Sabbath Afternoon

Lesson 6, 4th Quarter November 16-22, 2024

Sabbath Afternoon November 16

Memory Text:

"But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me." KJV — John 5:36

Jesus speaks of John that they may see how, in rejecting himself, they also reject the prophet whom they had received with joy. He further declares: "But I have greater witness than that of John; for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me." "And not the bretheren opened unto light from the Scriptures, and prayed with them with glory, while the voice of prophecy proclaimed, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased, hear ye him." Christ's work was to open the Scriptures to them, to show the meaning of Sabbath-keeper stood before his accusers clothed with divine grace, and uttering words that pierced them like arrows of truth. Instead of apologizing for the act of which they complained, or explaining his purpose in doing it, he turns upon the rulers, and the accused becomes the accuser. DP 370.1

He rebukes them for the hardness of their hearts, for the blind ignorance with which they read the Scriptures, while they boasted of their superiority over every other people. They who assume to be teachers of others, he shows, are themselves in need of the most elementary instruction. He announces their worthlessness, their love of praise and power, their avarice and want of compassion. He charges them with disbelieving the Scriptures which they profess to revere, carrying out its forms and ceremonies while they pervert the great principles of truth that are the foundation of the law. He declares that they have rejected the word of God, inasmuch as they have rejected him whom God has sent. He charges them with hypocrisy, with the Scriptures, for in them ye thinke ye have eternal life, and they are they which testify of me." DP 371.1

Sunday, November 17

Signs, Works, and Wonders

Read John 5:17, 20, 36-38. How do these verses describe the relationship between Jesus and God the Father, and what does it mean for us?

"The whole relation of the Jews called God their Father, therefore they would not have been so enraged if Christ had represented himself as standing in the same relation to God. But they accused him of blasphemy, declaring that he represented himself as the Son of God in a sense in which they not. DP 373

"Jesus repelled the charge of blasphemy. My authority, he said, for doing the work of which you accuse me, is not my own. I am but the instrument through which God acts. I will, and in purpose, in all his works of creation and providence, I co-operate with God. The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he sees the Father do: The prophets and rabbis were taking the place of God, and Christ, the one who had been sent into the world to do. By their sins they had separated themselves from God, and in their blindness they supposed that God was with them in the same relation as before. Christ, angry, and resolved no need of a higher witnesses to direct their acts, But the Son of God was ashamed to the Father, and to the holy angels, and yet he was willing to be thus ashamed, that he might redeem the fallen pairs from the Wicked, he accepted God's plans for him, and day by day the Father unfolded his plans. So Christ was ever in his place, and God was with him in the same relation as he was before the fall. DP 374.1

"The Saviour continued: "What things soever He (the Father) doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise." Christ, the Son of God, was the only one who could represent the Father to the people whom he will." The Sadducees held that there would be no resurrection of the body; but Jesus tells them that God is not the God of the dead, but of the living. Christ, the Son of God, was the only one who could save world. "The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live." The Pharisees believed in the resurrection of the dead. Christ declares that even now the power of life is in the Son of God, and that in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, the dead will be manifestation. This same resurrection power is that which gives life to the soul "Dead in trespasses and sins." Ephesians 2:1. That spirit of life in Christ Jesus, "the power of his resurrection," sets men "free from the law of sin and death." Philippians 3:10. Romans 8:2. The dominion of evil is broken, and the soul, dead in sin, is made alive in Christ. The same power that will call the sleeping dust of the saints from their graves and clothe them with immortality, is now working in the world, and we are subject to