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—Manuscript 163, 1903

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—Manuscript 163, 1903

“Many of these angels had occupied high positions in the government of God.”

—Manuscript 87, 1903

Early Warning

“The fact that a man has been selected to be the president of a conference, does not mean that he shall have authority to rule over his fellow workmen. This is after the practice of Rome, and it cannot be tolerated, for it restricts religious liberty, and the man is led to place himself where God alone should be.”

—Letter 53, 1894

Early Warning

“Laws and rules are being made at the centers of the work that will soon be broken into atoms. Men are not to dictate. It is not for those in places of authority to employ all their powers to sustain some, while others are cast down, ignored, forsaken, and left to perish....

“The Lord does not ask permission of those in responsible positions when He wishes to use certain ones as His agents for the promulgation of truth.... None are to exercise their human authority to bind minds and souls of their fellow-men. They are not to devise and put in practice methods and plans to bring every individual under their jurisdiction....

Early Warning

“If the cords are drawn much tighter, if the rules are made much finer, if men continue to bind their fellow-laborers closer and closer to the commandments of men, many will be stirred by the Spirit of God to break every shackle, and assert their liberty in Christ Jesus....”

Early Warning

“If men will not come to the terms made by the leading workers, they will not entertain them, they do not care what results may follow their injustice. With them it is rule or ruin. God has not appointed any man to do such work. And no human being shall be permitted to prescribe my liberty or intrench upon the perfect freedom of my brethren, without hearing my voice lifted in protest against it.”

—*Review and Herald*, July 23, 1895

It's a Religious Liberty Thing

“For years, to a greater or less degree, the spirit of oppression has been leavening men in responsible positions in our offices of publication. While they have talked and written much on the subject of religious liberty, they have practiced injustice and oppression at the very heart of the work.

—Letter 16, 1895

It's a Religious Liberty Thing

“Our people, who talk of religious liberty, have lessons to learn as to what liberty in Christ really is. The Lord has marked the oppression that has been practiced.”

—Manuscript 18, 1896

It's a Religious Liberty Thing

“God desires that men shall stand in their own individual responsibility, and while they are consecrated to Him there will be unity in their diversity, as branches of the true Vine. But in the present condition of things, if one stands fast to his integrity, he is by some scorned, scouted, criticized, and dropped out if it can be brought about.”

—Manuscript 66, 1898

It's a Protestant Thing

“We are to carry out the principles of Protestantism. Popery is represented all around us, and unless every eye is single to the glory of God, this enormous system of popery will be interwoven with our faith and practice. Just as far as any of its deluded principles and practices shall insinuate themselves into our religious management and organizations, we are disabled and weakened, and hindered from doing our first work in personal reformation of character; for the principles of the papacy are directly opposed to religious freedom, and wherever they are cherished, an effort is made to control the conscience.”

—Manuscript 25, 1899

It's a Protestant Thing

“We are to stand for the true Protestant principles; for the policies of the papacy will edge their way into every place possible, to proscribe liberty of conscience.”

—Letter 332, 1908

It's a Protestant Thing

“God has not laid upon any living man the burden of jealously guarding the movements of His fellow men, for this would restrict his intelligent freedom. In following a course of this kind, men are pursuing a similar course to that of the Roman Catholics.”

—Letter 53, 1894

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—Letter 53, 1894

“The Book Committee has been following in the tread of the paths of Rome.”

—Manuscript 148, 1898

It's a Matter of Confidence

“The people have lost confidence in the management at the center of the work, and they have every reason for doing this. But if the men who cherished the principles that led to disaster could see the result of their wrong course of action, if they would humble their hearts before God, confessing their sins, the Lord would pardon their transgression and forgive their sin.”

—Letter 7a, 1897

It's a Matter of Transparency

“In the General Conference the counsels of God have been set aside, and the counsels and wisdom of men have been relied upon. God has seen this, and He is displeased. The General Conference—what is it? What does it comprehend? Is it a General Conference, or is it something wrapped up and called by that name?

“With the exception of a limited number, the people who ought to know are not intelligent in regard to its workings. A few have managed matters according to their own judgment, and the people at large know scarcely anything of what is being done at the heart of the work....

It's a Matter of Transparency

The principles of “unconsecrated men” “have been counterworking the principles of truth and righteousness. We cannot therefore present before the people that the voice of the General Conference in its decisions must move and control them; for its propositions and decisions cannot be accepted. They are not in the right line of progress....

“When the very heart of the work is diseased, its action must be uncertain, fitful, unreliable. It is time we had an investigation before as many people as possible. All who are helping to sustain the work should get together and understand its inward workings.”

—Manuscript 66, 1898

It's a Matter of Honesty

“In the councils some members have introduced principles which God has condemned. When opposed in their suggestions and devisings, they resented it. Those who would not second the propositions made were not wanted, although it was their duty to be present and to share in the deliberations and decisions. But their presence was disagreeable to the men who wished to carry things their own way.”

—Letter 24a, 1896

It's a Matter of Honesty

“There are men connected with the Lord’s work and institutions in Battle Creek who would not be corrupted. But they knew that if their voice should be heard calling things by their right names, they would soon for some pretense be left out of the councils. So Joseph and Nicodemus were appointed to do some apparently important work, that they might not be present at the mock trial of Christ. Some have felt great anxiety to carry out their own methods, and it was not pleasant to have others present who would oppose their measures.”

—Manuscript 26, 1899

It's a Matter of Honesty

“When men think that it is a good plan to exclude the people who believe the truth from having any special, expressed voice in matters concerning the management and working of the cause, they make a great mistake. It is the people’s interest and money that largely sustain the work, and as the work advances step by step, the people should be enlightened, for they are part and parcel of the work in all its movements, and in no case should their judgment be ignored. You may say, ‘They have not a correct understanding of the work.’ But when and how can they become intelligent on these matters if the work is not opened up to them?”

—Letter 53, 1894

It's a Control Thing

“Men, fallible men, are not to think it is their prerogative to control, to mark out, or to prescribe the labors of their fellow men. When God works upon the human instrumentality, let men be very careful how they intermeddle; for in its process, the work of God is divine. The work of God has often been hindered by men considering that they had power to say, “Go here” or “Go there,” “Do this” or “Do that,” without consulting the individual himself, or respecting his convictions as a laborer together with God.

It's a Control Thing

“No one has a right to control another’s mind, and judge for another, prescribing what is his duty. There are certain rights that belong to every individual, in doing God’s service. No man has any more right to take these rights from us than to take life itself. God has given us freedom to think, and it is our privilege to follow our impressions of duty. We are only human beings, and one human being has no jurisdiction over the conscience of any other human being.”

—Letter 92, 1895

It's a Control Thing

“God has promised His presence to every believer; and let those who are in positions of authority—presidents of conferences and board councils, and everyone who has to do with the human mind—respect the individuality of mind and conscience. These workers are in co-partnership with Jesus Christ, and you may interpose yourself so as to interfere with God’s plans, for the human agent is under His special authority and dictation.”

—Letter 119, 1895

It's a Matter of Principle

“In reference to our Conference, it is repeated o'er and o'er and o'er again that it is the voice of God, and therefore everything must be referred to the Conference, and have the Conference's voice in regard to permission or restriction, or what shall be and what shall not be done in the various fields....

“We have heard enough, abundance about, ‘Everything must go around in the regular lines.’ When we see the regular lines are impressed and purified and refined, and the God of the Heavens' mold is upon the regular lines, then it is our business to establish the regular lines....

It's a Matter of Principle

“The managers of the regular lines, they must have an entire change, an entire new organization, and to have a Committee that shall take in not merely a half a dozen that is to be a ruling and a controlling power....

“The management, it is becoming confused in itself—not that any one means to be wrong or to do wrong; but the principle is wrong, and the principles have become so mixed and so foreign from what God's principles are....

It's a Matter of Principle

“And we want men that shall stand just as true as the compass to the pole; and God will test these men, and unless they can show a better idea of what principle is, what sanctified and heavenly and Christlike principle is, why then they will have to be changed, and try another. But God is going to have a change.

—Manuscript 43d, 1901

It's a Matter of Principle

“I tell you, my brother, the Lord is always making new channels. When the old ones become full up or are clogged, He makes new channels, and whenever He makes a new channel, it is regular. This is gospel truth, and I beg of you to study it until you can stand beside Brethren Irwin and Haskell in its maintenance before our people. If we reject this principle, we place ourselves beside the Jews who refused to recognize Paul because he was not numbered among the twelve apostles whom Jesus first chose.”

—W.C. White to C.H. Jones, August 15, 1899

It's a One Way Or...

“There is no need to doubt, to be fearful that the work will not succeed. God is at the head of the work, and He will set everything in order. If matters need adjusting at the head of the work, God will attend to that, and work to right every wrong. Let us have faith that God is going to carry the noble ship which bears the people of God safely into port.”

—*Review and Herald*, September 20, 1892

...the Other Thing

“Brethren, God is in earnest with us. I want to tell you that if after the warnings given in these burnings, the leaders of our people go right on, just as they have done in the past, exalting themselves, God will take the bodies next. Just as surely as He lives, He will speak to them in language that they cannot fail to understand.”

—Manuscript 11, 1903

It's a Medical Missionary Thing

“If you feel no interest in the work that is going forward, if you will not encourage medical missionaries to work in the churches, they will do it without your consent, for this work must and will be done. Brother Smith [long-time editor of the Review and Herald], Brother Durland [Michigan Conference president, 1897–1898], Brother Evans [Michigan Conference president, 1891–1897], Brother Irwin [General Conference president, 1897–1901], in the name of the Lord, I call upon you to take your position on the Lord’s side. Do not be found fighting against God.”

—Letter 51, 1898

It's a Medical Missionary Thing

“There is enough wealth in your conference to carry forward this work successfully; and shall the prince of darkness be left in undisputed possession of our great cities because it costs something to sustain missions? Let those who would follow Christ fully come up to the work, even if it be over the heads of ministers and president.”

—*Testimonies*, vol. 5, 369

It's a Matter of Humility

“It seems to me, Brother Evans, that you stand where Rehoboam stood. He represented the chosen family appointed of God to rule the chosen nation of the earth. He was surrounded by everything that was regular, that was sacred in the eyes of the people, and he was appealed to to correct certain evils. If he had humbled himself to the work and given it the attention which it deserved, he could have preserved a united nation. But he preferred to believe that the reverence of the people for the institutions which he represented was so strong that they would stand by the royal family without any assurance that evils would be investigated and corrected.”

—W.C. White to I.H. Evans, February 19, 1907

LESSONS FROM ANCIENT ISREAL

“Rehoboam was flattered by the prospect of exercising supreme authority...”

“Had Rehoboam and his inexperienced counselors understood the divine will concerning Israel, they would have listened to the request of the people for decided reforms in the administration of the government. But in the hour of opportunity that came to them during the meeting in Shechem, they failed to reason from cause to effect, and thus forever weakened their influence over a large number of the people. Their expressed determination to perpetuate and add to the oppression...was in direct conflict with God's plan for Israel, and gave the people ample occasion to doubt the sincerity of their motives. In this unwise and unfeeling attempt to exercise power, the king and his chosen counselors revealed the pride of position and authority.” Prophets and Kings 89,90