

# Preaching the Truth

## (Quotations from Reprints, Scriptures and Volumes)

Truth should lead to humble service of Truth, not to idle curiosity to know the present and future which does not lead to service—or should we become listless and indifferent in the service of the Truth and have consecrated time on our hands, our adversary will find some convenient method of occupying the time and some plausible excuse for so doing, wherewith to silence the conscience—and to such a covenant-breaker will soon be sent a strong delusion because he is not a lover (server) of the truth.—R1356, 1 Cor. 4:1,2

*“Preach the Word”*—all of the Lord’s people are teachers as it is written, *“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach the good tidings”*.... The Christian washerwoman is to preach this message, so is the Christian businessman, and laborer and housewife, each according to his opportunities—and there are surely some opportunities for all.... *“Be instant in and out of season”* ... It is the chief business of our lives, to which life itself even is subservient, and hence, no opportunity for service must be laid aside.—R3210, 2 Tim. 4:2; Luke 4:18,19; Isa. 62:1,2

His one message was the good tidings of the Kingdom of God. This is still the good tidings...Jesus shows us the importance he attaches to every service we can render to the heavenly Father’s cause. He said to him, *“Let the dead bury their dead, but go thou and preach the Kingdom of God”* ... There are plenty in the world who can attend to the earthly things, few who can attend to the greater and more important work of proclaiming the kingdom and gathering the kingdom class—this is the most important work in the world, because it is God’s work. And those who engage in it are co-laborers with God...Is it not time for all Bible Students to awaken to the great privilege of preaching the same message that the Master and his appointed ones at the first advent preached?—R5370, Mark 1:38; Luke 9:59-62; Matt. 11:1

*“And it came to pass afterward, that he went throughout every city and village, preaching and showing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God: and the twelve were with him.”*—Luke 8:1

And so it is today, those who most cheerfully, most zealously forget self and earthly ambitions, aims and projects, and who most fully give themselves to the Lord and to his service, these may walk nearest to the Lord at all times.—R3334, Matt. 4:23; Acts 20:24

A mere intellectual assent to the truth of God, which does not lead to activity in His service, is not faith and can never overcome the world, nor secure the prize of our high calling.—R1720

To be really in His service involves:

1. The careful and continued study of God's Plan.
2. The imbibing of its spirit, leading;
3. To an enthusiastic zeal for its accomplishment and to activity to the extent of our ability in its service, at whatever the cost or sacrifice it may require.—R5970

Diligently and patiently we must submit ourselves to all the transforming influence of Divine grace and truth; and then, loyally and faithfully, we must devote our consecrated talents, however few or many, to the great work of preaching this Gospel of the Kingdom to all who will hear.—R3149

... *“Whosoever shall confess me before man, him shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God; But he that denieth me before man shall be denied before the angels of God.”—Luke 12:8,9*

If the Household of Faith demands all of our time when we have opportunity, we may be doing nothing for the lost sheep, but only helping to perfect those the Lord already has found.—R5428, Gal. 6:10

Every true disciple has often found that the work he took up painfully from a sense of duty, became to him a source of special joy. On this path are the shining footprints of the Master.—R997

As all of the disciples then prayed this prayer, and got opportunity to engage in some part of the harvest work, so now all true disciples should be praying this prayer, and should be expecting and utilizing opportunities for service.—R2635,6; Matt. 9:36-38

Not only have thousands been permitted to hear the Good Tidings, but the brethren who have given the exhibitions and have conducted the follow-up work, have received great blessings in their own hearts as a part of their reward for faithfulness to their opportunities.—R5787

When the privilege reaches us it becomes an opportunity for demonstrating to the Lord our zeal for him, for his truth and for the household of faith.—R5471, Psa. 40:9

*“And he that repeat receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal; that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together. And herein is that saying true, One soweth, and another reapeth. I sent you to reap that whereon ye bestowed no labour; other men labored, and ye are entered into their labours.”—Jn. 4:36-38*

Any carelessness on our part, or any cessation of activity in the service of the truth while opportunity yet remains, would in our estimation be a great mistake. If we are loyal, the Lord will give us far great opportunities in the future—the blessing of all the nations, all the kindreds, all the families of the earth.—R5761, I Thess. 2:2-4

If all the consecrated were busily engaged in putting on the armor of God, and in proving it by actual use in zealous endeavor to herald the truth and to help others to stand, there'd be no time left for even good reform work.—R5045

God has full power to open ways and means before us whereby we may engage in His service, if He be willing to accept of our service, if we find favor in His sight, if our prayers of lips and of heart go up before him as a memorial.—R3664

All who have received the truth in the love of it will be glad to let their light shine to the glory of God and the blessing of others. If the glorious message of the Lord has filled our own hearts and blessed our lives, we shall rejoice to carry the living waters to other thirsty souls.—R5497

So we are to tell forth this glorious message. We are to tell it in our actions, in our words, by the printed page, by pictorial presentations to the eye, and in every way that the Lord shall give us the opportunity. If through fear of persecution, of losing prestige in the eyes of men, for love of ease, or for any reason whatever, we should fail to give forth the Message of God, it will be taken from us and given to one who is worthy. The Lord is seeking those who are valiant for Him, for righteousness, for truth. If we prove ourselves weak, we are not fit for the kingdom.... If we refrain from telling the glad tidings, the results will be that the fire of God's Holy Spirit will become extinguished within us.... The possession of the truth—God's message—brings with it great responsibility.—R5489, Acts 4:29

Tests of our loyalty will continually come. The flesh will be inclined to rebel strongly at times. The questions will present themselves: Are you willing to confess Christ? Are you ashamed to own his name before the world, or do you esteem this your chiefest honor? There will be temptations to be discouraged. Our weaknesses will rise up before us, and the adversary will take advantage of these circumstances to further dishearten us.—R5497

*"Then said I, ah, Lord God! Behold, I cannot speak; for I am a child. But the Lord said unto me, Say not, I am a child, for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak. Be not afraid of their faces; for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the Lord. Then the Lord put forth his hand and touched my mouth. And the Lord said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth."—Jer. 1:6-9*

All of the Lord's people filled with His spirit must be engaged in this work in some manner; ...Therefore, let each one who has tasted of this grace of God be forward to avail himself to his utmost in using his privilege of being a co-laborer with his Lord.—R2490

But by God's grace we will continue to bear witness to the truth until the dark night comes "*wherein no man can work*" should our lives be spared till then.—R5898, *John 9:4*

To make our studies of the Divine Plan as profitable as possible, we should spend as much time daily in dispensing the truth to others as we spend in seeking to feed ourselves and Christian experience proves the truth of the words of scripture, "*He that watereth shall be watered also himself,*" so that gradually the servant of the Lord will become more and more interested in handing forth the truth to others and finding that his own growth in knowledge and in grace came either in preparing to dispense the truth to others or while dispensing it to them. A state of lethargy, indolence, etc., respecting opportunities for presenting the truth to others, is a sure indication of spiritual poverty. "*Not slothful in business, fervent (warm, zealous) in spirit, serving the Lord.*"—R2488, *Prov. 11:25; Rom. 12:11*

Those who love the present life close their lips and refrain from speaking his loving kindness, but those faithful to their covenant, and appreciate the Lord's favor, as "*better than life,*" will show forth His praise at any and every cost of an earthly kind.—R2853, *Psa. 63:3*

What was this (St. Paul's) dying charge? It was that Timothy should be diligent, zealous in preaching the Word of God, that considerations for his own convenience should be entirely set aside and every opportunity for declaring the message of God's love in Christ availed. What an encouragement is here for the very humblest of God's people, not by intellectual or physical strength, not by wonderful works, not by anything that we can do or have done for the Lord, His cause, and His people, are we to hope for eternal glory, but simply with the Apostle we are to seek to use what talents we do possess and what opportunities the Lord provides for us, faithfully.—R2229,10; *2 Tim. 4:5,17*

To what extent are we each and all zealously using the opportunities which the Lord has put in our power to glorify His name and bless our sin-sick neighbors, not only by telling them about Jesus and His wonderful words of life, but to what extent are we additionally helping them to come to Him? These are various ways in which we may assist, by word, by letter, by invitation to meetings, etc....—R3315

God blesses the messengers of his glorious truth as they dispense it to others. He that watereth others is more abundantly watered himself than if he attempted to merely sponge, or absorb the truth.—B90, *Prov. 11:25*

In whatever department of the Lord's service he is pleased to open the door of opportunity to us, we should enter it promptly and with energy—with zeal for Him and for the Cause to which He has called us. This is the one condition of our acceptableness with Him...Let us more and more appreciate what a privilege we enjoy in being co-laborers together with God.—R2888

Our faithfulness in witnessing to the Lord shall be the test of our worthiness to be members of His glorified body.—R3478

Let us prove ourselves jewels of rarest value, diamonds indeed, heartily receiving and beautifully transmitting to others the light of truth.—R3104

Eventually victory shall be ours, for *“Truth is mighty and shall prevail.”* It is ours to use the opportunities granted us as wisely and efficiently as possible. It is God’s part to overrule the work and bring ultimate victory and blessing to the worthy.—R1750, *1 Cor. 3:5-9*

Whether it was at the beginning, or now at the close of the age—the time of the reaping—it is all one work, and there is the one purpose being served, the gathering of the elect...we are laborers together with God.—R5302

All the Lord’s people are ministers, servants of the truth, and each should seek to use every opportunity presenting itself, knowing not which may be specially prospered of the Lord...these must not, cannot, keep silence nor put their light under a bushel. If they do, it means the extinguishment of their light, the stoppage of their growth, and preserved in this would ultimately mean to them destruction in the second death.—R2965,6; *Luke 9:26; Rom. 10:9,10*

Whoever therefore understands this real Gospel, and appreciates his own ordination to preach it, must necessarily feel unhappy if he should be hindered from preaching it. Some can preach in several ways, others can preach in very few ways, but all can preach it some way. The more we do—the more happy we should be.—R5893

*“For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!”—1 Cor. 9:16*

Let us more and more use our time, strength, talents, joys, etc., in relieving the poor world of its mental distress.... As it will be God’s great work in the future, through Christ and the Church, to wipe away earth’s tears, let us chase away some of those fears at the present time.—R5214

True sanctification of the heart to the Lord means diligence in His service, a declaration of the good tidings to others, the building up of one another in the most holy faith.... If you have been seeking opportunities of service and have found none, there must be something wrong; you may have been seeking some special service of your own preference (your old will meddling with your newly adopted will—the Lord’s).—R5127

*“Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name, but his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing and I could not stay.”—Jer. 20:9*

The Gospel in print is doing many times more good than the Gospel by voice in the present harvest, but the latter introduces and supplements well the former and the two together are preferable to either alone.—*R1650*

Then let all who know the truth be active in its spread; if you cannot preach orally perhaps you can preach privately, to your friends or neighbors—by printed page or pen or word, as well as by your consistent daily conduct. Those about you need whatever help you can give, and if they do not get it, many of them surely will drift into these latter-day delusions of Satan.—*R1644, Acts 5:42*

Similarly, all of the Lord's followers are to bear witness to the truth—the truth in respect to God's character and plan.... It is such witness to the truth that is to cost all the true followers of Jesus their lives in presenting themselves living sacrifices.... Let each one who hopes to be a joint-heir with the Prince of Life in the Kingdom witness to the truth.—*R2472, John 18:37*

*"He that hath an ear to hear, let him hear."* Tell him the good tidings no matter in what form they must be presented, no matter how intolerable the conditions. The important thing is that if we will, the Lord will bless us in ministering it to them.... Let us be on the alert to give to all who are hungering and thirsting the blessed food which has so greatly refreshed and strengthened us. If they do not get it, they will faint by the way as they go looking for other provisions. We have the very thing which all of the household of faith need, without it they cannot maintain their standing.—*R3334, Matt. 10:8*

Let us remember, too, while using all the wisdom we can in this service, that the Lord's object in giving us a share in his work is not so much what we can accomplish as in the blessing that the labor will bring upon us.... The Master knoweth them that are his, and that he appreciates every sincere effort made to serve his cause and to lay our lives down on behalf of the brethren, will give courage and strength to those who otherwise might faint by the way.—*R2811*

Each one blessed by the truth should feel it is his privilege as well as his duty to serve it and his fellow pilgrims to the heavenly kingdom. He whose heart does not burn with a desire to tell the good tidings either has not learned it or else has received only its letter and not its spirit. But all should remember the Lord's caution, *"Be ye wise as serpents and harmless as doves," Matt. 10:16* and the Apostle's admonition to speak the truth in Love. Such efforts for those who are yet in darkness are well supplemented by weekly gatherings for prayer, praise and interchange of testimony by those who have emerged into the marvelous light of Present Truth.—*R1709*

Are the saints inclined to boast of their self-denials or service? Let them reckon the matter carefully and see how little the most energetic is able to accomplish, and then doubtless with shame many will confess how little of all they desired to accomplish they have been able to render unto the Lord.—*R3842*

As iron sharpeneth iron, so our energies on behalf of others bring blessings to ourselves.—*“The New Creation” p. 137*

Activity in the Lord’s service to the full extent of our ability or talents is what the Lord has a right to expect of all who profess to be his servants, and it is what he does expect. Therefore, if you have but one talent, do not bury it, but cultivate and use it, do what you can, and all you can, in the great work to which we have already consecrated our lives.... Let all who would run the race successfully look well to their zeal and activity in the Lord’s work.... Faithfulness implies activity.—*R3696*

*“I am the vine, ye are the branches, he that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit, for without me ye can do nothing.”—John 15:5*

But think not that the giving will end with the giving of the needful time and energy to this study; it will not. The sincerity of your sacrifice of self will be tested in full, and will prove you either worthy or unworthy of membership in that *“little flock”* the overcome Church, which will receive the honors of the kingdom. If you give diligence to the Word of God and receive its truths into a good, honest, consecrated heart, it will beget in you such a love for God and his plan, and such a desire to tell the good tidings, to preach the gospel, that it will become the all-absorbing theme of life thereafter.—*“The Divine Plan of the Ages,” p. 347.*

He who serves from love, and according to his opportunities for sacrifice, will have his opportunities enlarged and his talents increased.—*R1714*

All can suffer who will, and all will suffer who have been begotten of the truth and are not ashamed of the Lord, the brethren, and the truth.—*R1783, 2 Tim. 2:12; 2 Cor. 4:17; Rom. 8:17.*

A call to the Lord’s service comes through the truth and our acceptance of it. Whoever has the Lord’s spirit must feel interested in all of the Lord’s work, and feel called upon to do anything and everything in his power to forward the same.—*R4001, Matt. 28:18-20*

Not that the truth will fail without our effort, but that we need to make the effort on behalf of truth for our own development in grace.... Some can labor in a special manner but one hour a day, some more, all can let a general halo of light shine from the daily walk before their fellow Christians and the world, but not without overcoming the obstacles and besetments with which the adversary is sure to attempt to hinder you.—*R758*

Those whose hearts are really and fully consecrated, if they find a wincing of the flesh when an opportunity for sacrifice offers, will be put on guard thereby to see that their human will, pride, love of self, and ease, etc....are more fully crucified to the death.—*R1334*

If you are doing all that you can do, be glad and rejoice, even though that all be miserably small, even in your own estimation. It is the will and effort to DO and to BE that our Redeemer regards with loving favor.... Our Lord does not despise our feeblest efforts when prompted by warm, overflowing hearts...as a sound faith is for the purpose of leading to good works, so the activity of service is necessary to continued purity of faith.—R1440

*“We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak.”—2 Cor. 4:13*

### **Some words of direction:**

Many of the workers tell us that they are encouraged and indeed surprised to find some fruit of their labors where they had not expected it.... Some have had the “Tower” in their hands repeatedly without having their attention riveted and their interest fully awakened, who, by and by, were wonderfully aroused and blessed.... “Be wise”—you must be neat and respectable in appearance, kind, interesting and dignified in your language and manner, leaving no doubt in the minds of those you meet that your service is from your heart, and rendered to the Lord.... Do not be discouraged. You will daily learn better how to awaken and interest the sheep. At first you may frighten the sheep only and have little success, but “*Study to show thyself approved unto God,*” pray for help and let the Master’s voice speak more and more in all your words and looks and deeds, and soon you will be used to bless and feed some.... But not in too great haste; wherever you find a hearing ear, give it plenty of time and call back repeatedly to assist.—R824

*“Be ye wise as serpents and harmless as doves.”* The Apostle Paul speaking along this same line of the wisdom he used in presenting the Gospel tactfully, says, “*Being crafty [wise] I took you with guile*”—with bait.... Their mission was to catch men with the glorious hopes and prospects of the Gospel, to bring them into such relationship with the Lord that they would fully and gladly surrender their all to Him. And this is the same course that is properly before the Lord’s representatives today.—R3307,8; *Matt. 10:16; 2 Cor. 12:16; Matt. 4:19.*

The more genteel your appearance and graceful and loving your manner, the more will your printed testimony count with your auditors.—R2457

Those who have purchased often need merely a wise call and an invitation to attend the class of Bible Students, thus their interest in Present Truth is fanned into a flame—a zeal for God and for the Truth concerning His Plan.... Classes willing to undertake this campaign of visiting will be supplied with cards showing the addresses of fellow-citizens who have written or who have purchased books within a year or two...giving us the names of those who will participate with assurances that they will be discreet and not seek to bore the people to buy the books if they do not wish them when brought to their attention.—R5819



And so we find it with ourselves and others today; whoever is truly thankful to the Lord and offers Him praise, remembering His benefits, will seek to render substantial thanks also in deeds that will be acceptable and Pleasing to the Lord.—R2551

We all see the issue squarely. Let us each resolve that by the Lord's grace we will yet hear His voice declare of us, as members of his bride—*“she hath done what she could.”* This will mean more energetic and more persistent service.—R3296, Mark 14:8

If you at one time tried the work and failed of success, put yourself under our present instructions and you will surely succeed.—R3741

There are other classes which need to wake up, to take note of Brethren having some ability, and to encourage them to use their time and strength in the class extension work.—R5131

We are to exercise our function of ambassadorship—we are to show forth the praises of him who hath called us out of darkness into his marvelous light. And, in telling the message of his grace, we shall grow spiritually. “He that watereth shall himself also be watered.” As we proclaim the truth from an honest, earnest, loving heart, we shall become more and more filled with it ourselves. “There is that which scattereth and yet increaseth; and there is that which withholdeth and it tendeth to poverty”—to leanness of soul. As we give out to others, our own store of blessing is increased. We are to develop day by day this quality of love.”—R5720, *Prov. 11:24*

And our Lord warns us of the necessity of letting our light shine continually, saying, *“If the light that is in thee be (become) darkness, how great is that darkness!”* both to the individual soul in whom the light has gone out, and to the world, from whom the light is thus obscured. Satan achieves no greater triumph than when he seduces a soul which was once enlightened and sanctified by the truth. The influence of such an one for evil is more than doubled. *“Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall,”* and remember that to put his *“light under a bushel”* is a sure step toward darkness.—*“The Atonement Between God and Man,” p. 294.*

Please consider the following references in the *“Convention Report Sermons,” pp. 22, 30, 308.*

And this is all we can say; the only hope we can hold out is that no man ever labored for our Master who will not receive abundantly more than he could ask or expect. And then we know that some of the places in the work will be vacated by reason of some not continuing faithful, and that the crowns of reward set apart for such will be given to others who, by faithfulness and self-sacrifice, prove themselves worthy of the work and the reward.—*“Thy Kingdom Come,” p. 224.*