

LATE – 42

Welcome to 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. In this SWM Radio program we use the Word of God and the Spirit of Prophecy to answer pertinent questions posed to God's remnant people in order 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 have a Time of the End Feature and a Healthful Living Feature. Then we will provide answers to the questions posed and recommend some 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 How & Why of Religious Liberty

What determines Religious Liberty

When in 1529 the German princes assembled at the Diet of Spires, there was presented the emperor's decree restricting religious liberty, and prohibiting all further dissemination of the reformed doctrines. Those who had accepted the reformed faith met together, and their unanimous decision was, "Let us reject this decree. In matters of conscience, the majority has no power". This principle, we, in our day, are firmly to maintain. We are to recognize human government as an ordinance of divine appointment, and teach obedience to it as a sacred duty, within its legitimate sphere. BUT when its claims conflict with the claims of God, we must obey God rather than men. God's Word must be recognized as above all human legislation. A "Thus saith the Lord" is not to be set aside for a "Thus saith the church" or a "Thus saith the state." **AA 68, 69**

Dealing with Religious Liberty

We are not required to defy authorities. Our words, whether spoken or written, should be carefully considered, lest we place ourselves on record as uttering that which would make us appear antagonists to law and order. We are not to say or do anything that would unnecessarily close up our way. **AA 69**

By some of our brethren many things have been spoken and written that are interpreted as expressing antagonism to government and law. It is a mistake thus to lay ourselves open to misunderstanding. It is not wise to find fault continually with what is done by the rulers of government. It is not our work to attack individuals or institutions. The time will come when unguarded expressions of a denunciatory character, that have been carelessly spoken or written by our brethren, will be used by our enemies to condemn the whole body of Adventists. Our accusers will say that on such and such a day one of our responsible men said thus and so against the administration of the laws of this government. **6T 394, 395**

Church & State Union Lead to Apostasy and Denial of Religious Liberty

[Writing of Colonial America, where church membership was a prerequisite to holding public office]. Thus, again was demonstrated the evil results, so often witnessed in the history of the church from the days of Constantine to the present, of attempting to build up the church by the aid of the state, of appealing to the secular power in support of the gospel of Him who declared, "My kingdom is not of this world." The union of the church with the state, be the degree ever so slight, while it may appear to bring the world nearer to the church, does in reality but bring the church nearer to the world. **GC 297.**

When the early church became corrupted by departing from the simplicity of the gospel and accepting heathen rites and customs, she lost the Spirit and power of God; and in order to control the consciences of the people, she sought the support of the secular power. **It was apostasy that led the early church to seek the aid of the civil government. GC 443**

So, apostasy in the church will prepare the way for the image of the beast. When the leading churches of the USA, uniting upon such points of doctrine as are held by them in common, shall influence the state to enforce their decrees and to sustain their institutions, then Protestant America will have formed an image of the Roman hierarchy. **GC 444, 445**

In the movements now in progress in the United States to secure for the institutions and usages of the church the support of the state, Protestants are following the steps of papists. Nay, more, they are opening the door for the papacy to regain in Protestant America, the supremacy which she has lost in the Old World. **GC 573**

God's People to Be Self Sustaining

God has deposited with His people in this world enough to carry forward His work without embarrassment, and it is His plan that the means which He has entrusted to them be used judiciously.

1T 197

The means in our possession may not seem sufficient for the work; but if we will move forward in faith, believing in the all sufficient power of God, abundant resources will open before us. If the work be of God, He Himself will provide the means for its accomplishment. **DA 370**

Healthful Living Feature –Health Reform – Blessings and Curses

In order to be purified and remain pure, Seventh Day Adventists must have the Holy Spirit in their hearts and in their homes. The Lord has given me light that when the Israel of today humble themselves before Him, and cleanse the soul temple from all defilement, He will hear their prayers in behalf of the sick, and will bless in the use of His remedies for disease. When in faith the human agent does all he can to combat disease, using the simple methods of treatment that God has provided, his efforts will be blessed of God. **! 9T 164 (1909)**

If, after so much light has been given, God's people will cherish wrong habits, indulging self and refusing to reform, they will suffer the sure consequences of transgression. If they are determined to gratify perverted appetite at any cost, God will not miraculously save them from the consequences of their indulgence. They shall lie down in sorrow Isaiah 50:11. **9T 165 (1909)**

Those who choose to be presumptuous, saying, "The Lord has healed me, and I need not restrict my diet; I can eat and drink as I please," will ere long need, in body and soul, the restoring power of God. Because the Lord has graciously healed you, you must not think you can link yourselves up with the self-indulgent practices of the world. Do as Christ commanded after His work of healing, "Go and sin no more." **9T 165 (1909)**

I saw that the reason why God did not hear the prayers of His servants for the sick among us more fully was, that He could not be glorified in so doing while they were violating the laws of health. And I also saw that He designed the health reform and Health Institute to prepare the way for the prayer of faith to be answered. Faith and good works should go hand in hand in relieving the afflicted among us, and in fitting them to glorify God here, and to be saved at the coming of Christ. **9T 165 (1909)**

Many have expected that God would keep them from sickness merely because they asked Him to do so. But God did not regard their prayers, because their faith was not made perfect by works. God will not work a miracle to keep those from sickness who have no care for themselves, but are continually violating the laws of health and make no effort to prevent disease. **Sp. Gifts IV 144 1864**

Questions

- 1 What principle concerning religious liberty are God's people to maintain today?
Answer: We are to maintain the principle that in matters of conscience and religious liberty, the majority has no power. The power is in individual choice.
- 2 Why in matters of religious liberty should our words be very carefully considered?
Answer: Our words should be very carefully considered lest we place ourselves on record as antagonists to law and order and unnecessarily close up our way.
- 3 At what point are God's people not required to obey the laws and ordinances of human government?
Answer: When the claims of government legislation conflict with the claims of God, we must obey God rather than men.
- 4 What leads the church to unite with the state and why?
Answer: Apostasy leads the church to unite with the state because it has lost the Spirit and Power of God to build up the church.
- 5 What is the result of apostasy in US Protestantism and why?
Answer: Apostasy in US Protestantism prepares the way for the image of the beast since by uniting on common points of doctrine and influencing the state to enforce their decrees, they are following in the steps of the papacy.
- 6 What allows God to hear and answer our prayers offered on behalf of the sick?
Answer: When we humble ourselves before God, cleanse the soul temple from all defilement, and use the simple remedies He has provided, then He will hear the prayer for the sick and bless the simple remedies.
- 7 What prevents God from hearing and answering prayers for the sick?
Answer: When we violate the laws of health and do not make our faith perfect by employing the works of simple remedies, then we prevent God from hearing our prayers for the sick.

Take Away Tips

- God's people are to recognize human government as an ordinance of divine appointment and teach obedience to it within its legitimate sphere. But when human laws conflict with God's laws, we are to obey God rather than men.
- Apostasy leads to the union of church and state which then prepares the way for the mark of the beast and the coming Sunday law.
- If, despite the light given us regarding health reform, we still cherish bad habits, indulgence of appetite, and are determined to gratify a perverse diet, we will suffer the sure consequences of transgression.
- When we cleanse the soul and body temple of all defilement, humble ourselves before God and use the simple, natural remedies He has provided, then we can be sure He will hear the prayer of faith for the sick because our works would have made perfect our faith.