

## ***Sabbath School Today*** **With the 1888 Message Dynamic**

### ***The Fruit of the Spirit*** **Lesson 12: “The Fruit of the Spirit Is Truth”**

The question is not *what* is truth? rather, *Who* is truth? There is no doubt whatsoever. Christ’s words spoken to Thomas on the evening before His crucifixion were the essence of the gospel. “I am the way, the *truth*, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:6). The true Vicar (Preacher) of Christ, who is sent by Him, is the Holy Spirit. “But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of *truth*, which proceedeth from the Father, He shall testify of me” (John 15:26). The Holy Spirit’s testimony of Jesus is from the Word of God. “Sanctify them through thy *truth*: thy word is *truth*” (John 17:17). Jesus is the truth.

All truth that Jesus taught, lived, and continues to reveal in His role as High Priest in the holiest by means of the Spirit of Truth, can be verified in the written Word. Any spiritual awakenings that are focused on feelings or individual enlightenment are suspect. The Spirit of Truth is not independent of that which He has inspired the prophets to write.

We are told that as the enemy nears the time when his work will be cut short by the coming of the Lord, he will work “with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the *truth*, that they might be saved” (2 Thess. 2:10). “It is the love of the truth, for truth’s sake, that we must have. ... Christ is the Truth. ... Receiving the love of the truth is receiving the love of Christ.” [1] Satan does not want us to receive *agape* because he knows his power will be broken. As long as “self” is firmly in place, his power has not been broken in the life. The love of the truth will result in “self” being put out of the way so that one may grow up in the knowledge and stature of a man in Christ Jesus (Eph. 4:13; 3:17-19).

E. J. Waggoner and A. T. Jones broke the centuries’ old Christian synthesis of Hellenistic *eros*-centered love with the New Testament concept of *agape*. Ellen White joined them in support. “Great truths that have lain unheeded and unseen since the day of Pentecost, are to shine from God’s word in their native purity. To those who truly love God the Holy Spirit will reveal truths that have faded from the mind, and will also reveal truths that are entirely new.” [2] “At this time the Lord has precious truth to open unto us. It is not new truth, but old, old truth, although to the receiver it is new, grand, inspiring, and glorious truth. It has been rescued from the companionship of error, and has been placed in the framework of truth. Long enough have the Lord’s precious words of truth been perverted to serve the purpose of the enemy.” [3] The Advent movement is a restoration of the *agape* of the truth as it is in Jesus.

The truth is in mortal combat with the enemy of all truth in these climactic hours of the great controversy. “The dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the *commandments* of God, and have the *testimony* of Jesus Christ” (Rev. 12:17). The woman is under attack from the “Christian” world *without* over the commandments of God. She is besieged from *within* her own ranks by a steady erosion of the authority of the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. The inspired writer observed: “... The great controversy will wax stronger and stronger, and will become more and more determined. Mind

will be arrayed against mind, plans against plans, principles of heavenly origin against principles of Satan. Truth in its varied phases will be in conflict with error in its ever-varying, increasing forms, and which, if possible, will deceive the very elect.” [4] It is at this time when every wind of doctrine is blowing that “a special message of truth appropriate for this time, which message is to be received, believed, and acted upon” [5] is to go forth.

Satan’s great counterfeit of truth is modern Babylon, which the second angel’s message declares has almost collapsed (14:8). “Babylon the great is fallen” (18:2). The implosion of Babylon will be complete when in stark contrast to her self-centered gospel “the earth” is “lightened with His glory” (18:1).

Jesus is an evangelist. He will have a people who love the truth. The love of the truth will unify them. The ultimate truth about God needs to come out in the climax of the great controversy between Christ and Satan. Satan has leveled certain accusations against the truth of God. God’s law cannot be obeyed by sinners. Thus far Satan’s argument seems to have won the day. If the gospel proves ineffective in producing a commandment-keeping people, then the government of God is in jeopardy and His law abolished.

What role do the “remnant” play in vindicating God in His hour of judgment (14:6)? The truth must be told! Of the 144,000 it is written: “These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth. ... And in their mouth was found no *guile*” (14:4, 5). In other words, they all speak and live the same truth. As the Apostle Paul testified, “I say the *truth* in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost” (Rom. 9:1, cf. 1 Tim. 2:7).

Just as the heavens rang with praise when Jesus magnified the law by His “one righteous act” (Isa. 42:21; Rom. 5:18, *Revised English Bible*) in dying upon the cross, so likewise will the saints be crucified with Him so that “self” will be emptied (the mark of the beast issue). The righteousness of the law (the truth) and the gospel shall “lighten the earth with His glory” (Rev. 14:12). The saints will have a crucial role to play in casting their vote in favor of God’s government. The latter rain outpouring of the Holy Spirit will accompany the message of “the loud cry” of the third angels’ message (14:7, 18:1). God will win His case through the triumph of the gospel in the lives of His people.

—Paul E. Penno

### Endnotes:

[1] E. J. Waggoner, “[Do You Want to Know the Truth?](#),” *The Present Truth*, May 24, 1894.

[2] Ellen G. White, *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, p. 473.

[3] Ellen G. White, “Imperative Necessity of Searching for Truth,” *Review and Herald*, Nov. 15, 1892. “The question has been asked me, ‘Do you think that the Lord has any more light for us as a people?’ I answer that he has light that is new to us, and yet it is precious old light that is to shine forth from the word of truth. We have only the glimmerings of the rays of the light that is yet to come to us.” Ellen G. White, “The Darkness Comprehended It Not,” *Review and Herald*, June 3, 1890.

[4] Ellen G. White, *The Ellen G. White 1888 Materials*, p. 1645.

[5] Ellen G. White, “The Closing Work,” *Review and Herald*, Oct. 13, 1904; *Selected Messages*, book 2, p. 24.