

## LATE - 8

This is LATE - L.A.T.E - Living At The End — for we are **late** into the prophetic timeline of earth's history and you and I must know how to live successfully and to be an effective witness for present truth in these perilous times. Using the Word of God and the Spirit of Prophecy this SWM Radio program seeks to provide the spiritual and physical tools we need for daily living and consecration to God at the end of time.

In each program, we pose questions pertinent to God's remnant people living at the end of time; have a Time of the End Feature; a Healthful Living Feature; provide answers to the questions posed; and recommend Take Away Tips from our discussions for Living at the End. This is your host Brother Nanton. Let us pray.

### TIME OF THE END FEATURE – The Scriptures a Safeguard

Those who endeavor to obey all the commandments of God will be opposed and derided. They can stand only in God. . . . None but those who have fortified the mind with the truths of the Bible will stand through the last great conflict. To every soul will come the searching test: Shall I obey God rather than men? **The decisive hour is even now at hand.** Are our feet planted on the rock of God's immutable word? Are we prepared to stand firm in defense of the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus? {GC 593.2}

The death of Jesus as fully destroyed [the hopes of the disciples] as if He had not forewarned them. So, **in the prophecies, the future is opened before us as plainly as it was opened to the disciples by the words of Christ. The events connected with the close of probation and the work of preparation for the time of trouble, are clearly presented.** But *multitudes have no more understanding of these important truths than if they had never been revealed.* {GC 594.1}

**It is the first and highest duty of every rational being to learn from the Scriptures what is truth, and then to walk in the light** and encourage others to follow his example. We should day by day study the Bible diligently, weighing every thought and comparing scripture with scripture. **With divine help we are to form our opinions for ourselves as we are to answer for ourselves before God.** {GC 598.2}

The truths most plainly revealed in the Bible have been involved in doubt and darkness by learned men, who, with a pretense of great wisdom, teach that the Scriptures have a mystical, a secret, spiritual meaning not apparent in the language employed. These men are false teachers. It was to such a class that Jesus declared: "Ye know not the Scriptures, neither the power of God." **Mark 12:24.** The language of the Bible should be explained according to its obvious meaning, unless a symbol or figure is employed. Christ has given the promise: "If any man will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine." **John 7:17. If men would but take the Bible as it reads, if there were no false teachers to mislead and confuse their minds, a work would be accomplished that would make angels glad and that would bring into the fold of Christ thousands upon thousands who are now wandering in error.** {GC 598.3}

We should exert all the powers of the mind in the study of the Scriptures and should task the understanding to comprehend, as far as mortals can, the deep things of God; yet we must not forget that the docility and submission of a child is the true spirit of the learner. Scriptural difficulties can never be mastered by the same methods that are employed in grappling with philosophical problems. We should not engage in the study of the Bible with that self-reliance with which so many enter the domains of

science, but with a prayerful dependence upon God and a sincere desire to learn His will. We must come with a humble and teachable spirit to obtain knowledge from the great I AM. Otherwise, evil angels will so blind our minds and harden our hearts that we shall not be impressed by the truth. {GC 599.1}

We are living in the most solemn period of this world's history. The destiny of earth's teeming multitudes is about to be decided. Our own future well-being and also the salvation of other souls depend upon the course which we now pursue. We need to be guided by the Spirit of truth. Every follower of Christ should earnestly inquire: "Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?" We need to humble ourselves before the Lord, with fasting and prayer, and to meditate much upon His word, especially upon the scenes of the judgment. We should now seek a deep and living experience in the things of God. We have not a moment to lose. Events of vital importance are taking place around us; we are on Satan's enchanted ground. Sleep not, sentinels of God; the foe is lurking near, ready at any moment, should you become lax and drowsy, to spring upon you and make you his prey. {GC 601.1}

When the testing time shall come, those who have made God's word their rule of life will be revealed. In summer there is no noticeable difference between evergreens and other trees; but when the blasts of winter come, the evergreens remain unchanged, while other trees are stripped of their foliage. So the falsehearted professor may not now be distinguished from the real Christian, but the time is just upon us when the difference will be apparent. Let opposition arise, let bigotry and intolerance again bear sway, let persecution be kindled, and the halfhearted and hypocritical will waver and yield the faith; but the true Christian will stand firm as a rock, his faith stronger, his hope brighter, than in days of prosperity. {GC 602.1}

### **Healthful Living Feature – Diet and Salvation**

**Proverbs 23:1-3:** *When thou sittest to eat with a ruler, consider diligently what is before thee: and put a knife to thy throat if thou be a man given to appetite. Be not desirous of his dainties: for they are a deceitful meat.*

**Philippians 3:18-19:** *For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are enemies of the cross of Christ; whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly.*

#### **No Heaven if we don't control diet**

Christ fought the battle upon the point of appetite, and came off victorious; and we also can conquer through strength derived from him. Who will enter in through the gates into the city? Not those who declare that they cannot break the forces of appetite. **CD 169, 170**

#### **Redemption Begins with Appetite**

Appetite was the ground of the first temptation. Just where the ruin began, the work of our redemption must begin. **CD 185**

#### **Appetite is Satan's Strongest Hold on Man**

Satan is constantly on the alert to bring the race fully under his control. His strongest hold on man is through the appetite. **CD 150**

#### **Indulged Appetite Causes Church Problems and Impatience**

The abuses of the stomach by the gratification of appetite are the fruitful source of most church trials. Those who eat and work intemperately and irrationally, talk and act irrationally. An intemperate man cannot be a patient man. **CD 50**

### **Appetite More Difficult Near the End**

As we near the close of time, Satan's temptations to indulge appetite will be more powerful and difficult to overcome. **CD 59**

### **Perfection Impossible With Indulged Appetite**

It is impossible for those who indulge the appetite to attain Christian perfection. **CD 57**

#### Questions

- 1        What question must we ask ourselves as the last great conflict approaches and why?  
Answer: Shall I obey God rather than man? Because the decisive hour is even now at hand.
- 2        What is clearly and plainly revealed in prophecy?  
Answer: the future; the events connected with the close of probation and the work of preparation to be done for the time of trouble.
- 3        What is the first and highest duty of every rational human being?  
Answer: To learn what is truth from the Scriptures then to walk in the light of that truth and encourage others to do so as well.
- 4        How should the language of the Bible be explained?  
Answer: It should be explained according to its obvious meaning unless a symbol of figure is employed. As Jesus said *If any man will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine.* **John 7:17.**
- 5        How should we study the Bible and why?  
Answer: With a humble and teachable spirit, with the docility and submission of a child otherwise evil angels will blind our minds and harden our hearts that we will not be impressed with the truth.
- 6        Why does redemption begin with appetite?  
Answer: Appetite was the grounds of the first temptation. Where the ruin began the work of our redemption must begin.
- 7        What does the Spirit of Prophecy say concerning diet and heaven?  
Answer: Those who declare they cannot break the forces of diet will not enter in through the gates of the City.

#### **Take Away Tips**

- It is only by the fortifying of the mind with the Scriptures that we will be able to stand in the last great conflict
- We must exert all the powers of the mind in the study of the Scriptures remembering always to approach Bible Study with a humble and teachable spirit like that of a child.
- Because we are living in the most solemn period of this world's history we must humble ourselves before the Lord with fasting and prayer and must meditate much upon His Word especially upon the scenes of the judgment.
- Never forget that diet is an essential part of salvation since appetite is the point of temptation upon which man fell and therefore appetite is the point upon which the work of our redemption must begin.