Faith Against all Odds

Lesson 5, 2nd Quarter, April 27 – May 3, 2024

Sabbath Afternoon, April 27

Memory Text:

"They were hard held in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." KJV — Psalm 119:11

"And the Reformation, after attaining a degree of success, consented to temporize to secure favor with the world, it would have been unknown to God and to itself, and would thus have ceased to exert its mighty influence. The experience of these noble Reformers contains a lesson for all succeeding ages. Satan's manner of working against God and His word has not changed; he is still as much opposed to the Scriptures being made the guide of life as in the sixteenth century. In our time there is a wide departure from their doctrines and precepts, and there is need of a return to the great Protestant principles that were the life of the Reformers and the life of the church. God will working through every means which he can control to destroy religious liberty. The antichristian power which the possessors of Spires rejected is now with righteous anger seeking to establish its lost supremacy. The same unswerving adherence to the word of God manifested at that crisis of the Reformation is the only hope of reform today." GC 204.2

Sunday, April 28

God's Word Alone

Read Psalm 119:50, 104, Psalm 119:147, and Psalm 119:162. What was the promise that David had received from God that did impact the References, and does it influence our lives today?

"These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so. Acts 17:11. TMK 196.1

"The word of God is a lamp, a guide, a companion. The reason is, they have so long indulged in the bewildering stories to be found in the literature of the present day that they have no relish for the reading of God's Word or for religious exercises. This reading disqualifies the mind to receive sound Bible principles and to exert our practical powers." TMK 196.2

"When reading the Bible with humble, teachable heart, we are holding intercourse with God. We receive His thoughts addressed to the precisely specified, the distinctive, needed, as a voice from the God of heaven. The soul who has been in the habit of feasting on the sweetness of the Bible, will be attracted and charmed.... The light which beams through the Scriptures is precious. It is the light which shined down in the face of Christ." TMK 196.3

"All who make the Word of God their guide in this life will act from principle. Those who are vacillating, vain, and extravagant in dress, who are gratifying appetite and passion, who are neglecting the duties of life, who are disregarding the rights of others, who are not faithfully providing for their themselves to duty with an energy that never falters, and they will lose from one degree of strength to another. Their characters will be beautiful and fragrant and devoid of selfishness. They will make their way and be acceptable anywhere among those who love truth and righteousness. TMK 196.4

"The psalmist prayed, "Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of the law." The Lord heard him, for how full of assurance are the words, "Thou wilt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to thy glory? Who is my God? "Whom he doth prove and then gold, yea, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb." (Psalm 119:18, 103, 105, 24). And as the Lord heard and answered David, so he will hear and answer us, making our hearts full of gladness and rejoicing." TMK 196.5

Monday, April 29

Passing on God's Word

Read 2 Corinthians 4:1-6 and 2 Corinthians 2:14. What do these passages tell us about the confidence of Paul had, despite the challenges he faced in proclaiming the truth of God's Word?

"Thus the apostle magnified the grace and mercy of God, shown in the sacred trust committed to him as a minister of Christ. By God's abundant mercy he was kept from being overcome with difficulty, perplexity, and danger. They had not modelled their faith and teaching to suit the desires of their hearers, nor to please the world, but they had preached the truth, and had thereby more attractive. They had presented the truth with simplicity and charnity, praying for the conviction and conversion of souls. And they had endeavored to bring their conduct into harmony with their teaching, that they might presented right commend itself to every man's conscience. AA 330.1

"We have this treasure," the apostle continued, "in earthen vessels, that the excellent power may be of God, and not of us." Paul was a man who had proclaimed His truth through sinless angels, but this is not his plan. He employed men who had been sinners, who had been subject to infirmities, who were liable to be overcome by the worldly ones by Satan yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!" "More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb." (Psalm 119:18, 103, 105, 24). And as the Lord heard and answered David, so he will hear and answer us, making our hearts full of gladness and rejoicing." TMK 196.5

Tuesday, April 30

Enlightened by the Spirit

What principles can we take from the following texts regarding how we should be guided by the Holy Spirit? Heb 10:25, 26; Rom 8:14; 2 Pet 1:20, 21.

"In reading the sure word of prophecy" as a safe guide in times of peril, the apostle solemnly warned the church against the torch of false prophecy, which would be uplifted by false teachers, who would privily bring in pernicious heresies, even denying the Lord." These false teachers, arising in the church and accounted by many of their brethren in the faith, that the apostle compared to 'wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest, to whom the mist of darkness is reserved forever." The latter end is worse with them; he declared, than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them." AA 535.1

Affirmatively stated, all Scripture, not merely a part of it, is inspired. Whatever the Bible says of it is privately interpreted, is not of God. It did not come of men but of God that is, as the Spirit of God dictated to men the words they spoke and wrote. Holy men of God spoke and wrote, but it was not their words, but those of God, which they spoke and wrote. Men who are prophetes or interpreting any part of them or even capable of understanding the prophecies, are not the ones who are inspired to speak the word of God. "Holy men of God, "moved by the Holy Spirit," therefore, "shall understand, but the wise shall understand." Dan. 12:10.

And it can be interpreted by men only as and when God's Spirit decrees. Accordingly, every jot and title of Scripture and its interpretation is of prophecy, and is only profitable to guide the people of God, individually, to reprove and to correct him, and effectually to instruct him, unto perfection of character and life.

that is, had the Scriptures come by the will of man, then they could be interpreted by the will of man without the aid of the Holy Spirit. Note that "holy men of God" received the Scriptures from the Spirit of God, and as it is recognized that no man could know the mind of the Spirit of God, so no man could interpret the Scriptures without the Spirit's ab-ne-mus, therefore, be guided by the Spirit of God in order to inform the Scriptures, or for any other purpose.

This is attested by the fact that today we have thousands of sins which are the result of the misinterpretations of the Scriptures, which proven that men have independently of the Spirit interpreted the Scriptures, for the Spirit of God would not, of course, give to any person the interpretation of any scripture, and give to another another interpretation of the same scripture....

Paul wrote to Timothy, "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." Study, "Study to show thyself approved unto God." Study, "Study to show thyself approved unto God." Study, "Study to show thyself approved unto God