

Back to “THE OLD PATHS”

“Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein.” Jeremiah 6:16

For Many years messages of solemn warning and earnest appeal, such as the following, were sent of God to Seventh-day Adventists—

“As Jesus views the state of His professed followers today, He sees base ingratitude, hollow formalism, hypocritical insincerity, pharisaical pride and apostasy.” 5T p. 72 “My heart aches day after day and night after night for our churches. Many are progressing, but in the back track.” 5T p. 93 “They must face square about. I know what I say. Unless they shall become Christians indeed, they will go from weakness to weakness, divisions will increase, and many souls will be led to perdition.” 5T p. 93 “You are following the same path as did ancient Israel.” 5T p. 75 “The sin of ancient Israel was in disregarding the expressed will of God and following their own way according to the leadings of unsanctified hearts. Modern Israel are fast following in their footsteps, and the displeasure of the Lord is as surely resting upon them.” 5T p. 93

For long years, too, the Lord demanded that a “decided” and “thorough” reformation should take place among His professed people.—

“I call upon all who have united in a course of action that is wrong in principle, to make a decided reformation and forever after walk humbly with God. . . .” 8T p. 68 “The time has come for a thorough reformation to take place.” 8T p. 251

And God Made clear, also, just where the work of reform should begin, and just how it should be conducted.—

“A reformation is needed among the people, but it should first begin its purifying work with the ministers. (Leaders)” 1T p. 469 “A revival and a reformation must take place, under the ministration of the Holy Spirit. Revival and reformation are two different things. Revival signifies a renewal of spiritual life, a quickening of the powers of mind and heart, a resurrection from spiritual death. Reformation signifies a reorganization, a change in ideas and theories, habits and practices. Reformation will not bring forth the good fruit of righteousness unless it is connected with the revival of the Spirit. Revival and reformation are to do their appointed work, and in doing this work they must blend.” RH, February 25, 1902

But God’s plans for this, surely the most important of all work at this time, have not been followed. The leaders do not acknowledge, repent of, and turn away from their unrighteous condition—their disloyalty to revealed light—their hypocrisy—their APOSTASY. They say, as did unfaithful men of old, “Wherein shall we return?” Hence their present efforts for reform—“among the people,” but excluding themselves—are out of harmony with divine instruction. The work is not carried forward “under the ministrations of the Holy Spirit,” and God will not—He cannot—prosper a partial counterfeit effort. It is neither “decided” nor “thorough,” and it must therefore fail.

But in spite of man’s faithlessness, God has promised that a great spiritual revival and reformation will take place among His people, and He has made positive provision for the fulfillment of His promise. Through the medium of the Spirit of Prophecy the Lord has revealed the simple means to be used, and the certainty of the accomplishment of His ultimate purpose, thus,—

“When this reformation begins... One member working in right lines will lead other members to unite with him in making intercession for the revelation of the Holy Spirit...The barriers separating believer from believer will be broken down, and God’s servants will speak the same things.” 8T p. 251 “We have been inclined to think that where there are no faithful ministers there can be no true Christians, but this is not the case. God has promised that where the shepherds are not true He will take charge of the flock Himself...The Lord has faithful servants, who in the shaking, testing time will be disclosed to view. 5T p. 81 “The little company who are standing in the light will be sighing and crying for the abominations that are done in the land. But more especially will their prayers arise in behalf of the church because its members are doing after the manner of the world... These sighing, crying ones had been holding forth the words of life; they had reproved, counseled, and entreated. Some who had been dishonoring God repented and humbled their hearts before Him. But the glory of the Lord had departed from Israel; although many still continued the forms of religion, His power and presence were lacking. 5T p. 209, 210

This “little company” whom the Lord plans to use so efficiently in the work of genuine reform, are those faithful believers in every precious, peculiar principle of the third angel’s message who are described in “Early Writings” as being “firmly united,” bound together by the truth,—“well guarded and firm, giving no heed to those who would unsettle, the faith of the body.” THEY are loyal and true—NOT an “offshoot.” They believe in the system of organization which was originally given of God, and they faithfully support the work. They love to walk in “the old paths” of the “Three Angels Messages.”

“WHICH SIDE WILL YOU BE ON?”

“Have faith in God. However stormy may be the times, looking unto Jesus (not a organization commonly called a church) who is the author and the finisher of your faith, you will be complete in Him. **Abide in the old paths**, whoever may turn back. Be rooted and grounded and built up in the most holy faith, a living epistle known and read of all men.” TMK p. 212

“God is sifting his people. He will have a clean and holy people...A corrupt people has arisen who could not live with the people of God...As we near the judgment all will manifest their true character, and it will be made plain to what company they belong. 2SG p. 201, 202 “Now is the time when we should closely connect with God, that we may be hid when the fierceness of His wrath is poured upon the sons of men. **We have wandered away from the old landmarks.** Let us return. If the Lord be God, serve Him; if Baal, serve him. Which side will you be on?” 5T p. 137

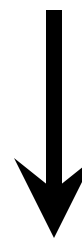
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God has a church upon the earth who are His chosen people, who **KEEP HIS** (not man’s) commandments. He is leading, not stray offshoots, not one here and one there, but a people.

Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers p. 61

WHICH



is the

OFF—SHOOT



“A company was presented before me under the name of Seventh-day Adventists, who were advising that the banner, or sign, which makes us a distinct people should not be held out so strikingly; for they claimed that this was not the best policy in order to secure success to our institutions. But this is not a time to haul down our colors, to be ashamed of our faith.”

Testimonies Vol. 6 p. 144

“I saw a company who stood well guarded and firm, giving no countenance to those who would unsettle the established faith of the body. God looked upon them with approbation. I was shown three steps-- the first, second, and third angels' messages. Said my accompanying angel, "Woe to him who shall move a block or stir a pin of these messages.”

Early Writings p. 258

“OFFSHOOT: Something that BRANCHES OFF from the parent stock.”—Standard Dictionary

“Like ancient Israel, the church has dishonored her God by departing from the light, neglecting her duties, and abusing her high and exalted privilege of being peculiar and holy in character. Her members have violated their covenant to live for God and him only. They have joined with the selfish and world-loving. Pride, the love of pleasure, and sin have been cherished, and Christ has departed. His Spirit has been quenched in the church.”

Review & Herald, May 5, 1885

{ There are TWO distinct “companies,” or classes, of “believers” among Seventh-day Adventists Today. One “company” is loyal, the other disloyal }

“I asked the angel if there were none left. He bade me look in an opposite direction, and I saw a little company traveling a narrow pathway. All seemed to be firmly united, bound together by the truth, in bundles, or companies. Said the angel, “The third angel is binding, or sealing, them in bundles for the heavenly garner.””

Early Writings p. 88

Which is the Offshoot?

The Church.—That is, the Large Majority of its Members—Accept MAN’S FALSE, Deceptive theories, Such as These:

“There has never been a time in the history of the Seventh-day Adventist Church so fraught with the evidence of divine leadership, or so fully charged with the current of divine power, as the present hour; and this is true both in undertakings and accomplishments.”—Elder C. K. Meyers, Secretary General Conference, in “Review and Herald, Nov. 15, 1923

“I know people who laid these two things—Bible and Testimonies—side by side, and considered both alike. The general conference has never done this, and has never taken a resolution which would prove this. She herself (Sister White) has never claimed anything like this. She has also not said that when she spoke or when she wrote her books, that her words were inspired She has always warned the people not to take her answers as the last decision. —A.G. Daniels, in “protokoll,” Friedensau, Germany, pp. 47, 48

“Some men hold that to eat meat is a sin. . . One of our writers makes the assertion that all good Seventh-day Adventists are vegetarians. The Lord does not line us up like that....Keep to the physiological side in the health question, and you will be all right. When you put matters of health on a religious basis, we are in a lot of trouble. We have often been remiss in this in the past.” —Extracts from remarks by Elder W.A Spicer, Former President General Conference, to Faculty, School of Medical Evangelists, Jan. 15, 1923.

“Do not deceive yourselves by a false interpretation of the 144,000 question... I expect that there will be millions waiting and ready to meet the Lord at His coming.” —Extract from a personal letter written by Elder R.A. Underwood to Brother W. S. Boone, New Straitsville, Ohio, March 18, 1927

“I take the liberty, Your Excellency, to present to you in the following, the principles of the German Seventh-day Adventists, especially just now in the present war situation (1914)...In these times the stress, we have bound ourselves together in defense of the ‘Fatherland’ and under these circumstances we will also bear arms on Saturday (Sabbath).” —Extract from an official letter written by Elder J.F. Schubert, Field Secretary European Division Conference, to the German Minister of War, Aug. 4, 1914. (This position, assumed by the German denominational leaders, received the endorsement of the General Conference Committee.)

“It is an alarming fact that indifference, sleepiness, and apathy have characterized men in responsible positions, and that there is a steady increase of pride and an alarming disregard of the warnings of the Spirit of God. The barriers which God's word places about His people are being broken down. Men who are acquainted with the way in which God has led His people in the past, instead of inquiring for the old paths and defending our position as a peculiar people, have linked hands with the world.”

Testimonies Vol. 4 p. 513

- CONDITION OF THE CHURCH
- ATTITUDE TOWARD SPIRIT OF PROPHECY
- POSITION REGARDING HEALTH REFORM
- THE QUESTION OF THE 144,000
- BEARING OF ARMS AND SABBATH-KEEPING

The “Offshoot,” So-Called, —But, in Reality, “The Little Company” of the Prophecy, —Accept GOD’S TRUTHS, Such as These:

“What is our condition in this fearful and solemn time? Alas, what pride is prevailing in the church, what hypocrisy, what deception, what love of dress, frivolity, and amusement, what desire for the supremacy!..We have not the first reason for self-congratulation and self exaltation.” —Mrs. E.G. White, in “Review and Herald,” March 22, 1887

“I do not write one article in the paper expressing merely my own ideas. They are what God has opened before me in vision—the precious rays of light shining from the throne... If you seek to turn aside the counsel of God to suit yourselves; if you lessen the confidence of God's people in the testimonies he has sent them, you are rebelling against God as certainly as were Korah, Dathan, and Abiram. You have their history.” —Mrs. E.G. White, in 1882 Pamphlet 117 p. 47-49

“Abstinence from all hurtful food and drink is the fruit of true religion... He who is thoroughly converted will abandon every defiling habit and appetite... At this stage of the earth's history meat-eating is dishonoring to God.” —Mrs. E.G. White, in Bible Training School July 1, 1902 “True religion and the laws of health go hand in hand. It is impossible to work for the salvation of men and women without presenting to them the need of breaking away from sinful gratifications, which destroy the health, debase the soul, and prevent divine truth from impressing the mind. Men and women must be taught to take a careful review of every habit and every practice, and at once put away those things that cause an unhealthy condition of the body, and thus cast a dark shadow over the mind. —Mrs. E.G. White, in “Review and Herald,” November 12, 1901

“Soon we heard the voice of God like many waters, which gave us the day and hour of Jesus' coming. The living saints, 144,000, in number, knew and understood the voice...” —Mrs. E.G. White, in “Review and Herald,” July 21, 1851

“I saw that it is our duty in every case to obey the laws of our land, unless they conflict with the higher law which God spoke with an audible voice from Sinai, and afterward engraved on stone with His own finger... The wisdom and authority of the divine law are supreme... I was shown that God's people, who are His peculiar treasure, cannot engage in this perplexing war, for it is opposed to every principle of their faith... if the requirements of the rulers are such as conflict with the laws of God, the only question to be settled is: Shall we obey God, or man? —

Which “Company” is the Offshoot?

The Church, lead away from “the Old Paths” by unfaithful men or “the Little company,” led in “the good (old-fashioned) way” of Truth by the Holy Spirit? Let God answer.

“The CHURCH has turned back (branched off) from following Christ her Leader.”

“O My People, they which lead thee cause thee to err, and destroy the way of thy paths.” Isa. 3:12

Testimonies Vol. 5 p. 217

“The leaders of this people cause them to err; and they that are led of them are destroyed.” Isa. 9:16

“As a people we have been greatly humiliated by the course that some of our brethren in responsible positions have taken in departing from the old landmarks. There are those who, in order to carry out their plans, have by their words denied their faith. This shows how little dependence can be placed on human wisdom and judgment. Now, as never before, we need to see the danger of being led unguardedly away from loyalty to God's commands... Let them beware of departing from the principles of our faith, making it appear that it is not wrong to conform to the world.”

Testimonies Vol. 7 p. 107