs of the Times, {ST} May 17,  
53 1883) **and "...Represent the life and teachings of Christ..."** (Review and  
54 Herald {RH} August 8, 1878 par. 11). **Stated more plainly, ministers**  
55 **should "...Lift the standard of Bible truth and exemplify its precepts**  
56 **in their daily lives"** (RH, August 8, 1878 par. 15) because a holy  
57 example is the strongest evidence in support of the claim that "Our  
58 feet are on the borders of the eternal world, [which makes] every  
59 probationary moment... more precious than gold" (RH, August 8, 1878  
60 par. 17).

61 **BACKGROUND CONTEXT**

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63 **Wolves attack God's fold (read Ezekiel 22:26-28; Zephaniah 3:3;**  
 64 **Matthew 7:15 & 10:16; Luke 10:3 & Acts 20:29)**. "A strange thing has  
 65 come into our churches. Men who are placed in positions of  
 66 responsibility that they may be wise helpers to their fellow workers  
 67 have come to suppose that they were set as kings and rulers in the  
 68 churches, to say to one brother, 'Do this; to another, Do that; and  
 69 to another, Be sure to labor in such and such a way'" (Testimonies to  
 70 Ministers and Gospel Workers, {TM} 477.2). "[While] it is right for  
 71 the workers to counsel together as brethren; but that man who  
 72 endeavors to lead his fellow workers to seek his individual counsel  
 73 and advice regarding the details of their work, and to learn their  
 74 duty from him, is in a dangerous position and needs to learn what  
 75 responsibilities are really comprehended in his office. **GOD HAS**  
 76 **APPOINTED NO MAN TO BE CONSCIENCE FOR HIS FELLOWMAN"** (TM 477.3).

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78 For years there has been a growing tendency for men placed in  
 79 positions of responsibility to lord it over God's heritage, thus  
 80 **REMOVING FROM CHURCH MEMBERS THEIR KEEN SENSE OF THE NEED OF DIVINE INSTRUCTION**  
 81 **AND AN APPRECIATION OF THE PRIVILEGE TO COUNSEL WITH GOD REGARDING THEIR DUTY .**  
 82 This order of things must be changed. There must be a reform. Men  
 83 who have not a rich measure of that wisdom which comes from above  
 84 should not be called to serve in positions where their influence  
 85 means so much to church members (TM 477.4). [Why is this necessary]?  
 86 "The present generation has trusted their... souls with the ministers.  
 87 Do they not pay the minister well for studying the Bible for them,  
 88 that they need not be... troubled? ...Is it not his business to tell  
 89 them what they must believe and to settle all doubtful questions of  
 90 theology without special investigation on their part" (Counsels on  
 91 Health, {CH} 37.3)? This is not God's plan described in 2 Timothy  
 92 2:15! Take a moment to read that Scripture. This background  
 93 provided the impetus for the study question that follows.

94 **STUDY QUESTION**

95  
 96 Shall I lift the eyes of my mind unto the hill of human  
 97 interpretation of divine knowledge and surrender my reasoning powers  
 98 to the judgment of another mortal (extracted from Psalms 121:1)?  
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100 **ANSWER SOURCE: HOLY BIBLE**

101  
 102 1. **Jesus, through His Holy Spirit is our divine teacher.** He said,  
 103 "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto  
 104 me" (John 12:32). And when people are drawn by God to Jesus (read  
 105 John 6:37 & 10:29), He "...instructs... and teaches [them] in the way...  
 106 [they] shall go..." (Psalms 32:8). Each person who accepts Jesus as  
 107 Lord has this assurance, "...I will never leave [you] nor forsake  
 108 [you]" (Hebrews 13:5). To guarantee an ongoing supply of divine  
 109 presence and wisdom, Jesus, just prior to His ascension, prayed to  
 110 the Father for another Comforter, whose office it is to abide with  
 111 His disciples forever (John 14:16), guide them into all truth (John  
 112 16:13) and teach them **ALL** things (John 14:26). Therefore,  
 113 steadfastly avoid the "...Regulations [of mortals, which] have an  
 114 appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false  
 115 humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but lack any value  
 116 in restraining sensual indulgence" (Colossians 2:23 NIV). Instead,  
 117 "If any... lacks wisdom, [let him or her] asks God who gives  
 118 generously to all without finding fault and it will be given..."  
 119 (James 1:5 NIV). To set aside this rich source of enlightenment  
 120 for the paltry wisdom of peers is fool's gold. And when peers come  
 121 to you for spiritual guidance, take time to commune with God (read  
 122 Daniel 2:16-18). And when God responds (Daniel 2:19), follow  
 123 Daniel's example and exalt the God of heaven (Daniel 2:27-28).  
 124 Take no glory to yourself; instead point your peers to the Lamb of  
 125 God who not only forgives sins but also gives knowledge, wisdom and

126 power to all who asks (read John 1:29 & 36; Acts 1:8; Daniel 2:20-  
127 21).

128

129 2. **"God is calling His church to appreciate her exalted privilege in**  
130 **having the wisdom of the Infinite at her command"** (TM 478.3). Even  
131 difficulties are opportunities that bring us into the audience  
132 chamber of the Most High that we might seek counsel of Him who is  
133 infinite in wisdom (Christ's Object Lessons, {COL} 172.1). Solomon  
134 underscores the emptiness that accompanies pursuing wisdom apart  
135 from God in Ecclesiastes 8:17; read it! "[Nevertheless, God's]  
136 people have committed two evils; they have forsaken [Him], the  
137 fountain of living water and [sought] out cisterns, broken cisterns  
138 that hold no water (read Jeremiah 2:13 & 32; 18:15; Ezekiel 23:35;  
139 1 Samuel 8:7; Hosea 4:6 & 13:6) and have become perverted by the  
140 wisdom and knowledge sought apart from God (Isaiah 47:10). But if  
141 God's people cease being comfortably deceived with their self-  
142 determined wealth (read Revelation 3:17), recognize their lack of  
143 wisdom AND riches and seek Him for these treasures; He promises to  
144 bestow them in liberal measure (James 1:5 & Revelation 3:18). His  
145 people has this assurance—"O Zion, that brings good tidings, get  
146 thee up into the high mountain! O Jerusalem, that brings good  
147 tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not  
148 afraid! Say unto the cities of Judah, 'Behold your God'" (Isaiah  
149 40:9)! "Behold, the Lord God will come with strong hand and His  
150 arm shall rule for Him: behold, His reward is with Him and His work  
151 before Him" (Isaiah 40:10 & Revelation 22:12). **"He shall feed His**  
152 **flock like a shepherd,** He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and  
153 carry them in His bosom and ...gently lead those that are with young"  
154 (Isaiah 40:11). "What nation is there so great, who has God so  
155 nigh unto them, as the Lord our God is in all things that we call  
156 upon Him..." (Deuteronomy 4:7)? And what nation is there so great  
157 that has statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law, which  
158 I set before you this day (Deuteronomy 4:8)? Use God's library!

159 3. **God does not... instruct His people to turn away from His wisdom and**  
 160 **look to finite man for wisdom.** He is from ancient time and is  
 161 without competition (read Isaiah 45:5-6, 21). "...From everlasting  
 162 to everlasting, [He is] God (Psalms 90:2) AND through Jesus Christ  
 163 [He] has become [our] wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and  
 164 redemption (1 Corinthians 1:30). Therefore, He says, "Remember  
 165 these, O Jacob and Israel, "...for thou art My servant, O Israel,  
 166 thou shall not be forgotten of Me" (Isaiah 44:21). "I have graven  
 167 thee upon the palms of my hands..." (Isaiah 49:16). "I have blotted  
 168 out as a thick cloud thy transgressions...; [therefore], return unto  
 169 Me for I have redeemed thee" (Isaiah 44:22). "Sing, O ye heavens  
 170 for the Lord [has] done it; shout ye lower parts of the earth:  
 171 break forth into singing, ye mountains, forest and every tree  
 172 therein for the Lord has redeemed Jacob and glorified Himself in  
 173 Israel" (Isaiah 44:23). "**Look unto Me** and be ye saved all the ends  
 174 of the earth for I am God and there is none else" (Isaiah 45:22).  
 175 "Listen to me you who pursue righteousness and who seek the Lord..."  
 176 (Isaiah 51:1 NIV). "Surely, shall one say, in the Lord have I  
 177 righteousness and strength, even to Him shall men come and all that  
 178 are incensed against [God] shall be ashamed" (Isaiah 45:24). "In  
 179 the Lord shall all the seed of Israel be justified and [glorified]"  
 180 (Isaiah 45:25 & Galatians 3:29). The alternative is also true-  
 181 "...Cursed is the man that trusts in man and makes flesh his arm and  
 182 whose heart departs from the Lord" (Jeremiah 17:5 & Hosea 7:11-16)  
 183 and "...Stumble in their ways from the ancient paths" (Jeremiah  
 184 18:15. Let others choose the arm of flesh, but with us is the Lord  
 185 our God to help us..." (2 Chronicles 32:8). "...Lean upon... God and  
 186 from Him... receive intelligence and keen perceptions" (Manuscript  
 187 Releases, Volume 13, {13MR} 375.2). "**Let every church member**  
 188 depend on the strong arm that will never weaken or fail. Lean your  
 189 whole weight on Christ. Build your house on the sure foundation.  
 190 **Go forth in the power of the grace of God, quickened, sanctified**  
 191 **and inspired by His precepts and promises"** (13MR 375.6).

192 4. **Believers reap tangible benefits for following God's wisdom instead**  
193 **of human judgment.** Unlike the natural man of Genesis 5:2 whose way  
194 is not in himself... to direct his steps (Jeremiah 10:23 and Romans  
195 8:7); "...The new man, which after God is created in righteousness  
196 and true holiness" (Ephesians 4:24) has "...The knowledge of the  
197 glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ... [as a] treasure in [his]  
198 earthen vessel..." (2 Corinthians 4:6-7) by which God directs [his]  
199 steps... and delights in... [his] way (Psalms 37:23). In other words,  
200 God instructs and teaches consenting, humble people in the way that  
201 they should go. He guides them with His eyes through His word if  
202 they would study and obey it (read Psalms 25:9; 32:8; Revelation  
203 3:20 & 2 Timothy 2:15). "[God's] word is a lamp unto my feet and a  
204 light unto my path" (Psalms 119:105). Therefore, when people hear,  
205 read, cogitate, believe and practice God's word, "...[they become]  
206 clean through that word..." (read John 15:3). Some forget and others  
207 ignore God's counsel (Proverbs 1:24-25) to "Put not your trust in  
208 prices, nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help" (Psalms  
209 146:3); therefore, they experience the curse that comes from  
210 rejecting God and trusting in mortals (read Proverbs 1:24-27;  
211 Isaiah 30:1-3; 31:1 & Jeremiah 17:5). God "...searches hearts and  
212 understands the imaginations of the thoughts. [People who] seek  
213 God... [find Him]; [those who] forsake Him, He casts [them] off  
214 forever" (read 1 Chronicles 28:9; Jeremiah 29:13, 18:15-17 & Romans  
215 1:18-19). God rewards all who come to Him in faith (Hebrews 11:6 &  
216 4:2). Therefore, "...Asks for the old paths, wherein is the good way  
217 and walk therein and you will find rest for your souls..." (Jeremiah  
218 6:16). There remains a rest for the people of God (Hebrews 4:3, 9  
219 & 10) and God promises all who labor, if they would come to Him, He  
220 will give rest to their weary souls (Matthew 11:28). Jesus  
221 specifically spoke these words for our benefit that in Him we might  
222 have peace from internal and external struggles (read James 4:1;  
223 Matthew 24:7-9 & John 16:33).

224

225 **ANSWER SOURCE: SACRED WRITINGS:**

226

227 We are pursuing answers to the question: Shall I lift the eyes of my  
 228 mind unto the hill of human interpretation of divine knowledge and  
 229 surrender my reasoning powers to the judgment of another mortal  
 230 (extracted from Psalms 121:1)? More answers follow!

231

232

233 1. Turn away from reliance on human intermediaries and depend wholly  
 234 upon God, through His Holy Spirit! "It is not God's design for any  
 235 human being to yield [the] mind to another human being. ..." (Mind,  
 236 Character and Personality, Volume 2 {2MCP} 706.2). "God desires to  
 237 bring men [and women] into direct relation with Himself. ...He  
 238 desires to bring the human into association with the divine that  
 239 men [and women] may be transformed into the divine likeness. Satan  
 240 works to thwart this purpose [by seeking] to encourage dependence  
 241 upon [mortals]. When minds are turned away from God, the tempter  
 242 can bring them under his rule [and] he can control humanity" (MCP  
 243 705.4). It is not God's purpose that any human being should yield  
 244 [the] mind and will to the control of another, becoming a passive  
 245 instrument in [another's] hands" (MCP 705.3). "None should consent  
 246 to be mere machines, run by another man's mind. God has given us  
 247 ability to think and to act, and it is by acting with carefulness,  
 248 looking to Him for wisdom, that you will become capable of bearing  
 249 burdens. Stand in your God-given personality. Be no other  
 250 person's shadow. Expect that the Lord will work in and by and  
 251 through you" (Counsels on Health, {CH} 48.3). "...In the dignity of  
 252 [our] God-given manhood [and/womanhood we are] to be controlled by  
 253 God Himself, not by any human intelligence. ...We may be as weak as  
 254 was the woman who touched the hem of Christ's garment; but if we  
 255 use our God-given opportunity to come to Him in faith, He will  
 256 respond as quickly as He did to that touch of faith" (2MCP 706.1).

257

- 258 2. **Avoid spiritual imbecility by spending time together with the Holy**  
 259 **Spirit wrestling with difficult subjects without defaulting to the**  
 260 **judgment or reasoning of others.** "Human minds are **NOT** to be  
 261 trammled (i.e., shackled), harnessed up (i.e., controlled) and  
 262 driven by human hands" (2MCP 708.1). "No one is to control  
 263 another's mind, to judge for another, or to prescribe his[/her]  
 264 duty. God gives to every soul freedom to think and to follow  
 265 his[/her] own convictions. Every one of us shall give account.. to  
 266 God (Romans 14:12). No one has a right to merge his[/her] own  
 267 individuality in that of another. In all matters where principle  
 268 is involved, let everyone be fully persuaded in his[/her] own mind"  
 269 (2MCP 707.3). "Be not satisfied with reaching a low standard. We  
 270 are not what we might be or what it is God wills that we should be.  
 271 God has given us reasoning powers, not to remain inactive or to be  
 272 perverted to earthly and sordid pursuits, but that they may be  
 273 developed to the utmost, refined, sanctified [and] ennobled [to be]  
 274 used in advancing the interests of His kingdom" (CH 48.2).  
 275
- 276 3. **Explore opportunities for learning and personal growth under the**  
 277 **direction of the Holy Spirit.** "God permits every person to  
 278 exercise his [/her] individuality" (2MCP 708.2). "We are now to  
 279 unify..., but let us remember that **Christian unity does not mean**  
 280 **that the identity of one person is to be submerged in that of**  
 281 **another, nor does it mean that the mind of one is to be led and**  
 282 **controlled by the mind of another.** God has not given to any man  
 283 the power that some, by word and act, seek to claim. God requires  
 284 every [person] to stand free and to follow the directions of the  
 285 word" (2MCP 708.3). [His word is a lamp unto our feet and a light  
 286 to our path (Psalms 119:105)]. "**You belong to God: soul, body, and**  
 287 **spirit. Your mind belongs to God and your talents belong to Him**  
 288 **also.** No one has a right to control another's mind and judge for  
 289 another, prescribing what is his duty. **There are certain rights that belong to**  
 290 **every individual in doing God's service. No man has any more liberty to take these rights from**

291 **us than to take life itself. God has given us freedom to think and it is our**  
292 **privilege to follow our impressions of duty.** ...One human being has  
293 no jurisdiction over the conscience of another human being. **Each**  
294 **one of us has an individuality and identity that cannot be surrendered to any other human**  
295 **being.** We are individually the workmanship of God" (2MCP 708.4),  
296 "...Created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God [has]..  
297 ordained that we should walk in them" (Ephesians 2:10).

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299  
300 SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS: In this study, we examined whether we should  
301 lift the eyes of our mind unto the hill of human interpretation of  
302 divine knowledge and surrender our reasoning powers to the judgment  
303 of another mortal. From our investigation, we learned that Jesus,  
304 through His Holy Spirit is our divine teacher; God is calling His  
305 church to appreciate her exalted privilege in having the wisdom of  
306 the Infinite at her command. Moreover, God does not instruct His  
307 people to turn away from His wisdom and look to finite man for  
308 wisdom. If instead we look to God, believers reap tangible benefits  
309 for taking heed to His wisdom. Thus, we are to turn away from  
310 reliance on human intermediaries and depend wholly upon God, through  
311 His Holy Spirit. We avoid spiritual imbecility by spending time  
312 together with the Holy Spirit wrestling with difficult subjects  
313 without defaulting to the judgment or reasoning of others. Time with  
314 God alone is also an opportunity for learning and personal growth  
315 under the direction of the Holy Spirit. Because it is of little  
316 redeeming value to engage in Bible Study merely for information,  
317 subsequent paragraphs follow that make a practical application of the  
318 truths set forth here.

319

320 **DISCUSSION: WHAT DO THESE THINGS MEAN?**

321

322 “We are prone to look to our fellowmen for sympathy and uplifting  
 323 instead of looking to Jesus (read Exodus 32:1). In His mercy and  
 324 faithfulness God often permits those in whom we place confidence to  
 325 fail us in order that we may learn the folly of trusting in man and  
 326 making flesh our arm. Let us trust fully, humbly [and] unselfishly  
 327 in God” (2MCP 709.2). **An acceptance of the truth of heavenly origin  
 328 brings the mind into subjection to Christ.** ...The faith which leads to  
 329 this is not the faith which believes in mind controlling mind till  
 330 one person acts out the will of another. Church members having  
 331 confidence in this science may be called sound in the faith, but it  
 332 is not the faith of Jesus Christ. Theirs is a faith in the work  
 333 which Satan is doing. ...A healthy church is composed of healthy  
 334 members, of men and women, who have a personal experience in true  
 335 godliness” (2MCP 710.3; 1 Timothy 2:2, 4:7, 6:6 & 11; 2 Peter 1:3 & 6  
 336 AND 2 Peter 3:11), not the false godliness that abounds in our day (2  
 337 Timothy 3:5).

338

339 “In the false experience that has been coming [into our churches], **a  
 340 decided influence is at work to exalt human agencies and to lead some  
 341 to depend on human judgment and to follow the control of human minds.  
 342 This influence is diverting the mind from God.** God forbid that any  
 343 such experience should deepen and grow... ..He looks down from heaven  
 344 upon the children of men; He sees their perplexities and is  
 345 acquainted with the circumstances of every experience of life. He  
 346 understands His own work upon the human heart and needs not that any  
 347 man should direct the workings of His Spirit” (TM 484.1).

348

349 “The human being who undertakes to become wisdom for another will  
 350 find himself [or herself] coming short” (TM 481.2). “[Yet]  
 351 ministers and people are tempted more and more to trust in finite man

352 for wisdom and to make flesh their arm" (TM 480.3). "[But] God  
 353 declares, 'I will be glorified in My people;' but **the self-confident**  
 354 **management of men has resulted in putting God aside and accepting the**  
 355 **devising of men. If you allow this to continue, your faith will soon**  
 356 **become extinct.** God is in every place, beholding the conduct of the  
 357 people who profess to represent the principles of His word. He asks  
 358 that a change be made. He wants His people to be molded and  
 359 fashioned, not after man's ideas, but after the similitude of God. **I**  
 360 **entreat of you to search the Scriptures as you have never yet**  
 361 **searched them that you may know the way and will of God [for**  
 362 **yourself].** Oh, that every soul might be impressed with this message,  
 363 and put away [this] wrong (TM 481.1).

364  
 365 **"By turning the minds of men to lean on human wisdom we place a veil**  
 366 **between God and man so that there is not a seeing of Him who is**  
 367 **invisible"** (TM 483.2). "In our individual experience we are to be  
 368 taught of God. When we seek Him with a sincere heart, we will  
 369 confess to Him our defects of character; and He has promised to  
 370 receive all who come to Him in humble dependence. The one who yields  
 371 to the claims of God will have the abiding presence of Christ and  
 372 this companionship will be to him a very precious thing. Taking hold  
 373 of divine wisdom, [we] will escape the corruptions that are in the  
 374 world through lusts. Day by day [we] will learn more fully how to  
 375 carry [our] infirmities to the One who has promised to be a very  
 376 present help in every time of need" (Psalms 46:1 in TM 483.3).

377  
 378 "The success of a church... depends upon the piety of the individual  
 379 members. When the members depend upon the minister as their source  
 380 of power and efficiency, they will be utterly powerless. They will  
 381 imbibe his impulses and be stimulated by his ideas, but when he  
 382 leaves them they will find themselves in a more hopeless condition  
 383 than before they had his labors. **When God gives you light, you**  
 384 **should praise Him for it. If you extol the messenger you will be**

385 **left to barrenness of soul.** ...Let each member of the church be a  
 386 living, active agent for God, both in the church and out of it. **We**  
 387 **must all be educated to be independent, not helpless and useless.**  
 388 **Let it be seen that Christ, not the minister, is the head of the**  
 389 **church**" (The Signs of the Times, {ST}, January 27, 1890 par. 9).

390  
 391 "Talk faith. Keep on God's side of the line. Set not your foot on  
 392 the enemy's side and the Lord will be your Helper. He will do for  
 393 you that which it is not possible for you to do for yourself [read 1  
 394 Samuel 9:20-22 & Judges 6:11-21]. The result will be that you will  
 395 become like a cedar of Lebanon. Your life will be noble and your  
 396 works will be wrought in God. There will be in you a power,  
 397 earnestness and simplicity that will make you a polished instrument  
 398 in the hands of God" (Messages to Young People, {MYP} 153.2). "[But  
 399 there is no free lunch in this life]; you need to drink daily at the  
 400 fountain of truth that you may understand the secret of pleasure and  
 401 joy in the Lord" (John 4:10, 6:53, 7:37 and 1 Corinthians 12:13 in  
 402 MYP 153.3).

403

#### 404 **CONCLUSIONS: WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?**

405  
 406 "From the endless variety of plants and flowers, we may learn an  
 407 important lesson. Not all blossoms are the same in form or color.  
 408 Some possess healing virtues. Some are always fragrant. **There are**  
 409 **professing Christians who think it their duty to make every other**  
 410 **Christian like themselves. THIS IS MAN'S PLAN, NOT THE PLAN OF GOD.**  
 411 In the church of God, there is room for characters [that varies] as  
 412 are the flowers in a garden. **IN [GOD'S] SPIRITUAL GARDEN THERE ARE**  
 413 **MANY VARIETIES OF FLOWERS**" (Our High Calling, {OHC} 254.5).

414

415 **End the approach of proselytizing in a slavish manner and focus on**  
 416 **liberation preaching, teaching and healing!** "A religious education

417 is greatly needed by all who act a part in the work of Jesus Christ.  
 418 They are to be laborers together with God, engaged in a sacred,  
 419 solemn work. **Each is to have an individual experience in being**  
 420 **taught by the Great Teacher [through] individual communion with God.**  
 421 **There is to be imparted a new life and that life is to be nourished**  
 422 **by the Holy Spirit.** When there is a spiritual union with the Lord  
 423 Jesus, He will move and impress the heart. He will lead and in the  
 424 life there will be a growth of fellowship with Christ" (TM 486.2).

425  
 426 "We are living in a time when every true Christian must maintain a  
 427 living connection with God" (TM 485.1). "We have a divine audience  
 428 to which to present our requests. Then let nothing prevent us from  
 429 offering our petitions in the name of Jesus, believing with  
 430 unwavering faith that God hears us and that He will answer us. Let  
 431 us carry our difficulties to God, humbling ourselves before Him.  
 432 **There is a great work to be done and while it is our privilege to**  
 433 **counsel together, we must be very sure, in every matter, to counsel**  
 434 **with God, for He will never mislead us. We are not to make flesh our**  
 435 **arm [for] if we do, depending chiefly upon human help [and] human**  
 436 **guidance, unbelief will steal in and our faith will die"** (TM 487.1).

437  
 438 "...**The Spirit searches... the deep things of God"** (1 Corinthians 2:10);  
 439 **therefore, "...Educate people to look [away] from the human to the**  
 440 **divine"** (2MCP 706.3). Professional and lay Gospel ministers must  
 441 remember Jesus' counsel—"And I, If I be lifted up from the earth will  
 442 draw all men [of Genesis 5:2] unto me" (John 12:32). This is  
 443 important because God calls believers servants, not authoritarians.  
 444 "In Christ's kingdom there is no lordly oppression, no compulsion of  
 445 manner" (2 MCP 707.3). Our work, like John the Baptism, whatever our  
 446 capacity or title, is to point men and women to the Lamb of God (John  
 447 1:19), "The risen Christ, who... [sits] on the throne at the right hand

448 of the Father (read Luke 22:69; Ephesians 1:20; Colossians 3:1;  
 449 Hebrews 1:3 and 1 Peter 3:22). Through [Christ] alone can sinners  
 450 come to God... Never can they come through [another's] mind" (2 MCP  
 451 706.2). "...There is... one mediator between God and men, the man Christ  
 452 Jesus" (1 Timothy 2:5), [who says], "...Because I live [you] shall live  
 453 also'" (John 14:19 in 2MCP 706.3). **...When we present Christ... in this  
 454 way, we are imparting a power, a strength that is of value; for it  
 455 comes from above"** (2MCP 706.4).

456  
 457 "The foolishness of God is wiser than men and the weakness of God is  
 458 stronger than men (1 Corinthians 1:25). God chooses the foolish and  
 459 weak things of the world to confound the wise and the mighty (1  
 460 Corinthians 1:27). He takes the lowly and despised things of this  
 461 world to nullify the things that are so that no flesh may boast  
 462 before Him (1 Corinthians 1:28-29 NIV). And of God we are in Christ  
 463 Jesus, who is made unto us wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and  
 464 redemption that as it is written, 'He that glorieth, let him glory in  
 465 the Lord'" (1 Corinthians 1:30-31) "That [we] may be blameless and  
 466 harmless, the sons [and daughters] of God, without rebuke, in the  
 467 midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom [you] shine as  
 468 lights in the world" (Philippians 2:15).

469

## 470 **CALL TO ACTION: WHAT SHALL WE DO!**

471  
 472 "To all... who are loved by God and called to be saints..." (Romans 1:7  
 473 NIV); "Avoid every kind of evil" (1 Thessalonians 5:22 NIV),  
 474 including mind control. Protect your mind from manipulations by  
 475 others. Solomon said it this way—"Keep thy heart with all diligence,  
 476 for out of it [comes] the issues of life" (Proverbs 4:23). As you  
 477 garrison you mind, learn to "Trust in the Lord with all your heart;  
 478 ...leaning not [even upon] your own understanding! [Your best decision

479 is as follows]: In all your ways acknowledge God and He will direct  
480 your paths" (Proverbs 3:5-6).  
481  
482 "Don't let anyone deceive you in any way..." (2 Thessalonians 2:3 NIV)!  
483 Submit yourselves to God (James 4:7), mind, body and soul (1  
484 Thessalonians 5:23 NIV), to be educated, empowered and guided by Him  
485 alone and the God of peace will strengthen, establish and settle you  
486 (1 Peter 5:10). It is appropriate to counsel with your brethren, but  
487 do not depend on each other for wisdom and strength. "Unless you  
488 cease the work of making man amenable to man, unless you become  
489 humble in heart and... learn the way of the Lord as little children,  
490 the Lord will divorce you from His work" (TM 480.3). "The end of all  
491 things is at hand: be therefore sober and watch unto prayer" (1 Peter  
492 4:7). Make the name of the Lord your strong tower (Proverbs 18:10  
493 NIV) and all your help will come from Him (Psalms 121:2 NIV). And as  
494 you become strong in faith and love, remember the golden rule of  
495 Matthew 7:12 or Luke 6:31 and do not submerge your individuality in  
496 another's (Mind, Character and Personality, Volume 2, {2MCP} 423.2).  
497 "Each... [must] give [the other] the respect that s/he wishes... [to  
498 receive]" (2MCP 423.3).