

Lecture No. 36

Dated: . February 24, 2018 .

. God Teaching his Word .

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No. 1.) In our last lecture, No.35, we learned the same method of Bible study that William Miller used, that of 1 Corinthians 2:13, *comparing spiritual things with spiritual*, which is how the Holy Ghost teaches. This is very important because Satan seeks in every way to ridicule, prove false, and destroy this simple method; and Satan's ways are legion. We will be getting into that at a later time; right now we want to address a very clear point. Should you write a letter to me, and I do not understand, say, eighty percent of what you are trying to tell me, should I go off and find someone else to ask them what it is you mean? or should I come to you? The answer should be obvious, I need to ask the author of the letter, not someone else. Yet, this wrong course is exactly what all must learn to do who attend a seminary. It's no small wonder then that Isaiah 28:7-8 says, "But they also **have erred through wine, and through strong drink are out of the way**; the priest and the prophet **have erred through strong drink**, they are swallowed up of wine, **they are out of the way through strong drink**; they err in vision, they stumble in judgment. **For all tables are full of vomit and filthiness, so that there is no place clean.**"

No. 2.) To help all to understand what we have just covered, we present a portion of what God says about it. This is taken from the Supplement to the Christian Experience and Views of EGW, pages 43-45. “I HAVE been shown the false shepherds, that they were drunk, but not with wine; they stagger but not with strong drink. The truth of God is sealed up to them; they cannot read it. When they are interrogated as to what the seventhday Sabbath is, whether it is the true Sabbath of the Bible, they lead the mind to fables. I saw that the prophets were like the foxes of the deserts. They have not gone up into the gaps, they have not made up the hedge, that the people of God may stand in the battle in the day of the Lord. When these shepherds see the minds of any stirred up, and they begin to inquire of them about the truth, they take the easiest and best manner for themselves, to quiet their minds and effect their object, even to the changing of their own position. Light has shone to many of these shepherds; but they would not acknowledge it, but have changed their position a number of times to evade the truth and get away from conclusions that they must come to, if they continued in their former positions; while the power of truth tore up their foundation. And instead of yielding to the force of truth, they would get upon another platform, that they were not satisfied with themselves. I saw that many of these shepherds had denied the past teachings of God; had denied and rejected the glorious truths which they once zealously advocated, and covered them with mesmerism, and all kinds of delusions. I saw they were drunken, but not with wine, they staggered but not with strong

drink. They were drunken with error, and were leading on their flock to death. Many of the opposers of God's truth, devise mischief in their heads upon their beds, and in the day, they carry out their mischief and wicked devices, to put down the truth, and get something new to interest, and take the minds of their people, and divert them from the precious, all important truth. I saw that the priests who are leading on their flock to death, are soon to be arrested in their dreadful career. The plagues of God are coming, and after one or two has fallen, and they are tormented with the plagues, it is not enough; for all this, his hand is stretched out still, and will not be brought to himself again, until his purposes are fully accomplished, and they will be led to worship at the saints' feet, and acknowledge that God has loved them, because they held fast the truth, and kept God's commandments. And his hand is stretched out still in wrath and justice, and he will not rest from his anger, until the hireling priests and all the unrighteous are destroyed from the earth.

No. 3.) Now we have a clear understanding of what God was actually saying, through Isaiah. Both wine and strong drink is a symbol and defined as error. Certainly today God's saints must separate themselves from the gross errors of any church they are associated with, for membership means giving support.

No. 4.) Further encouragement to ask God to teach you exactly what he means in his word, comes in several forms, today we are sharing a few highlights.

No. 5.) We have this from the 1858 Great Controversy, page 128, in the chapter about William Miller. “I saw that God sent his angel to move upon the heart of a farmer who had not believed the Bible, and led him to search the prophecies. Angels of God repeatedly visited that chosen one, and guided his mind, and opened his understanding to prophecies which had ever been dark to God's people. The commencement of the chain of truth was given him, and he was led on to search for link after link, until he looked with wonder and admiration upon the word of God. He saw there a perfect chain of truth. That Word which he had regarded as uninspired, now opened before his vision with beauty and glory. He saw that one portion of scripture explained another, and when one portion was closed to his understanding, he found in another portion of the Word that which explained it. He regarded the sacred word of God with joy, and with the deepest respect and awe.”

No. 6.) Now, to further endorse this method, we have a passage from Testimonies No.29 “When you search the Scriptures with an earnest desire to learn the truth, God will breathe his Spirit into your heart, and impress your mind with the light of his word. The Bible is its own interpreter, one passage explaining another. By comparing scriptures

referring to the same subjects you will see beauty and harmony of which you have never dreamed. There is no other book the perusal of which strengthens and enlarges, elevates and ennobles the mind, as does this Book of books. Its study imparts new vigor to the mind, which is thus brought in contact with subjects requiring earnest thought, and is drawn out in prayer to God for power to comprehend the truths revealed. If the mind is left to deal with common-place subjects, instead of deep and difficult problems, it will become narrowed down to the standard of the matter which it contemplates, **and will finally lose its power of expansion.** p. 160, Para. 1,[29OT].

No. 7.) In Testimonies No.20, page 44, top line, well, actually it starts on page 43, we have a very interesting thing that is said about the authentic Spirit of Prophecy; it is identified as having a portion of the very same qualities as God's word. Surprised? I was. Here it is, *“God has been pleased to give you line upon line, and precept upon precept.”* Remember Isaiah 28? you might want to go back and take another look at it.....

No. 8.) This next passage is from Testimonies No.30 and gives some very important counsel to all, but again, notice the real items used, see if you can find the definition of what this real item is pointing to. *“None are in greater danger than he who feels that his mountain standeth sure.* It is then that his feet will begin to slide. Temptations will come, one after another, and so imperceptible will be their influence upon the life

and character, that, unless kept by divine power, he will be corrupted by the spirit of the world, and will fail to carry out the purpose of God. All that man has, God has given him, and he who improves his abilities to God's glory, will be an instrument to do good; but we can no more live a religious life without constant prayer and the performance of religious duties, than we can have physical strength without partaking of temporal food. **[We must daily sit down at God's table.](#)** We must receive strength from **[the Living Vine](#)**, if we are nourished. p. 55, Para. 2, [30OT]. The course which some have pursued, in using worldly policy to accomplish their purposes, is not in harmony with the will of God. They see evils which need correcting, and instead of courageously meeting these things, they do not wish to bring down reproach upon their own head, and therefore throw the burden upon another, and let him meet the difficulties which they have shunned; and in too many cases the one who uses plain speech is made the great offender. p. 56, Para. 1, [30OT]. Brethren, I entreat you to move with an eye single to the glory of God. Let his power be your dependence, his grace your strength. By study of the Scriptures, and earnest prayer, seek to obtain clear conceptions of your duty, and then faithfully perform it. **[It is essential that you cultivate faithfulness in little things, and in thus doing, you will acquire habits of integrity in greater responsibilities.](#)** The little incidents of every-day life often pass without our notice; but it is these things that shape the character. Every event of life is great for good or for evil. **[The mind needs to be trained by daily tests, that it may acquire power to stand in any difficult position.](#)** In the days of trial and of peril, you will need to be

fortified to stand firmly for the right, independent of every opposing influence. p. 56, Para. 2, [30OT]. **God is willing to do much for you, if you will only feel your need of him.** Jesus loves you. **Ever seek to walk in the light of God's wisdom;** and through all the changing scenes of life, **do not rest unless you know that your will is in harmony with the will of your Creator.** Through faith in him you may obtain strength to resist every temptation of Satan, and thus increase in moral power with every test from God. p. 57, Para. 1, [30OT]. You may become men of responsibility and influence, if by the power of your will, united with the divine strength, you earnestly engage in the work. **Exercise the mental powers, and in no case neglect the physical.** Let not intellectual slothfulness close up your path to greater knowledge. Learn to reflect as well as to study, that your minds may expand, strengthen, and develop. **Never think that you have learned enough,** and that you may now relax your efforts. **The cultivated mind is the measure of the man. Your education should continue during your life-time;** every day you should be learning, and putting to practical use the knowledge gained. p. 57, Para. 2, [30OT].

No. 9.) Now for a bonus text, something to meditate on, exercise your mind upon, as we have just learned from our lecture today. It is full of real items and symbols, it's up to you to find the definitions. Isaiah 49:2 And he hath made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand hath he hid me, and made me a polished shaft; in his quiver hath he hid me;

And that is...

~ **The End** ~

of our Presentation for Today,

God Bless your Study

