

PARCHMENT

AND HE SAID UNTO ME, WRITE: FOR THESE WORDS ARE TRUE AND FAITHFUL.

REVELATION 21:5



Say not thou, What is the cause that the former days were better than these? for thou dost not enquire wisely concerning this.

Ecclesiastes 7:10

DON'T LOOK BACK

As Christians, we are to be continually advancing. With each new year, we should be able to reflect upon the fact that we have crucified selfish habits; withstood tribulation with unwavering faith; and drawn nearer to Christ in knowledge and love.

This life however, driven by the desire for spiritual advancement, is impossible to maintain without quality time allotted to the study of God's word. As Jesus Himself states, it is only by eating His flesh - consuming His word - that we may daily abide in Him.

In this light, the opposite is also true. If one is not advancing, they are slowly - howbeit certainly - declining. And if such a state is occupied for long enough, thoughts of longing for the old life might even begin to enter the mind.

Of course, so long as one is invested in God's Word, these kinds of thoughts will never be long entertained. It is only as the branch is separated from the vine that these negative thoughts take a powerful foothold. The most unsettling part; such thoughts can be immensely subtle.

When one man sought to follow Jesus, he said: "Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house." Although to us this request might appear to be harmless, "Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

Luke 9:61-62.

Unlike the case of Elisha, who asked Elijah if he could first kiss his father and mother before setting out to follow him in the Lord's work, Jesus looked into the heart of this would-be disciple, and He saw that there remained a longing for this world.

Commenting on this passage, Sister White outlines that "no earthly ties, no earthly considerations, should weigh one moment in the scale against duty to the cause and work of God." (Testimonies for the Church, vol. 3, p. 500)

Are earthly ties holding us back from God's work? Are earthly considerations blocking our path to complete surrender?

As we draw closer to the last days, this is a principle we need to assimilate. In painting a picture of the end of the world, Jesus declares: "In that day, he which shall be upon the housetop, and his stuff in the house, let him not come down to take it away: and he that is in the field, let him likewise not return back." Luke 17:31.

In that day, no earthly ties, no earthly considerations, can stand as a priority in the soul that desires to be saved. With haunting words, the next verse states: "Remember Lot's wife." Luke 17:32.



On the demise of Lot's wife, Inspiration asserts: "she presumptuously looked back to desire the life of those who rejected the divine warning". {EP 102.2} Thus, Jesus declares: "Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it." Luke 17:33.

Certainly, it is a sobering thought to hear from the apostle Peter the result of returning to a life of self.

"For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire." 2 Peter 2:21-22.

Friends, the life that Jesus promises to give us is of infinitely more value than the life the world offers today. Furthermore, it is no small calling to be a worker for Christ, the Creator of the universe. In meditating upon the importance of this work, we'll be inspired to consecrate our skills and talents foremost to the Lord, that all earthly considerations will cease to triumph.

And when this work begins in your heart, when as Sister White states, you finally "put self behind you, and let Christ go before as your life and power... there will be a renovating, reforming, energizing power in the churches, because the members are doing the very work that God has given them to do." {RH September 29, 1891, par 12}

What's all the Fuss about Flouride?

There has been much debate regarding the use of fluoride in our drinking water and toothpaste. It is argued by some that this element is beneficial to dental health, others declare it to be a toxic poison that has no part in the human body.

What exactly is added to toothpaste and water and how is it obtained?

The sodium fluoride that can be found in tap water and toothpaste is not naturally occurring (unlike calcium fluoride) and according to an MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheet) has 'Acute oral toxicity'.

The fluoride used in drinking water is a waste by product from aluminium smelting and fertilizer production.

History of use

Sodium fluoride has long been used as an effective rat poison and insecticide. However its first known use on humans was during the Second World War in both Soviet and Nazi concentration camps where it was added to drinking water in order to render inmates docile, quelling resistance, and was shown to cause sterility. Water fluoridation in Australia began in the 1950's. Today sodium fluoride widely used for similar mind altering effects in psychotropic drugs such as prosac and paxil and is added to most toothpastes available.

Is fluoride good for dental health?

The statistics say no as the World Health Organization has not reported any discernable difference in the level of tooth decay between developed nations that fluoridate and those that don't, with 97% of western Europeans not drinking fluoridated water. In fact, many in fluoridated populations exhibit symptoms of fluorosis which is seen in discoloring of the tooth enamel, rendering the teeth brittle.

It is difficult to filter out fluoride from tap water, and you may have to look harder to find a non-fluoride toothpaste (as the gums are very porous and absorb things very well) but this forced medication for the masses is not of a benefit to us, and we would do well to avoid it.

