

Lesson 12: *Loyalty to God and His Word*

Sunday, June 16, 2024

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Lesson 12: *Earths Closing Events* Sabbath Afternoon

Memory Texts: “Buy the truth, and do not sell it, also wisdom and instruction and understanding” (*Proverbs 23:23, NKJV*).

Suppose you had a teenage daughter driving home from college for summer vacation. As you wait for her to arrive, you anxiously monitor the weather reports. You become worried as the weather rapidly deteriorates. Storm clouds loom on the horizon. Winds blow fiercely. The heavens open and rain pours down. Trees are blown over. Soon the main road home is impassable. Then you hear from one of your neighbors that it is possible to get through on a secondary road. Cars can navigate around some downed tree limbs. Although communication is difficult, you are able to get a text message to your daughter, carefully detailing how she can get home safely.

More than anything else, Jesus wants to take us through the storms of life and get us home. Ellen G. White writes, “A storm is coming, relentless in its fury. Are we prepared to meet it?” — *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 8, p. 315. The purpose of Christ’s life, death, resurrection, and ministry in heaven’s sanctuary is to ensure that we get home. The prophetic messages of Daniel and Revelation are divine instructions especially for an end-time people, to help us through life’s storms so that one day we can feel the warm embrace of a loving Savior.

The aim of this week’s lesson is to reveal what the prophetic Word says about the closing events and discover anew Christ’s strength to take us through earth’s final conflict and get us home.

Sunday

Read Proverbs 23:23, John 8:32, and John 17:17. What common thread runs through these verses?

²³ Buy the truth, and do not sell it,
Also wisdom and instruction and understanding.—**Proverbs 23:23**

³² And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”—
John 8:32

¹⁷ Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.—**John 17:17**

The word deception appears more than 70 times in the Bible.

⁴ And Jesus answered and said to them: “Take heed that no one deceives you. ⁵ For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many. —**Matthew 24:4, 5**

²⁴ For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. ²⁵ See, I have told you beforehand. —**Matthew 24:24, 25**

⁶ Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. ⁷ Therefore do not be partakers with them. —
Ephesians 5:6, 7

⁸ Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.—**Colossians 2:8**

²⁶ These things I have written to you concerning those who try to deceive you. —
1 John 2:26

One must have a love for truth in order to see and accept truth.

¹⁰ and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the **love of the truth**, that they might be saved. ¹¹ And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, ¹² that they all may be condemned who did not believe the **TRUTH** but had pleasure in unrighteousness. —**2 Thessalonians 2:10-12**

² Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine. ³ For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; ⁴ And they shall turn away their ears from the **TRUTH**, and shall be turned unto **fables**. —**2 Timothy 4:2-4 (KJV)**

Why does it seem like so many people cannot see or accept the plain truth?

¹³ Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. ¹⁴ And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says:

‘Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, and seeing you will see and not perceive; ¹⁵ For the hearts of this people have grown dull. *Their ears are hard of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with *their* eyes and hear with *their* ears, lest they should understand with *their* hearts and turn, so that I should heal them.*’ —**Matthew 13:13-15**

Read 2 Peter 1:16–21. What assurance does the apostle give us regarding prophecy? What illustration does he use to show the importance of God’s prophetic Word?

¹⁶ For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. ¹⁷ For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the

Excellent Glory: “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” ¹⁸ And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.

¹⁹ And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; ²⁰ knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, ²¹ for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke *as they were* moved by the Holy Spirit.—**2 Peter 1:16-21**

How do we remain safely under the banner of truth?

¹⁵ Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. —
2 Timothy 2:15 (KJV)

¹⁰⁵ Your word *is* a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. —
Psalms 119:105