

Prepare To Meet Thy God  
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War Against the Flesh

1. Before the final visitation of God's judgments upon the earth there will be among the people of the Lord such a revival of primitive godliness as has not been witnessed since apostolic times. The Spirit and power of God will be poured out upon His children. At that time many will separate themselves from those churches in which the love of this world has supplanted love for God and His word.

The enemy of souls desires to hinder this work; and before the time for such a movement shall come, he will endeavor to prevent it by introducing a counterfeit. *Great Controversy 464*

2. The second coming of the Son of man is to be the wonderful theme kept before the people. Here is a subject that should not be left out of our discourses. Eternal realities must be kept before the mind's eye, and the attractions of the world will appear as they are, altogether profitless as vanity.

The truth that Christ is coming should be kept before every mind. *Evangelism 220*

3. In this age, just prior to the second coming of Christ in the clouds of heaven, such a work as that of John is to be done. God calls for men who will prepare a people to stand in the great day of the Lord. The message preceding the public ministry of Christ was, ***Repent***, publicans and sinners; repent, Pharisees and Sadducees; "***repent ye***: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." As a people who believe in Christ's soon coming, we have a message to bear,—"***Prepare to meet thy God.***"

In order to give such a message as John gave, we must have a spiritual experience like his. **The same work must be wrought in us. We must behold God, and in beholding Him, lose sight of self.** *Gospel Workers 55*

4. This work can be accomplished **only through faith in Christ, by the power of the indwelling Spirit of God...**

The Scriptures plainly show that the **work of sanctification is progressive**. When in conversion the sinner finds peace with God through the blood of the atonement, the Christian life has but just begun. Now he is to “go on unto perfection;” to grow up “unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.” *Great Controversy* 470

5. As a prophet, John was “to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.” In preparing the way for Christ's first advent, **he was a representative of those who are to prepare a people for our Lord's second coming.**

All who would perfect holiness in the fear of God *must learn* the lessons of temperance and self-control. The appetites and passions *must be held in subjection* to the higher powers of the mind. This self-discipline is *essential* to that mental strength and spiritual insight which will enable us to understand and to practice the sacred truths of God's word. *For this reason temperance finds its place in the work of preparation for Christ's second coming.* *Desire of Ages* 101

6. It is the work of conversion and sanctification to reconcile men to God by bringing them into accord with the principles of His law. *Great Controversy* 467

7. The sanctification set forth in the Scriptures **embraces the entire being**—spirit, soul, and body. Paul prayed for the Thessalonians that their “**whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.**” 1 Thessalonians 5:23. Again he writes to believers: “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, **that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God.**” Romans 12:1.

**In order to do this, all their powers must be preserved in the best possible condition.** Every practice that weakens physical or mental strength unfits man for the service of his Creator. And will God be pleased with anything less than the best we can offer? Said Christ: “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart.”

Those who do love God with all the heart will desire to give Him the best service of their life, and they will be constantly seeking to bring every power of their being into harmony with the laws that will promote their ability to do His will. They will not, by the indulgence of appetite or passion, enfeeble or defile the offering which they present to their heavenly Father. *Great Controversy* 473

8. There is a message regarding health reform to be borne in every church. There is a work to be done in every school. Neither principal nor teachers should be entrusted with the education of the youth *until* they have a practical knowledge of this subject.

The subject of health reform has been presented in the churches; but the light has not been heartily received. The selfish, health-destroying indulgences of men and women have counteracted the influence of the **message that is to prepare a people for the great day of God.**

If the members of our churches disregard the light on this subject, they will reap the sure result in both spiritual and physical degeneracy. And the influence of these older church members will leaven those newly come to the faith. The Lord does not now work to bring many souls into the truth, because of the church members who have never been converted and those who were once converted but who have backslidden. What influence would these unconsecrated members have on new converts? Would they not make of no effect the God-given message which His people are to bear?

Our habits of eating and drinking show whether we are of the world or among the number whom the Lord by His mighty cleaver of truth has separated from the world. These are His peculiar people, zealous of good works. God has spoken in His word. In the case of Daniel and his three companions there are sermons upon health reform.

God has spoken in the history of the children of Israel, from whom for their good **He sought to withhold a flesh diet.** He fed them with bread from heaven; **“man did eat angels' food.”** But they encouraged their earthly appetite; and **the more they centered their thoughts upon the fleshpots of Egypt,** the more they *hated* the food which God gave them to keep them in health physically, mentally, and morally. They longed for the fleshpots, and in this they did just as many in our own time have done. 6T 370-372

9. Peter says: **“Abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul.”** 1 Peter 2:11. **Every sinful gratification tends to benumb the faculties and deaden the mental and spiritual perceptions, and the word or the Spirit of God can make but a feeble impression upon the heart.** Paul writes to the Corinthians: “Let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.” 2 Corinthians 7:1. And with the fruits of the Spirit—“love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness”—he classes “temperance.” Galatians 5:22, 23.

Notwithstanding these inspired declarations, how many professed Christians are enfeebling their powers in the pursuit of gain or the worship of fashion; how many are debasing their godlike manhood by gluttony, by wine drinking, by forbidden pleasure.

And the church, **instead of rebuking**, too often encourages the evil by appealing to appetite, to desire for gain or love of pleasure, to replenish her treasury, which love for Christ is too feeble to supply. Were Jesus to enter the churches of today and behold the feasting and unholy traffic there conducted in the name of religion, would He not drive out those desecrators, as He banished the money-changers from the temple?

1 Corinthians 6:19, 20. He whose body is the temple of the Holy Spirit will not be enslaved by a pernicious habit. His powers belong to Christ, who has bought him with the price of blood. His property is the Lord's. How could he be guiltless in squandering this entrusted capital?

**Such are the fruits of Bible conversion and sanctification;** and it is because the great principles of righteousness set forth in the law of God are so indifferently regarded by the Christian world that these fruits are so rarely witnessed. This is why there is manifest so little of that deep, abiding work of the Spirit of God which marked revivals in former years. *Great Controversy 478*