

Holy Spirit Sabbath School Lessons
Lesson 8 – The Holy Spirit and the Gifts of the Spirit

Sabbath Afternoon:

Quoted texts: 1 Corinthians 12:4–7, 11; Ephesians 4:7; 1 Corinthians 12:14–31; Romans 12:3–8; 1 John 4:1–3

1 Corinthians 12:4-7 “Now there are diversities of gifts, but **the same Spirit**. 5. And there are differences of administrations, but **the same Lord**. 6. And there are diversities of operations, but it is **the same God which worketh all in all**. 7. But the manifestation of **the Spirit is given** to every man to profit withal.”

Compare the above text with the one below, now quoted in it's context, not as the lesson takes it out of context.

Ephesians 4:4-7 “There is **one body**, and **one Spirit**, even as ye are called in **one hope** of your calling; 5. **One Lord, one faith, one baptism**, 6. **One God and Father of all**, who is above all, and through all, and **in you all**. 7. **But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.**”

As we see from these texts, and the ones below, there is only one true God and Father of all and the Gifts of the Spirit come from God the Father, through His only begotten Son Jesus Christ and to us by the “one spirit” which is “the Spirit of Christ”.

Notice especially v:7 of 1 Corinthians that “the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man”. This could not be said if the Spirit were a separate individual being. As a separate god in His own right he could come and go as he pleased without having any need to be sent.

See especially Ephesians 4:4-7 above and notice that there is only “one” singular of each thing, “one body” “one Spirit” “one hope” “one Lord” “one faith” “one baptism”, yet when the trinitarian comes to the next verse 6, where it says “One God” they lose all common sense and say that word “One” means 3 in 1. That does not make sense at all. The other occurrences of that word “one” mean singular and so does the verse that says “One God”, singular, just like the rest.

1 Corinthians 12:14-31 “For the body is not one member, but many. 15. If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? 16. And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? 17. If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling? 18. But now **hath God set the members every one of them in the body**, as it hath pleased him. 19. And if they were all one member, where were the body? 20. But now are they many members, yet but one body. 21. And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. 22. Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: 23. And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness. 24. For our comely parts have no need: **but God hath tempered the body together**, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked: 25. That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. 26. And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it. 27. Now ye are **the body of Christ**, and members in particular. 28. And **God hath set some in the church**, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. 29. Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? 30. Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret? 31. But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.”

Romans 12:3-8 “For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as **God** hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. 4. For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: 5. So we, being many, are **one body in Christ**, and every one members one of another. 6. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; 7. Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; 8. Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with

simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.”

1 John 4:1-3 “Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are **of God**: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. 2. Hereby know ye **the Spirit of God**: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is **of God**: 3. And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.”

All of the texts above show who the gifts of the Spirit come from.

Something vitally important to notice in the text above, 1 John 4:1-3, we are counselled to “try the spirits whether they are of God”. When you do as this scripture says, then it is clear. By comparing scripture with scripture and SOP with SOP the trinity doctrine is not “of God”, especially when you look at the origin of that doctrine which goes all the way back to Babylon where the first trinity, Nimrod, Semiramis and Tammuz were worshipped.

It was adopted into Apostate Christianity from Pagan Rome into the Papacy and then into all other so called Protestant denominations.

How is it possible that the church that was originally set up by God himself, the SDA church, which from its inception was non-trinitarian, has now accepted the central doctrine of the Roman Catholic Church, which is clearly identified in Scripture as “Babylon the Great, the mother of harlots”

The SDA church as it stands now is not Babylon, as some say. That title belongs solely to the mother church, Papal Rome, but, by accepting the central teaching of Rome, the trinity doctrine, the current SDA church is now “drunk with the wine of her fornication” and has become one of the daughters of Babylon, one of her harlots.

They show this true by twisting the truth and mixing truth with error to indoctrinate the church in this trinitarian deadly heresy like the following from the comments on Sabbath Afternoon’s lesson...

“But Jesus did not leave His disciples unequipped. What He commanded them to do He enabled them to do, but in His name and through the power and help of the Holy Spirit. In 1 Corinthians 1:4–7, Paul gives thanks “for the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus, that in everything you were enriched in Him . . . so that you are not lacking in any gift” (NASB). Spiritual gifts are given through the Holy Spirit in Christ to build His church. This week we will study the Holy Spirit as the Sovereign Giver of God’s remarkable gifts

This is total confusion. Either Jesus himself equipped them or not. How can they make a statement like that and then totally confuse the issue by stating that “in His name and through the power and help of the Holy Spirit” implying that it is someone else, which is error?

It is only Jesus Christ that equipped them through “the Spirit of Christ”. He promised to come to them, He promised that He would not leave them comfortless, He promised to be in them by His spirit.

Also, God the Father is “the Sovereign Giver” and no one else. Let me remind you of the following, which was quoted in an earlier lesson...

“But turning from all lesser representations, we behold God in Jesus. Looking unto Jesus we see that it is the glory of our God to give. “I do nothing of Myself,” said Christ; “the living Father hath sent Me, and I live by the Father.” “I seek not Mine own glory,” but the glory of Him that sent Me. John 8:28; 6:57; 8:50; 7:18. In these words is set forth **the great principle which is the law of life for the universe. All things Christ received from God**, but He took to give. So in the heavenly courts, in His ministry for all created beings: **through the beloved Son, the Father’s life flows out to all**; through the Son it returns, in praise and joyous service, a tide of love, to **the great Source of all**. And thus through Christ the circuit of beneficence is complete, representing the character of **the great Giver**, the law of life. – {DA 21.2}

This quote is so clear you can’t get it wrong. It is God the Father that is “the great Source of all” and “the great Giver”, not some trinitarian god of confusion. Also, the following makes it clear who is “the Sovereign”

“The Sovereign of the universe was not alone in His work of beneficence. He had an associate—a co-worker who could appreciate His purposes, and could share His joy in giving happiness to created

beings. “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God.” John 1:1, 2. **Christ, the Word, the only begotten of God, was one with the eternal Father**—one in nature, in character, in purpose—**the only being that could enter into all the counsels and purposes of God**. “His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6. His “goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.” Micah 5:2. **And the Son of God declares concerning Himself**: “The Lord possessed Me in the beginning of His way, before His works of old. I was set up from everlasting.... When He appointed the foundations of the earth: then I was by Him, as one brought up with Him: and I was daily His delight, rejoicing always before Him.” Proverbs 8:22-30. – {PP 34.1}

Again, the above quote clearly shows who is “The Sovereign of the universe” when read in its context it is clear that it is God the Father.

Noice that it says that Christ is “the only begotten of God”. This is talking about his pre-existence in Heaven when He was begotten of the Father in the days of eternity, and especially see that it says “the only being that could enter into all the counsels and purposes of God”.

Please tell me Mr. Trinitarian, where is the other one whom you call God the Holy Spirit? You call him a third, co-eternal, co-equal being and yet he is not included in any of “the counsels and purposes of God” “The Sovereign of the universe”.

The quote then goes on to say “And the Son of God declares concerning Himself” and quotes from Proverbs 8:22-30. Here is the full text, in its context to show what Christ, the Son of God declares concerning Himself...

Proverbs 8:22-31 “The LORD possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old. ²³I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was. ²⁴When there were no depths, I was brought forth; when there were no fountains abounding with water. ²⁵Before the mountains were settled, before the hills was I brought forth: ²⁶While as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the highest part of the dust of the world. ²⁷When he prepared the heavens, I was there: when he set a compass upon the face of the depth: ²⁸When he established the clouds above: when he strengthened the fountains of the deep: ²⁹When he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandment: when he appointed the foundations of the earth: ³⁰Then I was by him, as one brought up with him: and I was daily his delight, rejoicing always before him; ³¹Rejoicing in the habitable part of his earth; and my delights were with the sons of men.”

As the Spirit of Prophecy (which is the testimony of Jesus) quote says above, the above scripture quoted is the very words of “the Son of God” himself and he says clearly that “I was set up” “I was brought forth” “was I brought forth” and “I was by Him, as one brought up with him”.

These quotes show that Michael (as Christ’s name was then) was begotten of the Father, “set up” by “The LORD” “brought forth” by “The LORD” and “brought up” with “The LORD” who is God His Father.

The trinity doctrine denies this fact and it has been the decided purpose of Satan and his angels to do the following...

“Angels were expelled from heaven because they would not work in harmony with God. They fell from their high estate because they wanted to be exalted. They had come to exalt themselves, and they forgot that their beauty of person and of character came from the Lord Jesus. **This fact** the [fallen] angels would obscure, **that Christ was the only begotten Son of God**, and they came to consider that they were not to consult Christ. – {TDG 128.2}

Through this omega of deadly heresy (the trinity doctrine) the fallen angels have succeeded in obscuring this fact “that Christ was the only begotten Son of God” throughout almost all the world. But all praise, honour and glory go to God as He has retained a small remnant that believe the truth that Christ is the only begotten Son of God who works in us by “the Spirit of Christ” and God willing our voice will not be silenced until all of God’s true followers are sealed with the Seal of God, and are called to do the following...

2 Corinthians 6:14-18 “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? ¹⁵And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? ¹⁶And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ¹⁷Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, ¹⁸And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the

Lord Almighty.”

Revelation 18:1-5 “And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. ²And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. ³**For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication**, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. ⁴And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, **Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.** ⁵For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.”

This is talking of “Babylon the great” but as I said before, because of “the wine” of Babylon, which is her false doctrines, of which the trinity doctrine is her central pillar, the daughters of Babylon are fallen also, which sadly includes the current SDA Conference church which has accepted the wine and become drunk with it, especially since it was officially accepted into the church in the 1980 General Conference Session in Dallas Texas.

Sunday:

The Fruit of the Spirit and the Gifts of the Spirit

Again, before we continue, they are implying by the title and the first comments on this page that the Spirit is someone separate from God and Christ, which is error.

1 Corinthians 12:4-11 “Now there are diversities of gifts, but **the same Spirit.** ⁵And there are differences of administrations, but **the same Lord.** ⁶And there are diversities of operations, but it is **the same God which worketh all in all.** ⁷But the manifestation of **the Spirit is given** to every man to profit withal. ⁸For to one is given **by the Spirit** the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge **by the same Spirit;** ⁹. To another faith **by the same Spirit;** to another the gifts of healing **by the same Spirit;** ¹⁰To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: ¹¹But all these worketh **that one and the selfsame Spirit,** dividing to every man severally as he will.”

As we have shown before it is God the Father that is the “source of all” and “the Great Giver” through “the Spirit of Christ” which is the spirit of “the same Lord” mentioned above.

Monday:

God, the Sovereign Giver of Spiritual Gifts

I agree with the first paragraph, “Spiritual gifts” are “distributed and given by God himself” through His only begotten Son Jesus Christ as is shown in the text quoted, but with its context shown not as just one verse plucked out of its context.

Ephesians 4:4-8 “One Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. ⁷But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. ⁸Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.”

This shows clearly, as we have seen previously, that it is God the Father that is “the great Giver” in v:6 and then in v:7 we are told that they are “the gift of Christ” and then in v:8 when Christ gave these gifts to us, “When he ascended up on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men”. So we see that the gifts are from God the Father through Christ himself, and no one else. They are Christ's gifts to His people through “the Spirit of Christ”.

Notice the following quote from the Spirit of Prophecy...

“But grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift. Therefore it is said, “When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men.” Ephesians 4:7, 8, R.S.V. – {RC 132.1}

Jesus the Son of God humbled Himself for us, endured temptation for us, overcame in our behalf, to show us how we may overcome.... – {RC 132.2}

The Holy Spirit was promised to be with those who were wrestling for victory, in demonstration of all mightiness, endowing the human agent with supernatural powers, and instructing the ignorant in the mysteries of the kingdom of God. That the Holy Spirit is to be the grand helper is a wonderful promise.... – {RC 132.3}

If you take this statement as it appears above you might be tempted to think, as does the trinitarian, when they take statements like this out of their context, that the Holy Spirit is a separate being, but when read in it's context with the paragraph below, that follows it, you can see clearly who the Holy Spirit is...

The imparted Holy Spirit enabled His disciples, the apostles, to stand firmly against every species of idolatry and to exalt the Lord and Him alone. Who, but **Jesus Christ by His Spirit and divine power**, guided the pens of the sacred historians that to the world might be presented the precious record of the sayings and work of Jesus Christ? – {RC 132.4}

Clearly it is “Jesus Christ by His Spirit and divine power” that pours His gifts onto His church “according to the measure of the gift of Christ”.

Remember the following quote that shows this so very clearly...

“Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them.” Hebrews 7:25. Though the ministration was to be removed from the earthly to the heavenly temple; though the sanctuary and **our great high priest would be invisible to human sight, yet the disciples were to suffer no loss thereby**. They would realize no break in their communion, and no diminution of power because of the Saviour’s absence. While Jesus ministers in the sanctuary above, **He is still by His Spirit the minister of the church on earth**. He is withdrawn from the eye of sense, but His parting promise is fulfilled, “Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.” Matthew 28:20. **While He delegates His power to inferior ministers, His energizing presence is still with His church.** – {DA 166.2}

Notice that it says that it is Christ himself “by His Spirit” that is “the minister of the church on earth” and that He is the one that “delegates His power to inferior ministers” which is just another way of saying that He is the one that gives the spiritual gifts to the church.

This makes perfect sense, because it is His Spirit that works in us, so the gifts that He gives us would naturally be spiritual gifts through “the Spirit of Christ”

Before I go any further with this lesson, I need to share a vitally important point regarding the Spirit of Prophecy quote above and its relation to the following...

“In describing to His disciples the office work of the Holy Spirit, Jesus sought to inspire them with the joy and hope that inspired His own heart. He rejoiced because of the abundant help He had provided for His church. The Holy Spirit was the highest of all gifts that He could solicit from His Father for the exaltation of His people. The Spirit was to be given as a regenerating agent, and without this the sacrifice of Christ would have been of no avail. The power of evil had been strengthening for centuries, and the submission of men to this satanic captivity was amazing. **Sin could be resisted and overcome only through the mighty agency of the Third Person of the Godhead**, who would come with no modified energy, but in the fullness of divine power. It is the Spirit that makes effectual what has been wrought out by the world’s Redeemer. It is by the Spirit that the heart is made pure. Through the Spirit the believer becomes a partaker of the divine nature. **Christ has given His Spirit as a divine power to overcome all hereditary and cultivated tendencies to evil, and to impress His own character upon His church.** – {DA 671.2}

Trinitarians love to use the “Third Person of the Godhead” statement above and others like it from the writings of the Spirit of Prophecy and take them out of their context to try and prove a trinity doctrine. Notice first of all that it doesn’t use the word trinity. You will not find that word in the SOP or in the Bible at all.

Just because it says “Third Person of the Godhead” the trinitarian will say, “see there’s the trinity” but the quote doesn’t say that.

*We must read the whole quote in its context to see what it really says and not add anything else to what is said, or take anything away from what is said and when you do that, what do you find? The Spirit of Prophecy, which is “the testimony of Jesus” explains itself by telling us the truth of who “the Third Person of the Godhead” is, it is explained clearly for us when it says “**Christ has given His Spirit as a divine power to overcome all hereditary and cultivated tendencies to evil, and to***

impress His own character upon His church.”

The “third person of the Godhead” is the “Spirit of Christ”. If you compare the above statement from DA 671.2 with the one above it, from DA 166.2 it becomes clear that Christ works on two fronts.

“While Jesus ministers in the sanctuary above, **He is still by His Spirit the minister of the church on earth”**

He is our minister, our great high priest in the Heavenly Sanctuary above.

To make it as simple as I can you need to understand that Jesus Christ is in fact two beings or persons in one, as the following quote shows so clearly...

“In contemplating **the incarnation of Christ in humanity**, we stand baffled before an unfathomable mystery, that the human mind can not comprehend. The more we reflect upon it, the more amazing does it appear. **How wide is the contrast between the divinity of Christ and the helpless infant in Bethlehem’s manger!** How can we span the distance between the mighty God and a helpless child? And yet the Creator of worlds, **he in whom was the fulness of the Godhead bodily**, was manifest in the helpless babe in the manger. Far higher than any of the angels, **equal with the Father in dignity and glory**, and yet wearing the garb of humanity! **Divinity and humanity were mysteriously combined, and man and God became one.** It is in this union that we find the hope of our fallen race. Looking upon Christ in humanity, we look upon God, and see in him the brightness of his glory, the express image of his person”. – {Special Testimonies July 30, 1896 Par. 3}

And again...

“Christ could have done nothing during His earthly ministry in saving fallen man **if the divine had not been blended with the human.** The limited capacity of man cannot define this wonderful mystery—**the blending the two natures, the divine and the human.** It can never be explained. Man must wonder and be silent. And yet man is privileged to be a partaker of the divine nature, and in this way he can to some degree enter into the mystery. This wonderful exhibition of God’s love was made on the cross of Calvary. **Divinity took the nature of humanity**, and for what purpose?—**That through the righteousness of Christ humanity might partake of the divine nature. This union of divinity and humanity, which was possible with Christ**, is incomprehensible to human minds. The wonderful things to take place in our world—the greatest events of all ages—are incomprehensible to worldly minds; they cannot be explained by human sciences. The powers of heaven shall be shaken. Christ is coming in power and great glory, but His coming is not such a mystery as the things to take place before that event. **Man must be a partaker of the divine nature in order to stand in this evil time**, when the mysteries of satanic agencies are at work. **Only by the divine power united with the human can souls endure through these times of trial.** Says Christ, “Without me ye can do nothing.” Then there must be far less of self and more of Jesus. – {1888 332.1}

You can see from the above two quotes how that the man Christ Jesus had two natures, Divine and human. “Christ” refers to His divinity or divine nature, “Jesus” refers to His humanity or human nature. These two natures were mysteriously combined into one person, but notice the following Spirit of Prophecy quote that clearly explains how Christ Jesus works now that He has been glorified in Heaven, as two persons in one...

“Cumbered with humanity, Christ could not be in every place personally; therefore it was altogether for their advantage that He should leave them, go to His father, and **send the Holy Spirit** to be His successor on earth. **The Holy Spirit is Himself divested of the personality of humanity and independent thereof.** He would represent Himself as present in all places **by His Holy Spirit**, as the **Omnipresent**. “But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in My name, He shall (although unseen by you), [This phrase was added by Ellen White.] teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you” [John 14:26]. “Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will come not unto you; but if I depart, I will send Him unto you” [John 16:7]. – {14MR 23.3}

Here we are told that “His Holy Spirit” “the Spirit of Christ” is Christ “Himself” but most importantly, and please pay particular attention to these next few words, “divested of the personality of humanity

and independent thereof” Here Christ tells us, through His Spirit of Prophecy (the testimony of Jesus) that “the Spirit of Christ” works “independently” of His humanity. As we have seen above, He has two natures Divine and Human mysteriously combined, but because Christ is divine, He has the power to send His Holy Spirit to us working “independently” of His humanity.

Compare this quote with one we had previously and we see it even clearer...

“It is not essential for you to know and be able to define just what the Holy Spirit is. Christ tells us that the Holy Spirit is the Comforter, and the Comforter is the Holy Ghost, “the Spirit of truth, which the Father shall send in My name.” “I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever; even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him: but ye know Him, for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you” [John 14:16, 17]. **This refers to the omnipresence of the Spirit of Christ, called the Comforter.** Again Jesus says, “I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when He, the Spirit of truth is come, He will guide you into all truth” [John 16:12, 13]. – {14MR 179.2}

This quote identifies the Comforter as “the Spirit of Christ” and it is through His “omnipresent” “Spirit of Christ” that he can be in two places at once, because He has two mysteriously combined natures yet each can work independently from each other.

So, to make all of the ‘third person’ statements plain we have:

- 1. God the Father in heaven*
- 2. Jesus our great High Priest as a man, in His humanity, which He retains for all eternity, ministering for us in the Heavenly Sanctuary*
- 3. The “omnipresence of the Spirit of Christ, called the Comforter” with us and in us working “independently” and “divested of the personality of humanity” That makes three powers, and it is this “third person of the Godhead” “the Spirit of Christ” that enables us to overcome all sin as it says at the end of that quote...*

“Christ has given His Spirit as a divine power to overcome all hereditary and cultivated tendencies to evil, and to impress His own character upon His church. – {DA 671.2}

*For what purpose? “To impress His own character upon His church”
Here is that quote again, just to make it easier to understand...*

“Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them.” Hebrews 7:25. Though the ministration was to be removed from the earthly to the heavenly temple; though the sanctuary and **our great high priest would be invisible to human sight, yet the disciples were to suffer no loss thereby.** They would realize no break in their communion, and no diminution of power because of the Saviour’s absence. While **Jesus ministers in the sanctuary above, He is still by His Spirit the minister of the church on earth.** He is withdrawn from the eye of sense, but His parting promise is fulfilled, “Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.” Matthew 28:20. While **He delegates His power to inferior ministers, His energizing presence is still with His church.** – {DA 166.2}

He impresses “His own character upon His church” by “His energizing presence” which is “His Spirit”

One final point on this vital subject, all of the third person statements are in connection with overcoming sin. That is why the comforter couldn’t come until Jesus was glorified. Christ had to come to earth, combining Divinity with Humanity, live out a perfect life, build the temple of the Lord, be crucified, resurrected and finally glorified before He could understand how to help mankind to overcome sin and then, and only then, could He be able to give us His perfected life, as the Comforter, to again blend His perfect divine/human life with our fallen humanity to enable us to overcome all sin, “Christ in you the hope of glory” thus impressing “His own character upon His church”

Tuesday:

The Purpose of the Spiritual Gifts

Romans 12:3-8 “For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. ⁴For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: ⁵So we, being many, are one body **in Christ**, and every one **members one of another**. ⁶Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; ⁷Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; ⁸Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.”

Ephesians 4:8-13 “Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. ⁹(Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.) ¹¹And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; ¹²**For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:** ¹³**Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:”**

We can see clearly what the purpose of Spiritual Gifts is, by the two texts quoted above. Sadly, again, they say things in the comments that directly contradict the plain word of scripture, where they state: “not for our sanctification.”

Those few words contradict what it says in Ephesians 4:12-13 where Paul states that the spiritual gifts were given “for the perfecting of the saints” “unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ”

That’s what “edifying the body of Christ” means. Instructing, leading, teaching the church in the ways of righteousness to lead them on to perfection in Christ.

True, it has nothing to do with us, it is all Christ working in His church through the fruit and through the gifts, which are both from “the Spirit of Christ” in us to “impress His character on His church” then He will come to claim His own...

“There can be no growth or fruitfulness in the life that is centered in self. If you have accepted Christ as a personal Saviour, you are to forget yourself, and try to help others. Talk of the love of Christ, tell of His goodness. Do every duty that presents itself. Carry the burden of souls upon your heart, and by every means in your power seek to save the lost. **As you receive the Spirit of Christ—the Spirit of unselfish love and labor for others**—you will grow and bring forth fruit. The graces of the Spirit will ripen in your character. Your faith will increase, your convictions deepen, your love be made perfect. More and more **you will reflect the likeness of Christ** in all that is pure, noble, and lovely. – {COL 67.3}

“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance.” Galatians 5:22, 23. This fruit can never perish, but will produce after its kind a harvest unto eternal life. – {COL 68.1}

“When the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come.” **Christ is waiting with longing desire for the manifestation of Himself in His church.** When **the character of Christ shall be perfectly reproduced in His people**, then He will come to claim them as His own. – {Christ’s Object Lessons 69.1}

When God wanted to build the earthly sanctuary in the wilderness, He blessed certain men with Spiritual Gifts to build it to the pattern shown and to minister in it to reflect the glory and purposes of God. We are the temple of the living God ...

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 “What? know ye not that your body is **the temple of the Holy Ghost** which is in you, **which ye have of God**, and ye are not your own? ²⁰For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, **which are God's.**”

and we also need, like those of old, these Spiritual Gifts to help in “the perfecting of the saints” and to follow the pattern set for us to follow, which is Jesus Christ the only begotten Son of God.

“The temple of the Holy Ghost” simply means what we have learned before, that Christ dwells in us by “the Spirit of Christ” and as Jesus said...

John 14:23 “Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, **and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.**”

So, it is also the “Spirit of God” or as it says in 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 above “which ye have of God” or “which ye have from God”

So simple and plain, no confusing trinitarian heresy here.

If we all have the same “Spirit of Christ” in us then we will all be naturally in complete unity with each other, because “the Spirit of Christ” in me will agree 100% with “the Spirit of Christ” in me. That is exactly what happened to the disciples and Apostles of Christ at Pentecost, where the scripture says:

Acts 2:1,44-47 “And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, **they were all with one accord** in one place. And all that believed were together, and **had all things common**; ⁴⁵And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. ⁴⁶And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and **singleness of heart**, ⁴⁷Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.”

That is the only way God’s true people, will have true unity, is by “the Spirit of Christ”.

The SDA church will never have this true unity because they deny “the Spirit of Christ” and Jesus said that

Matthew 10:32-33 “Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. ³³But **whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.**”

Not only do they deny the Spirit of Christ, but they also deny that Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God. The trinity doctrine denies that Christ was begotten of the Father in the days of eternity. It teaches that god the Son is co-eternal, co-equal with God the Father. That is heresy as we have seen before, in fact the Apostle John says the following of those that deny the Father and the Son...

1 John 2:22-23 “Who is a liar but **he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.** ^{23.} **Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father:** he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also.

This is deadly serious. If you don’t have the Father, you have nothing and this text says if you deny the Father and the Son; if you deny that they are truly the Father and the Son, with a true Father/Son relationship then you are following the antichrist, and anyone who follows Satan cannot be a true Christian, its that simple.

What text is the heart of the Gospel?

John 3:16-21 “For God so loved the world, that he **gave his only begotten Son**, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. ¹⁷**For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world;** but that the world through him might be saved. ¹⁸He that believeth on him is not condemned: **but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.** ¹⁹And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and **men loved darkness rather than light**, because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For every one that doeth evil **hateth the light**, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. ²¹**But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.**”

Just this text alone shows so many things, God the Father “gave” “his only begotten Son” He was God’s Son, God’s only begotten Son in heaven, before his incarnation here on earth. Then God gave him, sent him to this earth, mysteriously blended Christ’s divinity with Mary’s humanity and then Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem.

Since I believed this truth I have seen so much hatred of this simple truth and anger when it is presented. No other doctrine causes such a reaction among God’s professed people than this one and now we who have tried to share it know why: “light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light” because “every one that doeth evil hateth the light” and we have found this to be so true, over and over again.

But those that love the truth, and live the truth, come to the light of truth that Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God.

Praise God for the light of truth.

Wednesday:

The Gift, Then and Now

1 Corinthians 14:1 “Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy.”

1 Corinthians 12:4-11 “Now there are diversities of gifts, but **the same Spirit**. ⁵And there are differences of administrations, but **the same Lord**. ⁶And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. ⁷But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. ⁸For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; ⁹To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; ¹⁰To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: ¹¹But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.”

1 Corinthians 12: “Now **ye are the body of Christ**, and members in particular. ²⁸And **God hath set** some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. ²⁹Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? ³⁰Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret? ³¹But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.”

Romans 12:3-8 “For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. ⁴ For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: ⁵So we, being many, are **one body in Christ**, and every one members one of another. ⁶Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; ⁷Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; ⁸Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.”

Ephesians 4:7-13 “But unto every one of us is given grace **according to the measure of the gift of Christ**. ⁸Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and **gave gifts unto men**. ⁹(Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.) ¹¹And **he gave** some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; ¹²For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: ¹³Till we all come in the unity of the faith, **and of the knowledge of the Son of God**, unto a perfect man, **unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:**”

We have already shown previously that these gifts come from Christ himself, so no further proof is necessary.

Thursday:

The Holy Spirit and the Gift of Discernment

1 Corinthians 12:10 “To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:”

1 Corinthians 14:29 “Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge.”

1 John 4:1-3 “Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. ²Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: ³And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.”

Sadly this is where the authors shoot themselves in the foot by their comments on today's lesson. They speak of the need for spiritual discernment, but they have failed to discern that they are worshipping a

strange god that the Fathers of the SDA church never worshipped in fact spoke strongly against. They have lost all spiritual discernment by rejecting “the Spirit of Truth” which we have clearly shown through the moments on these lessons, is truly “the Spirit of Christ”.

Dear reader, look closely at the current SDA church and you will see. Talk to its members and they will tell you what a deplorable state the church is in now. The reason, as the following quote shows, is because they have chosen to worship another god, the trinity god, which is a masterful deception of satan himself...

“The reason why the churches are weak and sickly and ready to die, is that the enemy has brought influences of a discouraging nature to bear upon trembling souls. He has sought to **shut Jesus from their view as the Comforter**, as one who reproves, who warns, who admonishes them, saying, “This is the way, walk ye in it.” Christ has all power in heaven and in earth, and he can strengthen the wavering, and set right the erring. He can inspire with confidence, with hope in God; and confidence in God always results in creating confidence in one another.” – {RH August 26, 1890 Par. 10}

“Every soul must have a realization that Christ is his personal Saviour; then love and zeal and steadfastness will be manifest in the Christian life. However clear and convincing the truth is, it will fail to sanctify the soul, fail to strengthen and fortify it in its conflicts, unless it is brought in constant contact with life. **Satan has achieved his greatest success through interposing himself between the soul and the Saviour.**” – {RH August 26, 1890 Par. 11}

Can you see what it says above? “The enemy” which is Satan, has indeed “shut Jesus from view as the Comforter” and “achieved his greatest success through interposing himself between the soul and the Saviour” by introducing another god, called God the Holy Spirit. The SDA church has accepted this other god, this counterfeit comforter which is Satan himself, and has cast off Jesus Christ who is the real Comforter, “the Spirit of Christ”. The quote says that is why the church is “weak and sickly and ready to die”

We need the True Comforter as shown below...

“The words spoken to the disciples come to us through their words. **The Comforter is ours as well as theirs**, at all times and in all places, in all sorrows and in all affliction, when the outlook seems dark and the future perplexing, and we feel helpless and alone. These are times when the Comforter will be sent in answer to the prayer of faith. – {RH October 26, 1897 Par. 14}

“**There is no comforter like Christ**, so tender and so true. He is touched with the feeling of our infirmities. **His Spirit speaks to the heart.** Circumstances may separate us from our friends; the broad, restless ocean may roll between us and them. Though their sincere friendship may still exist, they may be unable to demonstrate it by doing for us that which would be gratefully received. **But no circumstances, no distance, can separate us from the heavenly Comforter.** Wherever we are, wherever we may go, **he is always there**, one given in Christ’s place, to act in his stead. He is always at our right hand, to speak soothing, gentle words; to support, sustain, uphold, and cheer. **The influence of the Holy Spirit is the life of Christ in the soul.** This Spirit works in and through every one who receives Christ. Those who know the indwelling of this Spirit reveal its fruit,—love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith. – {RH October 26, 1897 Par. 15}

Amen, what more do we need than “Jesus the Comforter”

Friday

Below are quotes from the chapters of The Great Controversy that are the suggested reading...

“It is because he has masked himself with consummate skill that the question is so widely asked, “Does such a being really exist?” **It is an evidence of his success that theories giving the lie to the plainest testimony of the Scriptures are so generally received in the religious world.** And it is because Satan can most readily control the minds of those who are **unconscious of his influence** that the Word of God gives us so many examples of his malignant work, unveiling before us his secret forces, and thus placing us on our guard against his assaults. – {GC88 517.1}

This is so true, that is exactly what has happened to the SDA church, “It is an evidence of his success that theories giving the lie to the plainest testimony of the Scriptures are so generally received in the religious world.” Satan has succeeded in bringing in his “theories giving the lie to the plainest testimony of the Scriptures” with this trinity doctrine which has been received by “the religious world.” And the hardest thing for the church to see, is that the church is totally “unconscious of his influence”; the introduction into the church of the trinity doctrine.

“**To the law and to the testimony. If they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.**” [Isaiah 8:20.] The people of God are directed to the Scriptures as their safeguard against the influence of **false teachers** and the delusive power of spirits of darkness. Satan employs every possible device to prevent men from obtaining a knowledge of the Bible; for its plain utterances reveal his deceptions. At every revival of God’s work, the prince of evil is aroused to more intense activity; he is now putting forth his utmost efforts for a final struggle against Christ and his followers. The last great delusion is soon to open before us. Antichrist is to perform his marvelous works in our sight. So closely will the counterfeit resemble the true, that it will be impossible to distinguish between them except by the Holy Scriptures. By their testimony every statement and every miracle must be tested. – {GC88 593.1}

The SDA church no longer speaks “to the law and to the testimony” but have cast off the truth for a “cunningly devised fable” and show that “there is no light in them”.

We have shown throughout these lessons, by speaking the clear word of God compared with the clear “Testimony of Jesus” that “these plain utterances” have “revealed” Satan’s “deception” regarding this omega of deadly heresy, the trinity doctrine. And we will continue to speak; not keep silent, for “we ought to obey God rather than men” Acts 5:29

“Those who endeavor to obey all the commandments of God will be opposed and derided. They can stand only in God. In order to endure the trial before them, they must understand the will of God as revealed in his Word; **they can honor him only as they have a right conception of his character, government, and purposes, and act in accordance with them. None but those who have fortified the mind with the truths of the Bible will stand through the last great conflict.** To every soul will come the searching test, **Shall I obey God rather than men?** The decisive hour is even now at hand. Are our feet planted on the rock of God’s immutable Word? Are we prepared to stand firm in defense of the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus? – {GC88 593.2}

Because of the way the church is at this present time, they will not “stand through the last great conflict” because they have accepted error, are worshipping another god and have not “fortified the mind with the truths of the Bible” but with, cunningly devised fables of the enemy of all souls.

“But God will have a people upon the earth to maintain the Bible, and the Bible only, as the standard of all doctrines, and the basis of all reforms. **The opinions of learned men, the deductions of science, the creeds or decisions of ecclesiastical councils, as numerous and discordant as are the churches which they represent, the voice of the majority,—not one or all of these should be regarded as evidence for or against any point of religious faith.** Before accepting any doctrine or precept, we should demand a plain “Thus saith the Lord” in its support. – {GC88 595.1}

Again, this hasn’t been done. The church appears, as is shown by this series of lessons, to be following this counsel by quoting scripture, but it’s scripture taken out of context and/or misapplied to a third god the Holy spirit. We have clearly seen as we have studied the Bible and The Spirit of Prophecy, that their stand on the trinity doctrine isn’t based on a “Thus saith the Lord” but from the “ecclesiastical councils” of the Roman Catholic Church. That should be enough to make every Seventh-day Adventist tremble or ring alarm bells and make them search for the truth of this matter as for hidden treasure.

“Satan is constantly endeavoring to attract attention to man in the place of God. He leads the people to look to bishops, to pastors, to professors of theology, as their guides, **instead of searching the Scriptures to learn their duty for themselves. Then, by controlling the minds of these leaders, he can influence the multitudes according to his will.** – {GC88 595.2}

This is exactly what is happening now, to the letter. What a prophecy! Instead of searching the Scriptures, they run to the pastor or follow what the church teaches without question. We have been told, “it’s a mystery and we can’t understand it and shouldn’t even question it, just believe it. This is the remnant church so it must be correct! What a deception!

“The spirit which actuated those priests and rulers is still manifested by many who make a high profession of piety. **They refuse to examine the testimony of the Scriptures concerning the special truths for this time.** They point to their own numbers, wealth, and popularity, and **look with contempt upon the advocates of truth** as few, poor, and unpopular having a faith that separates them from the world.” – {GC88 595.4}

This is also a prophecy that has come true in the lives of those who have tried to show this truth to those “who make a high profession of piety” They have truly refused “to examine the testimony of the Scriptures concerning the special truths for this time” and “look upon us with contempt” when we follow a “thus saith the Lord”
May God wake them up and give them eye salve to discern the truth before it is eternally too late.

“The Romish Church reserves to the clergy the right to interpret the Scriptures. On the ground that ecclesiastics alone are competent to explain God’s Word, it is withheld from the common people. Though the Reformation gave the Scriptures to all, **yet the self-same principle which was maintained by Rome prevents multitudes in Protestant churches from searching the Bible for themselves. They are taught to accept its teachings as interpreted by the church;** and there are thousands who dare receive nothing, however plainly revealed in Scripture, that is contrary to their creed, or **the established teaching of their church.** – {GC88 596.2}

“Notwithstanding the Bible is full of warnings against false teachers, many are ready thus to commit the keeping of their souls to the clergy. **There are today thousands of professors of religion who can give no other reason for points of faith which they hold than that they were so instructed by their religious leaders.** They pass by the Saviour’s teachings almost unnoticed, and **place implicit confidence in the words of the ministers.** But are ministers infallible? **How can we trust our souls to their guidance unless we know from God’s Word that they are light-bearers?** A lack of moral courage to step aside from the beaten track of the world, leads many to follow in the steps of learned men; and **by their reluctance to investigate for themselves, they are becoming hopelessly fastened in the chains of error.** They see that the truth for this time is plainly brought to view in the Bible, and they feel the power of the Holy Spirit attending its proclamation; **yet they allow the opposition of the clergy to turn them from the light.** Though reason and conscience are convinced, **these deluded souls dare not think differently from the minister;** and their individual judgment, **their eternal interests, are sacrificed to the unbelief, the pride and prejudice, of another.**” – {GC88 596.3}

What a sad, sad state to be in, lost by following man, instead of your Saviour. How true are those words for the current SDA church, they are “deluded souls” that have become “hopelessly fastened in the chains of error” all because they will not search for themselves.

What makes things even worse for them is that it says “They see that the truth for this time is plainly brought to view in the Bible, and they feel the power of the Holy Spirit attending its proclamation” and “Though reason and conscience are convinced”, these show that they know that what we show them is the truth, they are convicted by “Spirit of Christ” but they have come to trust in man more than Jesus and will follow the teachings of the church until they die.

Isaiah 5:1-7 “Now will I sing to my wellbeloved a song of my beloved touching his vineyard. My wellbeloved hath a vineyard in a very fruitful hill: ²And he fenced it, and gathered out the stones thereof, and planted it with the choicest vine, and built a tower in the midst of it, and also made a winepress therein: and he looked that it should bring forth grapes, and it brought forth wild grapes. ³And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem, and men of Judah, judge, I pray you, betwixt me and my vineyard. ⁴**What could have been done more to my vineyard, that I have not done in it?** wherefore, when I looked that it should bring forth grapes, brought it forth wild grapes? ⁵And now go to; I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard: **I will take away the hedge thereof,** and it shall be eaten up; and break down the wall thereof, and it shall be trodden down: ⁶And **I will lay it waste:** it shall not be pruned, nor digged; but there shall come up briars and thorns: **I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.** ⁷**For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel,** and the men of Judah his pleasant plant: and he looked for judgment, but behold oppression; for righteousness, but behold a cry.”

This is a prophecy for the church today and shows its true condition and sadly what God will do to the church if it does not repent. Compare this with the following quote from the Spirit of Prophecy...

“The enemy of souls has sought to bring in the supposition that a great reformation was to take place among Seventh-day Adventists, and that this reformation would consist in **giving up the doctrines which stand as the pillars of our faith,** and engaging in a process of reorganization. Were this reformation to take place, what would result? **The principles of truth that God in His wisdom has given to the remnant church, would be discarded.** Our religion would be changed. **The fundamental principles** that have sustained the work for the last fifty years **would be accounted as**

error. A new organization would be established. Books of a new order would be written. A system of intellectual philosophy would be introduced. The founders of this system would go into the cities, and do a wonderful work. **The Sabbath, of course, would be lightly regarded, as also the God who created it.** Nothing would be allowed to stand in the way of **the new movement.** The leaders would teach that virtue is better than vice, but **God being removed,** they would **place their dependence on human power, which, without God, is worthless.** Their foundation would be built on the sand, and storm and tempest would sweep away the structure. – {**Special Testimonies Series B02 54.3**}

We have seen this before, but I want you to pay particular attention to the last sentence “Their foundation would be built on the sand, and storm and tempest would sweep away the structure.” In Isaiah, God says He “will lay it waste” and here it says “storm and tempest would sweep away the structure”

God is so long suffering but he says sadly, and I can imagine Him saying it with tears in His eyes, “What could have been done more to my vineyard, that I have not done in it?”

God sends His faithful souls to the church to show it its error and they are rejected and the precious truths that they bear are declared to be heresy and the messengers are looked upon with contempt.

Notice the fearful results of this rejection of truth, “I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it”, that means that the latter rain will not fall on the church and that the whole church “will be swept away by storm and tempest”.

What more can we say, except may God help those of us who believe these precious truths to hold Fast to the truth ourselves, turn not to the left or right, and to, wherever possible, rescue the perishing and “pluck souls from the burning” and “love not our lives, even unto death”.

Amen