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Lay of the Land: Overview

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Significance of Transformation



- “...Except your righteousness... exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, [you] shall... [not] enter... the kingdom of heaven” (Matt 5:20). “...Whatever they tell you to observe, *that* observe and do, but do not do according to their works; for they say and do not do” (Matt 23:3, NKJV). They cannot say: “Imitate me, ...as I... *imitate* Christ” (1 Cor 11:1, NKJV). **Bible talk is no substitute for action.** “...Blessed are they that hear the word of God and keep it” (Luke 11:28); “...blessed are they that keep [God’s] ways, ...[and] seek Him with the whole heart” (Prov 8:32 & Pss 119:2, NKJV).” **“Blessed are those who wash their robes; they will have the right to come to the tree of life...”** (Rev 22:14, NIRV). **“There is joy for those who... do what is right”** (Pss 106:3, NLT).

People Need Help



- “...The carnal mind is [a ‘...heart of stone...’ (Eze 36:26, NKJV) and is in a state of] enmity against God; it is not subject to the law of God...” (Rom 8:7, NKJV). “...**The way of man is not in himself; it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps**” (Jer 10:23, NKJV). “**There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death**” (Prov 14:12, NKJV). “**The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked; who can know it**” (Jer 17:9, NKJV)? “**Oh that they had such a heart in them that would fear Me and always keep all My commandments that it might be well with them and with their children forever**” (Deut 5:29, NASB).

People Need Help



- “Our characters are by nature warped and perverted” (Our High Calling, {OHC}, 212.4); hence, we should pray: “Oh that my ways were directed to keep Your statutes” (Pss 119:5)! “...Make Your way straight before my face” (Pss 5:8, NKJV). “**Teach me Your way**; ...I will **walk** in Your truth. **Unite my heart to fear Your name**” (Pss 86:11, NKJV). And those who yearn after God (Pss 42:1, NLT) have these assurances: “Who is the man that **fears** the Lord? Him shall He **teach** in the way He chooses” (Pss 25:12, NKJV). “...The **humble** He teaches His way” (Pss 25:9, NKJV), which “...is in the sanctuary...” (Pss 77:13) and which is perfect (Pss 18:30). So “...you are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect” (Matt 5:48, NLT). “Higher than the highest human thought can reach is God’s ideal for His children. Godliness—godlikeness—[Exo 34:6], is the goal to be reached” (Education, {Ed}, 18.4).

People Get Help from Jesus



- “I can do nothing by myself...” (John 5:30, NIRV), but “I can do everything by the power of Christ. He gives me strength” (Php 4:13, NIRV). “Not in our learning, not in our position, not in our numbers or entrusted talents, not in the will of man, is to be found the secret of success. **Feeling our inefficiency** we are to **contemplate Christ, and through Him** who is the strength of all strength, the thought of all thought, **the willing and obedient will gain victory after victory**” (Christ’s Object Lessons, {COL}, 404.1).

People Get Help from Jesus



- **“The word of God is living and powerful; ...sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and spirit..., and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart”** (Heb 4:12, NKJV). **“...God’s word... is at work in [those] who believe”** (1 Thes 2:13, NIRV). Hence, Jesus said: **“Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth”** (John 17:17, NKJV). **“...The will of God [is our] sanctification...”** (1 Thes 4:3, NKJV). **“It is through the truth, by the power of the Holy Spirit, that we are... sanctified—transformed into the likeness of Christ. ...For this change to be wrought in us, there must be an unconditional, wholehearted acceptance of the truth and an unreserved surrender of the soul to its transforming power”** (OHC, 212.3). **“And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free”** (John 8:32, NKJV).

People Get Help from Jesus



- “And you shall know the truth, [that is Jesus Christ (John 14:6)], and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:32, NKJV). But how does that happen? The two processes are:
 1. An “...unconditional, wholehearted acceptance of the truth, [and]
 2. An unreserved surrender of the soul to... [the] transforming power [of the truth, i.e., the principles of Christ’s teachings]” (OHC, 212.3).

Together they produce a new heart (Eze 18:31; 11:19 & 36:26). “This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun” (2 Cor 5:17, NLT) through “...the words that [Christ speaks]...” (John 6:63, NKJV). “So we are Christ’s ambassadors; God is making His appeal through us...” (2 Cor 5:20, NLT); therefore, we cannot bubble out both fresh and bitter water (James 3:11, NLT); we must be either hot or cold (Rev 3:15).

People Get Help from Jesus



- “There will [always] be fierce conflict between the church and the world” (Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers, {TM}, 55.2), but “...the gates of hell shall not prevail against [God’s church]” (Matt 16:18). “...In the world you will have tribulation...” (John 16:33, NKJV); “...through much tribulation, [we] enter... the kingdom of God” (Acts 14:22). “...The days of purification of the church are hastening...” (Counsels for the Church, {CCh}, 338.2). “...[Christ] is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap. He will sit as a smelter and purifier of silver, and He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, so that they may present to the Lord offerings in righteousness”(Mal 3:2-3, NASB). Therefore, pray this prayer: “Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean...” (Pss 51:7).

People Get Help from Jesus



- “Troubles and afflictions are appointed unto us [Matt 16:24 & 1 Cor 10:13]. ...Shall we bear them patiently or shall we make everything bitter by... complaining”?
...Gold is put into the furnace that the dross may be removed. ...Be patient under the eye of the refiner;
...refuse to sink into a sad and disconsolate state of mind, but show calm trust in God, counting it all joy when we are permitted to endure trials for Christ’s sake” (Our High Calling, {OHC}, 70.5).

People Get Help from Jesus



- “For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen *are* temporary, but the things which are not seen *are* eternal” (2 Cor 4:17-18, NKJV).
Therefore, “set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth” (Col 3:2, NKJV).

People Get Help from Jesus



- “We meet persons who are erring, who do wrong in various ways. They may be disagreeable, quick, passionate [and] dictatorial. While dealing with these we must be patient, forbearing, kind and gentle. Satan works through them to provoke and harass, so that we shall not exhibit a pleasant and lovable disposition. There are trials and perplexities for us all to encounter; for we are in a world of cares, anxieties and disappointments. But these continual annoyances must be met in the spirit of Christ. Through grace we may rise superior to our surroundings, and keep our spirits calm and unruffled amid the frets and worries of everyday life. We shall thus represent Christ to the world”(Our High Calling, {OHC}, 243.3), “...without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom [we] shine as lights...” (Php 2:15).

You Can Remain Positive in Distress



- “...**Glory in tribulations**...” (Rom 5:3, NKJV); be
“...**patient in tribulation**; continuing instant in
prayer” (Rom 12:12). “...Whatever things are true,
whatever things *are* noble, whatever things *are* just,
whatever things *are* pure, whatever things *are*
lovely, whatever things *are* of good report, if *there*
is any virtue and if *there is* anything praiseworthy—
meditate on these things” (Php 4:8, NKJV).

Speak Faith & Not Doubt



- “Death and life are in the power of the tongue...” (Prov 18:21).
Examine the power of words that promote life, which are of faith.
“God is working in [me so that my] plans and... acts... [are] in keeping with His good purpose” (Php 2:13, NIRV). “[And] I delight to do thy will, O my God, yea, thy law is within my heart” (Pss 40:8). “Say with your whole heart, ‘I will walk in Thy truth.’ **Every resolution expressed in the fear of God will give strength to purpose and to faith. It will tend to stimulate and to humble, to strengthen and [to] confirm**” (Our High Calling, {OHC}, 33.2). “Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt...” (Col 4:6).

Live by the Code



- “...Walk in all the ways which the Lord your God has commanded you that... it may be well with you, ...that you may prolong your days...” (Deut 5:33, NKJV). “... I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow my decrees...” (Eze 36:27, NLT). “...Keep the commandments of the Lord your God, to walk in His ways and to fear Him” (Deut 8:6, NKJV). “The Lord will establish you as a holy people to Himself... IF you keep the commandments of the Lord your God and walk in His ways” (Deut 28:9, NKJV); and IF you do not say: “...Depart from us, for we do not desire the knowledge of Your ways” (Job 21:14, NKJV).

Live by the Code



- God’s holy, just and good law is still valid today (Rom 7:7-12). “...All who love [Christ] will do what [He says]. My Father will love them and we will come and make our home with each of them” (John 14:23, NLT). “...This is the new covenant I will make with the people of Israel...: **I will put my laws in their minds and I will write them on their hearts**” (Heb 8:10, NLT).

Live by the Code



- “Christ... [gave] us His Word, [which ‘...gives life’ (John 6:63, NIRV)] that men and women may be thoroughly furnished with a remedy for all spiritual diseases [2 Tim 3:16-17, NLT]. **The Word** is a test of human character. It points out the disease, and prescribes the remedy. In the Word is a prescription for every spiritual ailment. The plain commands of God will **exert a healthful influence upon the mind, and upon the whole body. If taken in faith and faithfully practiced, its remedies are infallible**” (OHC, 36.2). Then, let our experience be: “...Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart...” (Jer 15:16, NKJV).

Live by the Code



- **“The Lord has uttered His voice in His Holy Word.** Those blessed pages are full of instruction and life.... They are a perfect rule of conduct. **Instructions are given, principles are laid down, which apply to every circumstance in life...**[2 Tim 3:16 & Pss 119:105]. **Nothing is left unrevealed which is essential to a complete system of faith and a correct line of practice** [Deut 29:29]. **Every duty that God requires at our hands is made plain. None will err from the right path who meekly and honestly take the Bible as their guide, making it the man of their counsel”** (OHC, 36.4). **“Glorify God by choosing His way, His will”** (OHC 44.5).

Live by the Code



- “Take your Bible and present yourself before your heavenly Father, saying: ‘**Enlighten me; teach me what is truth.**’ The Lord will regard your prayer and the Holy Spirit will impress the truth upon your soul. **In searching the Scriptures for yourself, you will become established in the faith.** [‘In righteousness you shall be established...’ (Isa 54:14, NKJV)] **for righteousness ‘...is the heritage of the servants of the Lord...’** (Isa 54:17). **It is of the greatest importance that you continually search the Scriptures [Acts 17:11], storing the mind with the Word of God....** You need the treasures of God’s Word hidden in your heart that when opposition comes upon you, you may bring everything to the Scriptures” (OHC, 37.2). “Your word I have hidden in my heart that I might not sin against You” (Pss 119:11, NKJV).

Live by the Code



- “Do not merely assent to the truth, and fail to **be a doer of the words of Christ**. The truth must be applied to self; it must bring men and women who receive it to the Rock, that they may **fall upon the Rock and be broken**. Then Jesus can mold and fashion their characters after His own divine character. If we would listen to His voice, we must **let silence reign in the heart**. The clamors of self, its pretensions, its lusts, must be rebuked, and we **must put on the robe of humility**, and **take our place as humble learners in the school of Christ**” (OHC, 37.5).

Transformed by the Code



- “The truth makes free those who love and are sanctified through it. They walk in the glorious liberty of the ‘sons [and daughters] of God” (2 Cor 6:18; OHC, 33.4). “We who claim to believe the truth should reveal its fruit in our words and character. We are to be far advanced in a knowledge of Jesus Christ... in order to have the sunlight of heaven shining in our daily life. Truth must reach down to the deepest recesses of the soul, and cleanse away everything unlike the spirit of Christ, and the vacuum be filled by the attributes of [Christ’s] character...” (OHC, 33.5).

Transformed by the Code



- “**The religion of Jesus Christ** never degrades the receiver. If it finds men and women earthly, common, coarse, unkindly in words, harsh in speech, selfish and self-caring, truth **received in the heart commences its purifying, refining process.** In words, in dress, in all our habits, there is **seen reformation** and those things that please God. Then **all the world may see its influence in the transforming process**” (OHC, 34.3).

Transformed by the Code



- “Truth refines the taste and sanctifies the judgment. It elevates and ennobles, and is silently and constantly doing its leavening work, [1 Thes 2:13], till the whole being is cleansed and made a vessel unto honor [Rom 9:21; 1 Thes 4:4; 2 Tim 2:20-21], under the operation of the Holy Spirit, to make the receiver of truth fit for the society of pure and sinless angels” ([Rev 21:7-8, 27]; OHC, 34.4). “Truth as it is in Jesus is not cold, ...lifeless and formal, [but] ...full of warmth, of evidence from the presence of Jesus” (OHC, 34.6).

Transformed by the Code



- “A knowledge and acceptance of [Bible] teachings will impart vigor and health of mind. A comprehension of its teachings requires the student to grasp the knowledge of God’s infinite will. The Word of God teaches men and women how to become the sons and daughters of God. It is capable of imparting the highest education to which the mortal mind can attain” (OHC, 35.2). God’s “...understanding is infinite” (Pss 147:5).

Transformed by the Code



- “The minds of all who make **the Word of God** their study will enlarge. Far more than any other study its influence is calculated to increase the powers of comprehension and endow every faculty with a new power. It **brings the mind in contact with broad, ennobling principles of truth.** It brings all heaven into close connection with human minds, **imparting wisdom and knowledge and understanding**” (OHC, 35.4).

Results of Transformation



- “...Those who live for a purpose, seeking to benefit and bless their fellow men and to honor and glorify their Redeemer, are the truly happy ones on the earth.... **Let it be your aim to do good, to act your part in life faithfully**” (OHC, 242.5). “...Bless them that curse you—‘...bless, and curse not’ (Rom 12:14); do good to them that hate you and pray for them, which despitefully use you and persecute you” (Matt 5:44).

Promises to Israelites



- “...Now that you belong to Christ, you are the true children of Abraham; ...and [not only do] God’s [promises] to Abraham belong to you” (Gal 3:29, NLT), but also “...the blessing of Abraham ...[that] come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus...” (Gal 3:14, NKJV). A few examples follow: “...I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you...” (Gen 12:2-3, NKJV). “...Do not be afraid, ...I am your shield, your exceeding great reward” (Gen 15:1, NKJV). “I will make you exceedingly fruitful” (Gen 17:6, NKJV).

Promises to Israelites



- “The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my savior; ...God is my rock, in whom I find protection. He is my shield, the power that saves me and my place of safety. He is my refuge, my savior, the one who saves me from violence” (2 Sam 22:2-3, NLT).
“This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go” (Josh 1:9, NLT)! “...I will never leave you nor forsake you” (Heb 13:5, NKJV); “...I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands...” (Isa 49:16, NKJV).

Lay Up Treasures in Heaven



- “[Those who] came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb... are... before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple” (Revelation 7:14-15). They are there when after the thousand years have passed (Rev 20:4), “...the Lamb has come and His wife has made herself ready, and to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints” (Rev 19:7-8, NKJV). “...The Lamb’s wife..., the great city, the holy Jerusalem...” (Rev 21:9-10, NKJV) is clothed in the righteous acts of the saints “for God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love, which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints and do minister” (Heb 6:10, NKJV).

Your Life's Work



- “...Seek... for a more distinct and intelligent understanding of the will of God concerning you [and strive] earnestly for the mark of the prize before you [Php 3:14. Labor so that at the end of your life, you can say: Christ, ‘I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do’ (John 17:4, NASB)]. Christian perfection, [Matt 5:48 & Heb 6:1], alone will win the spotless robes of character, which will entitle you to stand before the throne of God...” (OHC, 242.6).

Your Life's Work



- “In every generation and in every land **the true foundation for character building** has been the same—**the principles contained in the word of God**. The only safe and sure rule is to do what God says. ‘The statutes of the Lord are right,’ and ‘s/he that doeth these things shall never be moved’” (Pss 19:8 & 15:5; The Acts of the Apostles, {AA} 475.2).

Your Life's Work



- “The knowledge of God as revealed in Christ is the knowledge that all who are saved must have. This is the knowledge that works transformation of character. Received into the life, it will re-create the soul in the image of Christ. This is the knowledge that God invites His children to receive, beside which all else is vanity and nothingness” (AA, 475.1).
“...[You] have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit...” (1 Pet 1:22).

Your Life's Work



- “Those who have great light and... have not walked in it will have darkness corresponding to the light... [Prov 1:23-31]” (CCh, 338.1). “Let our ministers and workers realize that it is not increased light that they need... so much as it is to **live out the light they already have.** ...All the heart, God requires.... You are not allowed to have the mind diverted from God and centered upon any other object” (Testimonies to Ministers & Gospel Workers, {TM}, 439.1). “...Little [has been] accomplished by those who preach the truth... because... [those] who bear the message are not sanctified by the truths they preach. The Savior withdraws His smiles, and the inspiration of His Spirit is not upon them; [therefore], the presence and power of God to convict the sinner and cleanse from all unrighteousness is not manifest” (Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 3, {3T}, 205.2).

Your Life's Work



- “...Those whose works correspond with the light graciously given them will be numbered on the Lord’s side” (CCh, 338.1). “[...You] were sometimes darkness, but now are [you] light in the Lord: walk as children of light” (Eph 5:8).
“...Walk in the light as [Christ] is in the light...” (1 John 1:7).
“...The Lord will lighten [your] darkness” (2 Sam 22:29).
“...Walk while [you] have the light, lest darkness come upon you” (John 12:35).

Your Life's Work



- “When **those who believe in [Christ]** are seen **lifting the cross and bearing it after Him in the path of self-denial, willingly doing all in their power to bring blessing to those for whom Christ died, witness will be borne to the power of Christianity; and in the hearts of many, now unbelievers, will spring up faith in Him** who gave His life to save a guilty world from eternal ruin” (A Call to Medical Evangelism and Health {CME} 24.3).