

Testimonies
Authenticity

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April 1, 1931.

Mrs. E. H. Woodward and Mrs. M. Marsh
83 N. Spring Street,
Concord, New Hampshire.

Dear Sisters:-

Some days ago I received from Elder C.P. Bollman of the Review and Herald, your letter written to him regarding some perplexities that you are experiencing because of statements made to you regarding the character of the writings of Sister Ellen G. White. Your letter to Elder Bollman has been passed on to me with the request that I write you a reply.

You seem much disquieted because you have been told that a man in a nearby city claims to have evidence that the writings of Ellen G. White are contradictory to themselves and contrary to the Bible. He says that the Bible is all right and all of the teachings of the S. D. Adventist church, except the teachings of Mrs. White.

If you were to travel throughout the land you would find that there are others whose faith and practice in religious matters are not in harmony with the teachings of the Testimonies, and that they make similar assertions.

But dear friends, the assertions of these persons need not shake the confidence of those who have been blessed by the study of the Testimonies, and who have evidence of their verity by the witness of the Spirit.

The statement of men who are not in harmony with the teachings of the Testimonies need not shake the confidence of those who have found that their study is a blessing, who have felt that they have spoken to their hearts, who have found that their teachings are in harmony with the Bible.

If we should listen to them, we would be greatly perplexed by the many persons who criticise the Bible, asserting that it contradicts itself, asserting that it contradicts science and common sense. There are many such in the world, but we do not listen to them because we have found ample reason for believing that the Bible is a precious message to us from God the Father, and His son, Jesus Christ, communicated to us by patriarchs, prophets and apostles.

Those who choose to take a narrow and arbitrary view of the Bible, think that they find many errors and contradictions; but those who take a broad and liberal view of what they read in the Bible, find wonderful harmony and blessed instruction which leads to holiness and purity of life, which leads to faith and joy in the Holy Ghost.

So also those who read the writings of Ellen G. White, as found in Testimonies to the Church and in her other volumes, find great comfort, joy and peace, and profitable instruction in her writings.

Please read the statements of Elders Daniells and Smith, as found in the book "Life Sketches of Ellen G. White", pages 467 to 479. Observe the estimate of these men regarding the character of her labors and her writings.

Please read the little book "Steps to Christ and "Christ's Object Lessons," and "Ministry of Healing" and the Life of Jesus as found in the book "Desire of Ages". Let your souls be stirred and thrilled with the precious instruction, and the encouragement in Christian experience as you find it in these books. Pray God to enlighten your understanding and purify your hearts' affections as you study these wonderful writings. Then sit down calmly and judge for yourselves as to whether these soul-stirring truths are the utterances of a messenger of God or whether they are the writings of some sickly person having fits.

Read the leaflets that I am sending to you, and ask the Lord to impress your minds as to whether or not these are words of truth or mere fables.

Read thoughtfully the article by Elder Crisler, entitled "A Sure Basis of Belief", and also the statement made by Sister Martha D. Amadon regarding the several visions that she witnessed.

When you have studied the evidences that these writings are divine truth, I think you will dismiss your doubts and perplexities because of some report that some man counting himself to be wise, has uttered criticism and expressed unbelief.

Be sure to read and re-read from the book "Steps to Christ, the two chapters "What to do with Doubt," and "Rejoice in the Lord."

In answer to your inquiry as to why men are allowed to say things that discourage us, you may study to good purpose the experience and trials which entered into the life of Abraham, the life of Joseph, of Moses and the patriarchs and apostles and martyrs.

Study the statements found in "Steps to Christ" pages 84 to 86; also "Ministry of Healing, page 471. Then turn to Testimonies to the Church, Volume 3, page 254 and read from the middle of the page, starting with the sentence "In my last vision, to the middle of page 257. Read also from Testimonies to the Church, Volume 5, page 675.

Our Father in heaven wishes us to develop strong characters. He permits temptations to come that we may grow strong in resisting them. He permits errors in doctrine and heresies to come to us that we may be stirred up to more diligent study of the Bible and of the Testimonies which have been given us in these last days to help us in meeting the extraordinary trials and temptations that are permitted to come to test and to strengthen the Remnant Church.

Praying that God may abundantly bless you and that your faith may be strengthened in the Third Angel's Message, I am,

Sincerely your brother,

W. C. White