Friday - Lesson 4 - EGW

Friday *October 23*

Keeping Jesus and His Word at the Center

As we have learned, God called prophets at specific times and gave them important tasks. Their primary function was to bring people to a knowledge of God and a faithful relationship with Him. This was Ellen G. White's guiding orientation. Her ministry had two primary functions: to lead people to Jesus and to point them to His Word—the Bible.

Ellen G. White had a lifelong passion for Jesus and a desire to share the love of God with others. Her famous five-book series, The Conflict of the Ages, ~~begins and ends with the~~

~~words "God is love." ~~IS AN INSPIRED COMMENTARY ON THE BIBLE.

EXPOUND - THE FIRST THREE WORDS OF THE FIRST PARAGRAPH ON THE FIRST PAGE OF THE FIRST CHAPTER OF THE FIRST BOOK PATRIARCHS & PROPHETS BEGINS WITH THE WORDS "GOD IS LOVE." AS YOU READ THROUGH PK - DA - AA - AND FINALLY GC - THE LAST CHAPTER LAST PAGE LAST PARAGRAPH LAST SENTENCE LAST THREE WORDS ARE "GOD IS LOVE".

In *Steps to Christ*, perhaps her most popular book, she wrote: "Our growth in grace, our joy, our usefulness—all depend upon our union with Christ. It is by communion with Him, daily, hourly—by abiding in Him—that we are to grow in grace. He is not only the Author, but the Finisher of our faith."—*Steps to Christ, p.* 69.

EXPOUND ON THE HISTORY WHILE SHOWING THE BOOK ON SET.

During the 1890s, when she was working on *The Desire of Ages*, she wrote in her diary: "In writing upon the life of Christ I am deeply wrought upon. I forget to breathe as I should. I cannot endure the intensity of feeling that comes over me as I think of what Christ has suffered in our world."—Manuscript 70, 1897. Ellen G. White loved to speak about Jesus.

The Bible was the second focus of Ellen White's ministry. She saw her writings as a "lesser light" leading people to the "greater light"—the Bible *(Selected Messages*, book 3, p. 29). She always encouraged people to go to Scripture, where God has revealed His loving character and plan of salvation. As she put it early in her ministry: "I recommend to you, dear reader, the Word of God as the rule of your faith and practice."—*Selected Messages*, book 3, p. 30.

Years later she would write: “The Lord desires you to study your Bibles. He has not given any additional light to take the place of His Word. . . . If eaten and digested, [His Word] is as the life-blood of the soul. Then good works will be seen as light shining in darkness.”—Letter 130, 1901.

Ellen G. White also believed that all who claim the prophetic mantle of Christ must teach “what Christ had taught. That which He had spoken, not only in person, but through all the prophets and teachers of the Old Testament, is here included. Human teaching is shut out.”—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 826.

Ellen G. White kept Jesus and Scripture at the center of her Christian experience.

“HANGING UPON THE CROSS QUOTATION —

HANGING UPON THE CROSS,” EW SAID, “CHRIST WAS THE GOSPEL. NOW WE HAVE A MESSAGE, “BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD, WHICH TAKETH AWAY THE SINS OF

THE WORLD.” WILL NOT OUR CHURCH MEMBERS KEEP THEIR EYES FIXED ON A CRUCIFIED AND RISEN SAVIOUR, IN WHOM THEIR HOPES OF ETERNAL LIFE ARE CENTERED? THIS IS OUR MESSAGE, OUR ARGUMENT, OUR DOCTRINE, OUR WARNING TO THE IMPENITENT, OUR ENCOURAGEMENT FOR THE SORROWING, THE HOPE FOR EVERY BELIEVER. IF WE CAN AWAKEN AN INTEREST IN MEN’S MINDS THAT WILL CAUSE THEM TO FIX THEIR EYES ON CHRIST, WE MAY STEP ASIDE, AND ASK THEM ONLY TO CONTINUE TO FIX THEIR EYES UPON THE LAMB OF GOD. THEY THUS RECEIVE THEIR LESSON. WHOSOEVER WILL COME AFTER ME, LET HIM DENY HIMSELF, AND TAKE UP HIS CROSS, AND FOLLOW ME. HE WHOSE EYES ARE FIXED ON JESUS WILL LEAVE ALL. HE WILL DIE TO SELFISHNESS. HE WILL BELIEVE IN ALL THE WORD OF GOD, WHICH IS SO GLORIOUSLY AND WONDERFULLY EXALTED IN CHRIST.. 21MR 37.1

1 COR. 2:2 — I WOULD KNOW NOTHING AMONG YOU BUT JESUS CHRIST AND HIM CRUCIFIED.

Next Friday, we will explore her views on revelation and inspiration.

To discover more, visit https://whiteestate.org/absg/4.