**Victory Everlasting Gospel Church**

**March 17th, 2018**

**TESTED**

 **And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? He said unto him, what is written in the law? How readest thou? And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself. And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do and thou shalt live.** (Luke 10: 25-28)

 *The enemy of our work is pleased when a subject of minor importance can be used to divert the minds of our brethren from the great questions that should be the burden of our message. As this is not a test question, I entreat of my brethren that they shall not allow the enemy to triumph by having it treated as such. {1SM 164.4)*

 I will be quoting from first Selected Message, Darkness before Dawn, Manuscript, 8 Testimonies, Review and Herald, and the King James Bible.

 *Question, why are we continuously putting Gods doctrine to a test? 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…. (Darkness before Dawn) {DD 38.4}*

 *The work that the Lord has given us at this time is to present to the people the true light in regard to the testing questions of obedience and salvation--the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. {1SM 165)* **Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For [it is] a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein.** *(Heb. 13:9)*

 *A Daily Conversion my brothers and sisters should understand that self needs to be humbled and brought under the control of the Holy Spirit***. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:** *(1Peter 5:6) The Lord calls upon those of us who have had great light to be converted daily. This is the message we have to bear to our churches, family and friends. We must walk in the light while we have the light, lest darkness come upon us. {1SM 165.4}*

 *When darkness comes upon you, you find yourself going in the wrong direction. Amnesia sets in you have lack of peace and joy. You become selfish, depressed, or just confused. Why, you have allowed darkness to fall upon you, you have refused to let Christ in. All who are led by the Holy Spirit of God will have a message for this last time. With mind and heart they will be carrying a burden for souls, and they will bear the heavenly message of Christ to those with whom they associate.*

 *Satan is busily working with all who will give him encouragement. Those who have the light, but refuse to walk in it, will become confused, until darkness pervades their souls, and shapes their whole course of action. You are being* ***tested****. But the spirit of wisdom and goodness of God as revealed in His Word, will become brighter and brighter as they follow on in the path of true obedience. All the righteous demands of God will be met through sanctification of the Holy Spirit.... {1SM 166.1} It’s funny, how we can believe in God but still follow Satan who by the way, also believes in God. Yes, through and by Satan you are being* ***tested****.*

 *There are great privileges and blessings for all who will humble themselves and fully consecrate their hearts to God. Great light will be given to them.* ***Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth****. (Col. 3:2) when men are willing to be transformed, then they will be exercised unto godliness. {1SM 166.2}*

**"And of his fullness have all we received, and grace for grace"**(John 1:16*).* **"My grace is sufficient for thee: for strength is made perfect in weakness"**(2 Cor. 12:9).

 *Question, shall this wealth of grace and power for service continue among us to be unappreciated and turned from without relish or appetite?* *The Lord calls for individual effort. One cannot do the work of another. Great light has been shining, but it has not been fully comprehended and received. {1SM 166.4} How can you be fired up for Christ on the Sabbath and be an invisible Christian the rest of the week.*

 *If our brothers and sisters would now consecrate themselves unreservedly to God, He will accept us. He will give us a transformation of mind, that we may be savors of life unto life. Wake up, brothers and sisters, that you may attain to your high calling through Christ Jesus our Lord.--Manuscript 11, 1910. Question, what is our highest aim in life? I’ll tell you, to know God and do His will.*

 *Our ministers should seek to make the most favorable presentation of truth. So far as possible, let all speak the same things. Let the discourses be simple, and treating upon vital subjects that can be easily understood. When all our ministers see the necessity of humbling themselves, then the Lord can work with them. We need now to be reconverted, that angels of God may cooperate with us, making a sacred impression upon the minds of those for whom we labor. {1SM 167.4} We are not to be tested, just do Gods work.*

 *There is a reason why these men sometimes display remarkable wisdom. Satan himself was educated in the heavenly courts and he has knowledge of good as well as of evil. He mingles the precious with the vile, and this is what gives him power to deceive. {8T 306.2}*

 *We must draw in Even Cords. We must blend together in the bonds of Christ like unity; then our labors will not be in vain. Draw in even cords, and let no contentions be brought in. Reveal the unifying power of truth, and this will make a powerful impression on human minds. In unity there is strength. {1SM 168.1} Lest us not be tested by the adversary. The surest way to limit God is what, unbelief. Yes church you are always being* ***tested****.*

 *This is not a time to make prominent unimportant points of difference. If some who have not had a strong living connection with the Master reveal to the world their weakness of Christian experience, the enemies of the truth, who are watching us closely, will make the most of it, and our work will be hindered. Let all cultivate meekness, and learn lessons from Him who is meek and lowly in heart. {1SM 168.2} Remember, Christianity has no flaw in it, the problem is the Christian.*

 *The duty of God's servants at this time is to preach the Word in the cities. Christ came from the heavenly courts to this earth in order to save souls and we, as almoners of His grace, need to impart to the inhabitants of the great cities a knowledge of His saving truth.--Letter 62, 1910. {1SM 168.4}*

 *Let there be no compromise with evil. Meet boldly the dangerous influences that arise. Do not fear for the results of resisting the powers of the enemy. {1SM 169.1***} Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. (** *Matt.7:15) first part*

 *In these days many deceptions are being taught as truth. Some of our brothers have taught views which we cannot endorse. Fanciful ideas, strained and peculiar interpretations of the Scripture are coming in. Some of these teachings may seem to be but jots and tittles now, but they will grow and become snares to the inexperienced. {1SM 169.2}* **Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?** *(Mat t7:16) last part. [He that] speaketh truth showeth forth righteousness: but a false witness deceit. (Proverbs 12:17*

 *We need to search the Scriptures daily, that we may know the way of the Lord, and that we are not deceived by religious fallacies.* **We need to prove all things; hold fast that which is good. All scripture [is] given by inspiration of God, and [is] profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. Abstain from all appearance of evil.**(1Thess. 5:21) first part, (2ndTim3:16) and (1Thess.5:22) *last part, the world is full of false theories and seductive spiritualistic ideas, which tend to destroy clear spiritual perception, and to lead away from truth and holiness. Especially at this time do we need to heed the warning,* **"Let no man deceive you with vain words"** (Eph. 5:6). *{1SM 170.1}*

 *We must be careful lest we misinterpret the Scriptures. The plain teachings of the Word of God are not to be so spiritualized that the reality is lost sight of. Do not overstrain the meaning of sentences in the Bible in an effort to bring forth something odd in order to please the fancy. Take the Scriptures as they read. Avoid idle speculation concerning what will be in the kingdom of heaven. -- Manuscript 30, 1904. {1SM 170.2} We are needed in Bible study not in ignorance. We are needed in support not in neglect; we are needed in unity not division.*

 *There are those who are always seeking to engage in controversy. This is the sum of their religion. They are filled with a desire to produce something new and strange. They dwell upon matters of the smallest consequence, exercising upon these their sharp, controversial talents. {1SM 170.4}*

 *Idle tales are brought in as important truths, and by some they are actually set up as tests. Thus controversy is created, and minds are diverted from present truth. Satan knows that if he can get men and women absorbed in trifling details, greater questions will be left unheeded. He will furnish plenty of material for the attention of those who are willing to think upon trifling, unimportant subjects.* We most definitely see and hear this in church today.

 *But because Satan has robed himself in garments of heavenly brightness, shall we receive him as an angel of light? The tempter has his agents, educated according to his methods, inspired by his spirit, and adapted to his work. Question, shall we co-operate with them? Question, shall we receive the works of his agents as essential to the acquirement of an education? {8T 306.2}*

 *I would say to my brothers and sisters, Keep close to the instruction found in the Word of God. Dwell upon the rich truths of the Scriptures. Thus only can you become one in Christ* ***to the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, [it is] because [there is] no light in them****. (Isa.8:20)*

 *Do not spend your time in the discussion of such matters. If you have any question as to what you should teach, any question as to the subjects upon which you should dwell, go right to the discourses of the Great Teacher, and follow His instructions. . . . {1SM 171.2} We are needed in duty, not in Irresponsibility; we are needed in building, not tearing down.*

 *Do not allow anything to draw your attention from the question,* **"What shall I do to inherit eternal life?"**(Luke 10:25*). This is a life and death question, which we must each settle for eternity. Let the mind be weighted with the importance of the solemn truth which we possess. Those who allow the mind to wander in search of cheap, unimportant theories need to be converted. . . . {1SM 171.3}*

 *God desires men and women to think soberly and candidly. We are to ascend to a higher and still higher grade, commanding a wider and still wider horizon. Looking unto Jesus, We are to be changed into His image.*

 *Erroneous theories, with no authority from the Word of God, will come in on the right hand and the left, and to weaklings these theories will appear as truth which makes wise. But they are as nothingness. And yet many church members have become so well satisfied with cheap food that they have dyspeptic religion. Question, why will men and Women belittle their experience by gathering up idle tales and presenting them as matters worthy of attention? The people of God have no time to dwell on the indefinite, frivolous questions which have no bearing on God's requirements. {1SM 171.4} Give God what is right not what’s left.*

 *Let us follow the revealed will of God. Then we shall know that the light we receive comes from the divine Source of all true light. Those who cooperate with Christ are on safe ground. God richly blesses them as they consecrate their energies to the work of rescuing the world from corruption. Christ is our example. By beholding Him we are to be changed into His image, from glory to glory, from character to character. This is our work. God help us rightly to represent the Savior to the world.--The Review and Herald, Aug. 13, 1901. {1SM 172.2}*

 *There are Conjectures Regarding the Future Life. There are men today who express their belief that there will be marriages and births in the new earth; but those who believe the Scriptures cannot accept such doctrines. The doctrine that children will be born in the new earth is not a part of the* **"sure word of prophecy"** (2 Peter 1:19). *The words of Christ are too plain to be misunderstood.*

 *They should forever settle the question of marriages and births in the new earth. Neither those who shall be raised from the dead, nor those who shall be translated without seeing death, will marry or be given in marriage. They will be as the angels of God, members of the royal family.*

 *I would say to those who hold views contrary to this plain declaration of Christ, upon such matters silence is eloquence. It is presumption to indulge in suppositions and theories regarding matters that God has not made known to us in His Word. We need not enter into speculation regarding our future state. {1SM 173.1} I brought this to the church attention before when I stood up here.*

 *To my ministering brothers I would say,* **"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season"** (2 Tim. 4:2). *Do not bring to the foundation wood, and hay, and stubble --your own surmising and speculations, which can benefit no one. {1SM 173.2}*

 *The Lord has made every provision for our happiness in the future life, but He has made no revelations regarding these plans, and we are not to speculate concerning them. Neither are we to measure the conditions of the future life by the conditions of this life. {1SM 173.4}*

 *Let those who wish for something new seek for that newness of life resulting from the new birth. Let them purify their souls by obeying the truth, and act in harmony with the instruction Christ gave to the lawyer who asked what he must do in order to inherit eternal life. Do not continue to be tested by the adversary, Gods doctrines stand alone separate from man. What did Christ say to us in his words****, if you love me, keep my commandments?*** *John 14:15*

**"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself. . . . This do, and thou shalt live"**(Luke 10:27, 28). *All who will conform their lives to the plain requirements of God's Word will inherit eternal life.--Manuscript 28, 1904. {1SM 174.1}*

 *You know church we have Subjects Difficult to Understand. In this work there is danger of bringing before the people theories which, while they may be all truth, will create controversy, and will not lead men to the great supper prepared for them. We want the love of God formed within to subdue and soften our human nature and to bring us into conformity to His holy character.*

 *Christ says that there will be those in the church who will present fables and suppositions, when God has given grand, elevating, ennobling truths which should ever be kept in the treasure house of the mind. When men pick up this theory and that theory, when they are curious to know something it is not necessary for them to know, God is not leading them. It is not His plan that His people shall present something which they have to suppose, which is not taught in the Word. It is not His will that they shall get into controversy over questions which will not help them spiritually. {1SM 174.3}*

 *My brothers and sisters appreciate and study the truths God has given for you and your children. Spend not your time in seeking to know that which will be no spiritual help.* **"What shall I do to inherit eternal life?"** (Luke 10: 25). *This is the all-important question, and it has been clearly answered. "What is written in the law? How readest thou?"--Manuscript 26, 1901. {1SM 174.4}*

 *Christ is calling for Unity our church members see that there are differences of opinion among the leading men and they themselves enter into controversy regarding the subjects under dispute. Christ calls for unity. But He does not call for us to unify on wrong practices. The God of heaven draws a sharp contrast between pure, elevating, ennobling truth and false, misleading doctrines. He calls sin and impenitence by the right name. He does not gloss over wrongdoing with a coat of untempered mortar. I urge our brethren to unify upon a true, scriptural basis.--Manuscript 10, 1905. Let us stop allowing ourselves to be* ***tested****.*

 *There no Strife for Supremacy when the laborers have an abiding Christ in their own souls, when all selfishness is dead, when there is no rivalry, no strife for the supremacy, when oneness exists, when they sanctify themselves, so that love for one another is seen and felt, then the showers of the grace of the Holy Spirit will just as surely come upon them as that God's promise will never fail in one jot or tittle. But when the work of others is discounted, that the workers may show their own superiority, they prove that their own work does not bear the signature it should. God cannot bless them.--Manuscript 24, 1896. {1SM 175.2}* **"What shall I do to inherit eternal life?" *If you love me, keep my commandments.*** *Yes, we all are being* ***tested****. AMEN*

*Let Us Pray*