



But in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. – Matthew 15:9

invaindotheyworshipme.com

SAY WHAT?

A thought has occurred to me and I want to follow it through here and see just where this takes me. For those of you who grew up in the SDA system in the same era that I did, or even earlier, and perhaps those who are younger, you may remember being told that there are places we should not go because if we do our guardian angel won't go in there with us. Supposedly Mrs. White stated that. Let's try to find that and see exactly what she stated (if she stated it) and use some logic to figure out what it means.

I went to egwritings.org and typed in "God will not protect". It was interesting that their search engine didn't find any instance where Mrs. White wrote the words "God will not protect." Hmm... that gives us something to ponder. There is never a time when Mrs. White wrote that God won't protect us? That was interesting. Perhaps I should have used different wording so I tried typing in "God won't protect". Again, there was no reference found where Mrs. White stated that "God won't protect."

Thinking that a different approach might work I typed in the words "God will not send". This time I had a bit of luck. There were 6 instances found where those words were used. But two of those instances were duplicates and the third was a personal message to someone she was chastising. Of the two instances that were duplicated one was the message that God won't send angels to do the work that he has given us to do and that is the message of spreading the truth about God. The other message was worth mentioning here:

Moses would never have been prepared for his position of trust had he waited for God to do the work for him. Light from heaven will

come to those who feel the need of it, and who seek for it as for hidden treasures. But if we sink down into a state of inactivity, willing to be controlled by Satan's power, God will not send His inspiration to us. Unless we exert to the utmost the powers which He has given us, we shall ever remain weak and inefficient. Much prayer and the most vigorous exercise of the mind are necessary if we would be prepared to do the work which God would entrust to us. Many never attain to the position which they might occupy, because they wait for God to do for them that which He has given them power to do for themselves. All who are fitted for usefulness in this life must be trained by the severest mental and moral discipline, and then God will assist them by combining divine power with human effort. – 4 Testamonies 611

By this passage we are warned that God won't be doing the work of perfecting our characters unless we are actively engaging our own thought processes and using the brains God gave us to study and reason things out for ourselves. This means we don't swallow what we are told without first chewing on it and deciding for ourselves that it is something that is true. And to protect us from being fooled by the multitude of false teachings that are out there we must be studying diligently. But there was a bit more to what she said. We must be trained by the severest mental and moral discipline.

Moral. Interesting word.

There is the teaching out there that you cannot go to heaven if you eat meat, cheese, eggs, use milk, wade on the Sabbath, imbibe in caffeine, etc.... Ouch! I just said caffeine and that is a vice that has its hooks deeply embedded in me.

Let's look at this issue of substance and behavior through the lens of love rather than the lens of the human law. To state that a particular behavior will keep you from heaven is to make the claim that God is arbitrary. I've looked that word up before. It means that you have the power to make rules on a whim without any reason or cause, then dole out punishments to those who don't abide by your rules. Another definition of arbitrary is tyrant. So to teach that God is arbitrary is to teach that God is a tyrant. And there is the teaching that the Sabbath is an arbitrary test of loyalty to God.

I don't like where this is going and I'm getting off the subject which is supposed to be the teaching that there are places you can go where God won't send his angels to protect you. But before I get back to that let me state that what I said above about the substance use/behavior was looking at it through the lens of

the human law construct. If you look at it through the lens of love which is the law that God created the universe to operate on, then you recognize that using some things aren't healthy for us. Some foods will clog up your arteries causing blood flow to be restricted thereby placing you at risk of stroke or heart attack. Some foods or drinks or medications will clog your brain causing the Holy Spirit to have difficulties in reaching you. Those difficulties wouldn't be there if you were living a healthy life thereby granting the Holy Spirit easier access to your mind where he can then impart life-saving information about God.

That second explanation promotes a healthier, more loving picture of God and that is a God that I can easily, no, eagerly love and worship. And as for my personal caffeine habit, this is day 10 without the stuff. I woke up Wednesday of last week, looked at the Dr. Pepper in my refrigerator and thought, "Yuck!" I looked at the Keurig and thought, "Gross!" Suddenly I don't have the desire for the drug and I'm not going to fight that aversion. Yesterday I began experiencing pain in my legs and it's with me still. I know from experience that it's just my body detoxing and it will pass. It's cool how God works to remove obstacles when we recognize they are a problem and sincerely ask for help.

Back to the teaching that angels won't protect us. By the above passage written by Mrs. White, we need to use our brains to figure things out for ourselves. So, I'm writing this for me and sharing with you what I've found. You need to use your own brains to decide for yourself if what I'm writing makes any sense at all or if I've been sucking on too many lemons.

The teaching I have been contemplating for a few days is the teaching that there are places we can go that angels won't go with us. Let's think that through logically. If there is some place that an angel won't go with us then we might want to go there in order to get away from that recording angel who is following us around with a pen and paper writing down every act that we do. Since he won't follow us into a heathenish place then we are free to imbibe in all the sin that we want while we are in there and God will never know about it because there isn't an angel there to write it down.

Sound cool? Keep reading.

The argument to this logic is that it's the guardian angel who won't go with us but the recording angel will go with us. However, this can't be. If our guardian angel were to ever leave our side for only a moment, no matter how brief that moment may be, there would be an evil angel there and would take advantage of that moment to kill us. Our lives are forfeit the moment our guardian angel steps away from us. Furthermore, if the recording angel is willing to go into

those places where other angels won't go then the recording angel is actually an evil angel and anything he writes about us is all a pack of lies. Therefore we are all, each and every one of us, screwed. We have no chance. God is ignorant of our actions without being able to see what that evil recording angel has written and when he does get around to reading what has been recorded, his judgment for us will be the judgment of damnation.

OK. Take a deep breath and let it out. This teaching has to be false. Let me share with you a couple statements I found:

Babylon is said to be “the mother of harlots.” By her daughters must be symbolized churches that cling to her doctrines and traditions, and follow her example of sacrificing the truth and the approval of God, in order to form an unlawful alliance with the world. The message of Revelation 14, announcing the fall of Babylon must apply to religious bodies that were once pure and have become corrupt. Since this message follows the warning of the judgment, it must be given in the last days; therefore it cannot refer to the Roman Church alone, for that church has been in a fallen condition for many centuries. Furthermore, in the eighteenth chapter of the Revelation the people of God are called upon to come out of Babylon. According to this scripture, many of God’s people must still be in Babylon. And in what religious bodies are the greater part of the followers of Christ now to be found? Without doubt, in the various churches professing the Protestant faith. At the time of their rise these churches took a noble stand for God and the truth, and His blessing was with them. Even the unbelieving world was constrained to acknowledge the beneficent results that followed an acceptance of the principles of the gospel. In the words of the prophet to Israel: “Thy renown went forth among the heathen for thy beauty: for it was perfect through My comeliness, which I had put upon thee, saith the Lord God.” But they fell by the same desire which was the curse and ruin of Israel—the desire of imitating the practices and courting the friendship of the ungodly. “Thou didst trust in thine own beauty, and playedst the harlot because of thy renown.”Ezekiel 16:14, 15.

Many of the Protestant churches are following Rome’s example of iniquitous connection with “the kings of the earth”—the state churches, by their relation to secular governments; and other denominations, by seeking the favor of the world. And the term “Babylon”—confusion—may be appropriately applied to these bodies, all professing to derive their doctrines from the Bible, yet

divided into almost innumerable sects, with widely conflicting creeds and theories. – The Great Controversy, 382, 383

The different parties of professed Advent believers have each a little truth, but God has given all these truths to His children who are being prepared for the day of God. He has also given them truths that none of these parties know, neither will they understand. Things which are sealed up to them, the Lord has opened to those who will see and are ready to understand. If God has any new light to communicate, He will let His chosen and beloved understand it, without their going to have their minds enlightened by hearing those who are in darkness and error.

I was shown the necessity of those who believe that we are having the last message of mercy, being separate from those who are daily imbibing new errors. I saw that neither young nor old should attend their meetings; for it is wrong to thus encourage them while they teach error that is a deadly poison to the soul and teach for doctrines the commandments of men. The influence of such gatherings is not good. If God has delivered us from such darkness and error, we should stand fast in the liberty wherewith He has set us free and rejoice in the truth. God is displeased with us when we go to listen to error, without being obliged to go; for unless He sends us to those meetings where error is forced home to the people by the power of the will, He will not keep us. The angels cease their watchful care over us, and we are left to the buffetings of the enemy, to be darkened and weakened by him and the power of his evil angels; and the light around us becomes contaminated with the darkness. – Early Writings, 124

As a child I was taught that it was the Catholics who are the harlots. And any interaction with a Catholic will lead a person into committing the unforgivable sin which was, are you ready for this... I was taught that the unforgivable sin is the act of adultery. And I found written documentation that would lead one to think that the church may have actually taught that. But I'm not going into that here. So, by what I was taught, Catholics are whores and just knowing one will lead us into the act of committing adultery.

EXCUSE ME?!!!

That is nothing more than poppycock! Pure rubbish! It's hooey! People who are members of the Catholic church are also God's children and God loves them just as much as he loves those who despise and fear people who are different from what they are. He even loves those who are afraid of Catholics.

Why would the church teach that nonsense to us kids? If they are going to teach Ellen White literally and claim that she never made a mistake, then there needs to be an explanation given as to why they are ignoring the above passages I just referenced.

According to those passages Mrs. White stated that the church is corrupt and God won't protect those who are going to church and listening to messages that are presenting a false picture of Him. And what is it he won't protect them from? He won't protect them from falling for the deceit if they choose to willingly imbibe in the fallacy.

Is there a church out there that is teaching the entire truth? I don't think so. And for me, I follow the counsel of Jesus when he was speaking of Babylon and telling his people to come out of her. Babylon means confusion and what is more confusing than over 30 thousand different religions and each claiming to be the only church who is teaching the truth.

To sum this all up, if we teach that there are places we can go that our angels won't go with us thereby we lose their protection, then by the words of Mrs. Ellen White it is unsafe for us to be going to church.

End of rant.

With love and blessings to all,

Hannah

Copyright 2019 by Hannah