



**But in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. -**

**Matthew 15:9**

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## Just Another Issue Moment

Good morning to everyone, or afternoon or evening, whenever you happen to be reading this. It's somewhere around 3 a.m. for me. I went to bed around midnight, got my 2 hour nap then couldn't get back to sleep. I came to my computer to visit a few Facebook groups I belong to and do some reading.

When I went to bed it was with the thought that this week I wouldn't have anything to write about. (I've had a lot of those weeks lately.) As I was reading in one of my groups I saw an Ellen White quote that someone had posted and it just didn't set right with me. I found and read the passage and also read the paragraphs before and after to get a better picture of what she was talking about. Let me share 2 of the paragraphs with you:

I saw the necessity of the messengers, especially, watching and checking all fanaticism wherever they might see it rise. Satan is pressing in on every side, and unless we watch for him, and have our eyes open to his devices and snares, and have on the whole armor of God, the fiery darts of the wicked will hit us. There are many precious truths contained in the Word of God, but it is "present truth" that the flock needs now. I have seen the danger of the messengers running off from the important points of present truth, to dwell upon subjects that are not calculated to unite the flock and sanctify the soul. Satan will here take every possible advantage to injure the cause.

But such subjects as the sanctuary, in connection with the 2300 days, the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, are perfectly calculated to explain the past Advent movement and show

what our present position is, establish the faith of the doubting, and give certainty to the glorious future. These, I have frequently seen, were the principal subjects on which the messengers should dwell. – *Early Writings, 63*

Once again I'm going to take issue with something that Mrs. White wrote. Yes, I know. We were told repeatedly that she never made a mistake and if we questioned her then we would be severely punished with hellfire and damnation. Well, that one in itself needs to be questioned. Oh, it has been and found to be a false teaching. So, let's move on to the above passage by Mrs. White.

I'm seeing her claim that there are parts of the Bible we should ignore and instead spend our time concentrating on “present truth.” She then lists what those “present truth” issues are: The sanctuary message and the past Advent movement.

There's probably some truth in that. She may have been speaking of arguments over things that aren't a salvation issue. Some may believe that the stand many in the church have taken over the ordination of women would be considered nothing more than a red herring and should not be happening. But that isn't true. The issue of misogyny is a salvation issue. Do you worship a god who encourages abuse of women or do you worship a God that loves and promotes equality for all?

As for the passage above, she didn't live in our days. Our present truth is not her present truth. And please pardon me if I'm wrong but did she just leave Jesus out of this picture? How is knowing the size of the physical structure that is called the Sanctuary or Tabernacle or Temple going to bring us to a better knowledge of God's character? How is knowing what articles of furniture are in that building and their symbolism going to bring us to an intimate relationship with our Creator?

A knowledge of the Book won't do us a bit of good. Having a book knowledge only puffs up our egos because we know more than others. But having a knowledge of God's Love is beneficial to us. And the Bible is filled with information that will show us His Love.

Since childhood you have known the holy scriptures that help you to be wise in a way that leads to salvation through faith that is in Christ Jesus. Every scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for showing mistakes, for correcting, and for training character, so that the person who belongs to God can be equipped to do

*everything that is good. – 2 Timothy 3:15-17 Common English Bible*

There will be people who will condemn me to hell for what I have written. They are those who believe that the Holy Spirit is incapable of adequately doing his job so it is their duty to do it for Him. They will look at what I have written, determine that it is heresy and sentence me to eternal damnation.

But those people err. They do not have the ability to look into my heart and see my motive behind asking questions, coming to a different conclusion than what I was programmed to think, then publicly pointing out that I see problems with what we were taught. They must feel threatened or something when I bring to light my questions and give an explanation that they may not be able to understand or refute. Someone once became angry when she learned I had left the church because I no longer believe what the church is teaching. Rather than listen to my explanations and try to understand what I was saying, she simply demanded that I stop thinking so much.

These people don't recognize that thinking for ourselves is a God-given gift that he expects us to use. Nor do they realize that I speak out publicly because I genuinely love people and am pained to see people dying because they have been programmed to not think for themselves. We were taught that we had to know and believe the Adventist doctrines but when we questioned what they meant we were somehow discouraged for asking questions. Those questions needed to be asked and attempts needed to be made to come up with answers. Instead we were coerced into believing things that just didn't make any sense.

This type of training goes against the Bible. God invites us to ask questions and learn from Him. Learning from Him does not necessarily mean learning from the church. And let's face it, the church is teaching falsehoods. And when we're wanting to learn about God, then growing in knowledge of the truth about God is the only safe course. But our human understanding is flawed by the misinformation given to us by the church. Only God is capable of giving us a true picture of his Character which is Love and he does that through the Holy Spirit.

*Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. – Isaiah 1:18 King James Version*

I'll end this now and it's on a sad note. The sad note is that Mrs. White's writings are filled with things that we need to question. The church is filled with doctrines

that we need to question. Even the Bible itself needs to be questioned. We need to know for ourselves what the truth is. And that is the only truth that I'm willing to declare. Don't believe anything I've said simply because I've said it. Study it out for yourself and come to your own conclusions. Only you are responsible for your eternal destiny. Believing what you were told simply because you were told to believe it won't get you to heaven.

The church voted and passed the following:

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## STATEMENT OF CONFIDENCE IN THE WRITINGS OF ELLEN G WHITE

As delegates to the 2015 General Conference Session in San Antonio, Texas, we express our deep gratitude to God for the continuing presence of the various spiritual gifts among His people (1 Cor 12:4-11; Eph 4:11-14), and particularly for the prophetic guidance we have received through the life and ministry of Ellen G White (1827-1915).

On the centennial of her death, we rejoice that her writings have been made available around the globe in many languages and in a variety of printed and electronic formats. We reaffirm our conviction that her writings are divinely inspired, truly Christ-centered, and Bible-based. Rather than replacing the Bible, they uplift the normative character of Scripture and correct inaccurate interpretations of it derived from tradition, human reason, personal experience, and modern culture.

We commit ourselves to study the writings of Ellen G White prayerfully and with hearts willing to follow the counsels and instructions we find there. Whether individually, in the family, in small groups, in the classroom, or in the church, a combined study of the Bible and her writings provide a transforming and faith-uplifting experience. We encourage the continued development of both worldwide and local strategies to foster the circulation of her writings inside and outside the church. The study of these writings is a powerful means to strengthen and prepare His people for the glorious appearing of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

In the above article I highlighted a few words that we need to be aware of. By this action the church voted to place Mrs. White's writings above the Bible in that

they are giving her authority to make corrections. Will you allow her to do that for you or will you use your own brain and make your own decisions?

Now I bear witness to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy contained in this scroll: If anyone adds to them, God will add to that person the plagues that are written in this scroll. If anyone takes away from the words of this scroll of prophecy, God will take away that person's share in the tree of life and the holy city, which are described in this scroll. – Revelation 22:18 & 19

I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God's curse! As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let them be under God's curse! – Galatians 1:6-9

Happy Sabbath and much love to all,

Hannah

Note: I asked Elkanah to read this before I posted it on the internet. Sometimes I worry that I may go too far in my harassment of Mrs. White. He indicated that taking a passage from early in her ministry and using it to debunk her was going a bit far.

This isn't my intent. What I'm trying to get people to do is to stop and think for themselves. Mrs. White needs to be demystified. Just because she wrote something doesn't mean we automatically have to believe it. Just because something is written in the Bible doesn't mean we have to believe it. (Happy is the one who seizes your infants and dashes them against the rocks. – Psalm 137:9)

When we find passages that are troublesome we need to stop and ask the question what these passage say about God. Do they present him to be loving or less than loving? Do they support Bible teachings or are they church tradition or mere speculation? We must stop and study things out for ourselves so we will know that what we are believing is worthy of our belief.

There is an article in Spectrum that supports me in my feeble attempts at communicating the need to think for ourselves and not to place so much authority on Mrs. White's writings. Here's a passage from the article and they are quoting a letter to Ellen written by her estranged husband, James:

*“When you have a message from the Lord from me, I hope I shall be where I shall tremble at His word. But aside from that, you must let me be an equal, or we had better work alone. . . . Don’t be anxious about my dwelling on disagreeables anymore. I have them in my heart. But while on the stage of action I shall use the good old head God gave me until He reveals that I am wrong. Your head won’t fit my shoulders. Keep it where it belongs, and I will try to honor God in using my own. I shall be glad to hear from you, but don’t waste your precious time and strength lecturing me on matters of mere opinions” – James White (Wheeler, 222).*

Does that pique your interest to know why James would tell his wife, Ellen, to stop lecturing him on mere opinions? Perhaps you should read the entire article for yourself. Here's the link: <https://spectrummagazine.org/article/jeremy-brandeis/2011/12/02/when-james-and-ellen-white-separated>