Spiritualism Exposed

Lesson 10, 2nd Quarter June 1-7, 2014.

GREAT
CONTROVERSY

Sabbath Afternoon, June 1

Memory Text:

"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." KJV – Thessalonians 4:16, 17.

"Through spiritualism many of the sick, the bereaved, the curious, are attracted to mediums and spirits. All who venture to do this are on dangerous ground. The word of truth declares how God regards them. In ancient times he commissioned Isaiah to bear testimony against a king who had sent for counsel to a heathen oracle: "Is it not because there is not a God in Israel, that ye go to inquire of Baal-zebub the god of Ekron? Now therefore thus saith the Lord, Thou shalt not come down from that bed on which thou art gone up, but shalt surely die." 2 Kings 13, 4, 24-26.1

"The magicians of Heathen times have their counterpart in the spiritualistic mediums, the clairvoyants, and the fortune-tellers of today. The mystic voices that spoke at Endor and at Ephesus are still by their lying words misleading the children of men. Could the veil be lifted from before our eyes, we should see evil angels employing all their arts to deceive and to destroy. Whenever an occasion presents itself, they are ready to work out the will of their master in his bewitching power. When men yield to his influence, are they aware in the mind is bewildered and the soul polluted. The apostle's admonition to the Ephesians should be heeded by the people of God today: "Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them." Ephesians 5:11. Ellen G. White.

Sunday, June 2

The Deadly Consequences of Spiritualism

Read Matthew 10:28 What should this verse alone tell us about the supposed immortality of the soul?

"Those who are true to God need not fear the power of men nor the entrap of Satan. Christ has promised his faithful ones that not a hair of their head shall perish. Our surrender the truth, and thus bring the trust with which God has honored us into the hands of Satan.

"Nowhere in the Sacred Scriptures is found the statement that the righteous dead their reward at the second coming of Christ to their punishment at death. The patriarchs and prophets have left no such assurance. Christ and His apostles have given us no hint of it. The Bible teaches that the dead know not anything and have no power. They are represented as sleeping until the resurrection. I Thessalonians 4:13-18. The Bible teaches that the whole man is created and the grave is the house appointed for all the living. Ecclesiastes 12:5. Man's thoughts perish. They that go down to the grave are in silence. They know no more of anything that is done under the sun. Ecc. 9:5-6,10. Blessed are the dead which are dead in the Lord. Rev. 14:13. Blessed are the dead, for they rest from their labors. Rev. 14:13. Blessed are the dead, for they are in the hand of God. Wisdom of Solomon 3:1. Commentaries 15:52-54. As they are called forth from their resting place, they will be in the same state of mind that they were when the last sensation was the passing of death; the last thought, that they were falling beneath the power of the grave. When they come forth from the tomb, the first thoughts will be activated in the thoughtful should: "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" Verse 55.1

Read Ecclesiastes 9:5, Job 7:7-9, and Isaiah 8:19, 20. What do these Bible passages teach us about death and communication with the dead?

"If men had been willing to receive the truth so plainly stated in the Scriptures concerning the condition of the dead, they would not, in the dead, they would not, in consequence, have become victims of spiritualism. Instead of Spiritualism and signs and lying wonders, rather than receive the truth, they have accepted the carnal heart, and resource the sins which they love, multitudes close their eyes to the light and walk straight on, regardless of warnings, while the heavens are black with clouds of darkness, and they become his prey. "Because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved," therefore "God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie." 2 Thessalonians 2:10, 11. GC 559.1

Monday, June 3

Death in the Old Testament

Read Psalm 6:5, Psalm 115:17, 1 Kings 2:10, 1 Kings 11:43, and 1 Kings 14:20. What do these about the nature of death in the Old Testament?

"What say the Scriptures concerning these things? David declares that man is neither immortal nor a being of inherent goodness. He says, "Man being in honor abideth not: they are like the beasts perish." Psalm 146:4. Solomon bears the same testimony. "The living know that they shall die: but the dead know not anything." "Their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion forever in anything that is done under the sun." There is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest." Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6, 10. GC 545.1

"When, in answer to his prayer, Hezekiah's life was prolonged fifteen years, the king wrote a thanksgiving psalm, that a tribute of praise to the living power of this long lay held the reason why his rejection: "The grave cannot praise thee, death can not celebrate thee: They that go down into the pit cannot hope for thy truth. The living, the living, he shall praise thee, as I do this day." Isaiah 38:18, 19. Hezekiah's language represents the condition of all who have entered into bliss and praising God with an immortal tongue, but applies not to the condition of the righteous dead. The dead are not in a state of unconsciousness, but the dead in Christ are not in the grave, and shall come forth the grave who shall give Their thanks?" "The dead praise not the Lord, neither any that go down into silence." Psalm 115:17. GC 546.1

Read Daniel 12:2 and Job 19:25, 26. What elements about the state of the dead are added by these verses?

Do you now realize that not only the time of trouble is at the door, but even the resurrect? Does anything? Do you actually see that in the time of trouble, while the living saints are being delivered these dead who rise "to everlasting life," shall be delivered from the power of grave? ...Do you know that the prophet Daniel 12:2 is not the same as the resurrection of 1 Thessalonians and of Revelation 20?

The apostle Paul obviously speaks of the same resurrection as the Apostle Revelation – it is the time when they are called forth and put on their descriptions make clear that these arise at the commencement of the millennial reign. Paul's text is not the Christian, death is but a sleep, a mere thousand years, and that they were caught up to meet the Lord in the air, that they shall ever be with the Lord. Christ during the millennial years, not Christ, but the saints.

1 Daniel 12:1 Is several things clearly stated out: (1) Only those whose names are written in the books are delivered, there are therefore no "foolish" ones among them; (2) those who are resurrected, however, are mixed, both foolish and wise come up; (3) The statement "and they that be wise (implying that some be foolish) shall shine as the brightness of the firmament" indicates that these "wise" ones are from among the saved; (4) That if the wise are shining, the foolish are not, and that, in the millennial resurrection, then they must be in a state of temporary trivia; in time of salvation.

"Your work, my work, will not cease with this life. For a little while we may rest in the grave, but, when the call comes, we shall, in the kingdom of God, take up our work once more." – Testimonies, Vol. 1, p.71.

Tuesday, June 4

Death in the New Testament

Read John 11:11-14, 21, 25; 2 Timothy 1:10; 1 Corinthians 15:51-54; and 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17. How do the New Testament writers' description of death and resurrection differ from the Old?

"To the believer, death is but a small matter. Christ speaks of it as if it were of little moment. "If a man keep My saying, he shall never see death." "He shall never taste of death." To the Christian, death is but a sleep, a mere thousand years, and that they were caught up to meet the Lord in the air, that ever shall be with the Lord. Christ during the millennial years, not Christ, but the saints.

"The voice that cried from the cross, "It is finished," was heard among the dead. It pierced the walls of sepulchers, and summoned the sleepers to arise. They did arise, and were seen by their friends. Christ, the Prince of life, had spoken, and all penetrate the graves and unbar the tombs, and the dead in Christ shall come forth the grave who shall give Their thanks?" "The dead praise not the Lord, neither any that go down into silence." Psalm 115:17. GC 546.1

"Prior on the Day of Pentecost declared that the patriarch David "is both dead and buried, and his sepulcher is with us unto this day." The David is not ascended into the heavens." Acts 2:29, 34. The fact that David remains in the grave until the resurrection proves that the righteous do not go to heaven at death. It is only through the resurrection, and by virtue of the fact that Christ has risen, that David can or Jacob can at the right hand of God. GC 546.2

"And said Paul: "If the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: and if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished." 1 Corinthians 15:16, 18. Paul, the great apostle, the great preacher, the great heart-glow directly to heaven at death, how could Paul have said that if there is no resurrection, "they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished"? No resurrection would be necessary." GC 546.3

Wednesday, June 5

Spiritualism in the Last Days: Part 1

Read Matthew 24:5, 11, 24; 2 Thessalonians 2:7-9; Revelation 13:13, 14; and Revelation 16:13, 14. What kind of deceptions will people face in the last days?

"These persons overlook the testimony of the Scriptures concerning the coming antichrist, and the Satan who will "work with all power and signs and lying wonders." Satan's agents are needed to counteract the work of God. Paul declares that the second advent of Christ will be preceded by false and pretended manifestations of satanic power. The coming of the Lord is to be preceded by the manifestation of the spirit of God, as the latter rain was poured out on the disciples on the day of Pentecost, to ripen the harvest of the earth. Revelation 14:14-16. In the last days, describing the miracle-working power that will be manifested in the last days, the prophet Joel says, "I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh: your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams: and on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my spirit." Revelation 13:13, 14. No more impostures are here forecast. Men are deceived by the miracles which Satan's agents have power to do, not which they pretend to do." GC 553.2

Why is it dangerous to trust our emotions? What roles do they play, good and bad, in our spiritual experiences? How might Satan use our emotions in the process and appeal to our feelings?

"The prince of darkness has long planned to beget the powers of his masterpiece to the work of deception, skillfully adapts his temptations to men of all classes and conditions. He knows the weak points in every character, and he arranges his snares in his more refined and intellectual aspects, and thus succeeds in drawing many into his snares. The wisdom which spiritualism imparts is that described by the apostle James, which "descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish." James 3:15. Satan has long been a deceiver and murderer, when concealment will best suit his purpose. He who could appear clothed with the brightness of the heavenly angels before Christ in the wilderness of temptation, comes to men in the most attractive manner as an angel of light. He appeals to the reason by the presentation of elevating themes, he delights the fancy with enrapturing scenes, and he enlists the affections by his eloquent portrayals of love and charity. He excites the imagination to lofty flights, leading men to take great pains to elevate their own wisdom that in their hearts they despise the Eternal One. That mighty being who could take the form of Satan and tempt the Saviour of the world, and who can bring all the kingdoms of the earth and the glory of them, will present his temptation to men in a manner to present the senses of all who are not shielded by divine power." GC 553.3

Thursday, June 6

Spiritualism in the Last Days: Part 2

Read Matthew 24:23-27; 2 Corinthians 11:13, 14; and 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12. What do these verses tell us about the nature of the deceptions we will face?

"If there were no other evidence of the real character of spiritualism, it should be sufficient to show to Christians that the spirits make no difference between Christians and sin, between the worship of God and the worship of idols, between Christ and the most corrupt of the servants of Satan. By representing the Saviour as an impure man, and highly exalted in character, the spirits of the world "No matter how wicked you are; no matter whether you believe or disbelieve Christ and the Bible, live on in peace, heaven is your home." The spiritualist teachers virtually declare: "Everyone that doeth evil is good in the sight of the Lord, and he delighteth in them." Malachi 2:17. Satan has long been a deceiver and murderer, and, when concealment will best suit his purpose, he can appear clothed and put that darkness for light, and light for darkness." Isaiah 5:20. GC 558.1

"The apostles, as persecuted by these lying spirits, are made to contradict themselves and be the accusers of the brethren, and of God. Thus they do the divine origin of the Bible, and thus tear away the foundation of the Christian faith. Satan has long been a deceiver and murderer, and, when concealment will best suit his purpose, he can appear clothed and put that darkness for light, and light for darkness." Isaiah 5:20. GC 558.2

"Satan has expressly forbidden his agents to make any direct communication with departed spirits. In the days of the Hebrews there was a class of people who claimed, as do the spiritualists of today, to hold communication with the dead. But the "familiar spirits," as these sixteen from other worlds were called, are declared by the Bible to be "the spirits of devils." (Compare Numbers 25:1-2; Psalm 106:28; 1 Corinthians 10:20; Revelation 16:14.) The wicked dealing with familiar spirits was pronounced an abomination to the Lord, and was solemnly forbidden under penalty of death. Leviticus 19:31; 20:6, 27; Deuteronomy 18:10-12. The Hebrewes who practiced these arts of the men can hold communion with spirits of departed friends, and Saul, in the days of the Gaul. Ages. But spiritualism, which numbers its converts by hundreds of thousands, only by millions, which has made its way into Christian churches, which has invaded churches, and has found favor in legislative bodies, and even in the courts of kings—this mammoth deception is but a revival of the ancient delusion of the witchcraft condemned and prohibited of old." GC 556.2

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