

1-17-77

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48812

1892

E.G. WHITE LETTER TO S.N. HASKELL

An Awakening Necessary

Elder Haskell, our testimony must be clear cut, there must be no doubting with untempered mortar--Sins of a grave character are cherished in our borders, and unless there is an awakening, such as we have not seen for some time, which will convict and convert professed Sabbath-keepers, they will die in their sins, and the punishment of Sodom and Gomorrah will be light in comparison with that of those who have had great light and precious opportunities, and have been earthly-minded, corrupt in thoughts, and practices, and have not purified their souls by obeying the truth.

Now we see need of workers in the opening fields before us, but where are the men that can be trusted? Where are the men who have been year by year growing into a better knowledge of God, and His ways and the movings of His providence? I want to sound in the ears of these sleepy, half-paralyzed souls, the words spoken to Nicodemus, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." There is need to seek God with all the heart. Elevate the standard, the commonness, the cheapness of conversation, reveal the measure of the spirituality of members of the church.

Now these who have had years in this same experience, know not God, nor Jesus Christ whom He hath sent, and should such go forth as representatives of Jesus Christ? These men will never give the right mold to other minds; they have not grown up the full stature of men and women in Christ. They simply have the name of Christians but are not fitted for the work of God, and never will be, until they are born again, and learn the ABC in true religion of Jesus Christ. There is a little hope in one direction. Take the young men and women, and place them where they will come as little in contact with our churches as

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possible, that the low grade of piety which is current in this day shall not leaven their ideas of what it means to be a Christian.

The worshippers of God are in need of transforming grace, to subordinate the world to religion. In the place of making the temporal interests first, exhausting soul, body, and spirit, to secure temporal advantages, Jesus points us to the heavenly treasure and tells us to lay not up treasures in this earth, which will perish, but lay up for yourselves treasure in heaven, which will not perish, for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Jesus would have all that profess to believe in Him deal in the currency of heaven; handling those things upon which God has stamped His image, and superscription. These He presents before us of infinite value. We see the need of a deep and thorough work in our churches, but the Lord alone can by His Spirit make the hearts that are as steel, soft and sympathetic, and true to the service of Christ. We are far behind, because the churches have folded their hands in a peace and safety attitude, and are at ease in Zion doing almost nothing.

1892 E.G. White Letter to S.N. Haskell
(President of California Conference)