

Great Controversy Series
Holy Anti-Error Protection
Chapter 37 – The Scriptures a Safeguard
 Bible Sermon Study Notes: Cary Rodgers, Jr., pastor

What is only book in the world that invites the whole world to accept the free gift of salvation and eternal life through Jesus Christ? The Holy Bible! There is no other book like the Bible! What is the only book in the world that present prophecies that prepares us for the soon coming of Jesus Christ? The Holy Bible! What is the only book in the world that is your protection against the deceptions of false teachers and the delusive power of demonic spirits? The Holy Bible, God’s Word! What is the only book in the world that will reveal every stealthy moves of Satan? The Bible!

In a world of cybercrime over the internet every computer should have an antivirus protection program, if NOT your computer and personal information is at great risk. In the last days ALL Christians must have the Holy Anti-error protection Bible “downloaded” in their life in order to know truth from error!

What urgent warning does Jesus give us concerning the last days?

Matthew 24:4-5

- 4 And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that **no man** deceive you.
 5 For many shall **come in my name**, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

There are many who will come in the name of Christ or will profess that they are true Christians but will deceive many!

What is the safeguard scripture that we must use to distinguish truth from error?

Isaiah 8:20

20 To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.

Watch out, deception is lurking and rearing its ugly head all around you and the scriptures are your ONLY safeguard to distinguish truth from error. **Remember Satan hates the everlasting Gospel Truth with a passion! He is doing everything he can to prevent others from the investigation of the Bible because it exposes all his moves and plans.**

As time gets closer to the end Satan and his agents will present themselves as angels of truth!

2 Corinthians 11:13-15

- 13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.
 14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.
 15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

“The last great delusion is soon to open before us. Antichrist is to perform his marvelous works in our sight. So closely will the counterfeit resemble the true that it will be impossible to distinguish between them except by the Holy Scriptures. By their testimony every statement and every miracle must be tested.” GC 593

Remember, Who does Satan have all OUT war against in these last days?

Revelation 12:17

17 And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the **remnant** of her seed, which **keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.**

Remnant (Greek) means remaining ones. The remnant are the few who remain in the true Jesus Christ of the Bible. They are keeping and holding on to ALL the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ which reveals how to have victory over sin and Bible prophecy revealed and fulfilled. The remnant are Satan's special objects of his attacks. He has declared all out war against the remnant! Are you a remnant remaining in the TRUTH? ALL TRUE remnant are root and grounded in the truth. Their love for the TRUTH is much greater than Satan hate of it.

“Those who endeavor to obey all the commandments of God will be opposed and derided. They can stand only in God. In order to endure the trial before them, they must understand the will of God as revealed in His word; they can honor Him only as they have a right conception of His character, government, and purposes, and act in accordance with them. None but those who have **fortified** the mind with the truths of the Bible will stand through the last great conflict.” GC 593

Fortify means to “to protect or strengthen against attack.” Is your mind fortified with Bible truth?

What is the only proven way to fortify your mind with Bible truth?**John 5:39**

39 **Search [investigate] the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.**

2 Timothy 2:15

15 Study [make effort - diligence] to shew **thyself** approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

What promises does God give to those who are diligently seeking TRUTH?**Jeremiah 29:12-13**

12 Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you.

13 And ye shall seek me, and **find me**, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

Amos 5:4

4 For thus saith the LORD unto the house of Israel, Seek ye me, and **ye shall live:**

Isaiah 55:6-7

6 Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:

7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and **he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.**

You will be tested on every level. Are you rooted and ground in the truth? Again, do you have a deep abiding love for the truth? The end is right upon us. God's Word tell us the end time events now so we cannot only be grounded in the truth, but given hope, comfort, and peace. God's end time remnant need to study and know Bible prophecy of last day events.

What Bible prophetic events did Jesus tell his disciples near the end of his ministry on this earth?

1) Matthew 16:21

21 From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and **be killed, and be raised again the third day.**

2) Matthew 17:22-23

22 And while they abode in Galilee, Jesus said unto them, The Son of man shall be betrayed into the hands of men:

23 And they **shall kill him, and the third day he shall be raised again.** And they were exceeding sorry.

3) Matthew 20:17-19

17 And Jesus going up to Jerusalem took the twelve disciples apart in the way, and said unto them,

18 Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be betrayed unto the chief priests and unto the scribes, and they shall condemn him to death,

19 And shall deliver him to the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and to crucify him: and the **third day he shall rise again.**

4) Matthew 26:1-2, 18

1 And it came to pass, when Jesus had finished all these sayings, he said unto his disciples,

2 Ye know that after two days is the feast of the passover, and the Son of man is betrayed to be crucified.

18 And he said, Go into the city to such a man, and say unto him, The Master saith, My time is at hand; I will keep the passover at thy house with my disciples.

Even though Jesus Christ made plain the prophecies of His death and resurrection what was the reaction of his disciples in the time of crisis?

Peter denied Jesus three times. They hid and were scared, disappointed and despondent. **They were UNPREPARED for the crisis!** Their hearts were unnecessarily broken why because they did not believe and take heed to the prophecy!

“So in the prophecies the future is opened before us as plainly as it was opened to the disciples by the words of Christ. The events connected with the close of probation and the work of preparation for the time of trouble, are clearly presented. But multitudes have no more understanding of these important truths than if they had never been revealed. Satan watches to catch away every impression that would make them wise unto salvation, and the time of trouble will find them unready.” GC 594

Urgent message of Three Angels, but SO much ignorance!

The three angels message of Revelation 14:6 – 13 reveals the difference between God’s true church and Satan’s counterfeit church system. It also reveals an urgent message of judgment, the fall of Babylon and the wrath of God to those who worship the beast and his image and have its mark in their forehead or hand. Should every professed Christian need to know who about the judgment, the beast, the image of the beast, and the mark of the beast? The Bible reveals the explanation and understanding of these vital prophetic messages in plain site!

But why are the majority of the professed Christian so ignorant of these prophecies? They have not developed a love for the truth by seeking and investigating God’s word because they are still worldly minded. They profess the name of Christ but still have pleasure in unrighteousness!

2 Timothy 4:3

3 For the time will come (it is here now!) when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

“That time has fully come. The multitudes do not want Bible truth, because it interferes with the desires of the sinful, world-loving heart; and Satan supplies the deceptions which they love.” - GC 594

Patient, Obey Commandments, and faith of Jesus

What does God declare at the end of the Three Angels Message when it appears that all the Christian world is in deep apostasy and drinking the Babylonian wine of false doctrines of devils?

Revelation 14:12

12 Here is the patience (cheerful endurance) of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

God has a people who will cheerfully endure the fiery trails and persecution. He has a people who keep ALL the commandments of God, including the seventh day Sabbath. He has a people who have developed the FAITH of Jesus through the keeping and apply the testimonies of Jesus in their lives! God has a people who are faithful to the end! Are you included?

Should you find comfort in the beliefs of the majority or the WORD of God?

“The opinions of learned men, the deductions of science, the creeds or decisions of ecclesiastical councils, as numerous and discordant as are the churches which they represent, the voice of the majority--not one nor all of these should be regarded as evidence for or against any point of religious faith. Before accepting any doctrine or precept, we should demand a plain ‘Thus saith the Lord’ in its support.” GC 595

Matthew 7:13-14

13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

Never find comfort in numbers, find comfort in the word of Truth even if you stand alone! Jesus will always be with you!

Why are so many professed Christians on the broad way of destruction, drinking Babylon wine of false doctrine?

The great majority have placed ministers and pastors in the place of God. Their word and beliefs are believed over the plain teachings of the Bible! Many are worshiped today like a god! Because these ministers make them feel comfortable and assured prosperity and heaven they take heed to their word even though it conflicts with God’s Word.

Why did the majority of people of Israel at the time of Jesus’ ministry on the earth reject Him as the Messiah?

John 7:12-13 (At the time of the feast of tabernacles)

12 And there was much murmuring among the people concerning him (Jesus): for some said, He is a good man: others said, Nay; but he deceiveth the people.

13 Howbeit no man spake openly of him for fear of the Jews (Jewish leaders).

John 9:22 (Parents of blind son who was healed by Jesus)

22 These words spake his parents, because they feared the Jews: for the Jews had agreed already, that if any man did confess that he was Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue.

Do you fear God or the preacher, teacher, or church leader? Do you fear God give glory to Him or do you fear the people?

Proverbs 29:25

25 The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.

Isaiah 51:7

7 Hearken unto me, ye that know righteousness, the people in whose heart is my law; **fear ye not** the reproach of men, neither be ye afraid of their revilings (slander).

Why did many of the Jewish leaders not follow Jesus as the Messiah?

John 12:42-43

42 Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue:

43 For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

“The spirit which actuated those priests and rulers is still manifested by many who make a high profession of piety. They refuse to examine the testimony of the Scriptures concerning the special truths for this time. They point to their own numbers, wealth, and popularity, and look with contempt upon the advocates of truth as few, poor, and unpopular, having a faith that separates them from the world.” GC 596

There are four main types of preachers and teachers

1) Mix truth and error

2) Social gospel – feel good prosperity gospel

3) Present truth who give a partial three angels message, but do not rebuke sin and apostasy in the church! They say, “I don’t want to spread dirty laundry” OR They expose some apostasy but tell others stay in it!

4) Straight testimony – present truth and the full three angels message not afraid rebuke sin and apostasy in the church. [TRUTH, REBUKE, ENCOURAGE]

Who is the most dangerous from this list?

Those who half way present the three angels’ message without fully rebuking sin and apostasy is one of the most dangerous of the four preachers. Some see and teach about apostasies but tell others to stay in it. They say that the SDA GC corp church will revive and reform and stay on the ship! Look at the fruit. **They like Israel have rejected the TRUTH! They are blind. They have unified with the papacy, allow the LGBTQ movement in the church and schools, grasp their hands with spiritualism, plus more and many “present truth” preachers STILL keep their mouths shut TIGHT! Thousands follow their lead and stay in these churches of apostasy, and bring others into these churches.** For example:

Seventh-day Adventist World Church vote statement on Transgenderism, April 11, 2017, Adventist Network News

“As long as transgender people are committed to ordering their lives according to the biblical teachings on sexuality and marriage they can be members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.”

Note: This is confusion and sin! Transgender by it definition is sin! Period. Remember if a transgender can become a member he/she can also lead as a teacher, pastor, or church administrator!

“Although gender dysphoria (transgenderism) is not intrinsically sinful, it may result in sinful choices.”

Note: Transgenderism is SIN! (Period)

This was a unanimous vote with the President of the General Conference, Ted Wilson, chairing the vote!

BTW: The Andrews University Board of Trustees, where the GC seminary is located, has approved the creation of an OFFICIAL LGBTQ support group on campus, according to the Student Movement newspaper, posted October 26, 2017 by Kelly Lorenz <http://www.austudentmovement.com/home/2017/10/25/here-queer-and-safe-spaces-arent-about-fear>

Do you call this revival and reformation or going deeper and deeper in to apostasy and spiritual darkness!

Many have submitted their minds to the minds to these blind guides! Never submit your mind to the control of another human being, only submit your mind to GOD!

Remember, what counsel does Jesus give to honest seekers of truth concerning blind and apostate church leadership?

Matthew 15:14

14 Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.

The Bible and its treasurers of truth are plentiful. There is no excuse NOT to know Bible truth for yourself!

What are the blind guides telling its followers?

“Don’t worry trust us. We are many, we have degrees and letters behind our names, we wouldn’t lead you astray. All is fine.”

“Though the Reformation gave the Scriptures to all, yet the selfsame principle which was maintained by Rome prevents multitudes in Protestant churches from searching the Bible for themselves. They are taught to accept its teachings as interpreted by the church; and there are thousands who dare receive nothing, however plainly revealed in Scripture, that is contrary to their creed or the established teaching of their church.” GC 596

Should we trust church doctrines and policies voted on by blind leadership? NO! We must stand firm on the Word of GOD!

“A lack of moral courage to step aside from the beaten track of the world leads many to follow in the steps of learned men; and by their reluctance to investigate for themselves, they are becoming hopelessly fastened in the chains of error. They see that the truth for this time is plainly brought to view in the Bible; and they feel the power of the Holy Spirit attending its proclamation; yet they allow the opposition of the clergy to turn them from the light. **Though reason and conscience are convinced, these deluded souls dare not think differently from the minister; and their individual judgment, their eternal interests, are sacrificed to the unbelief, the pride and prejudice, of another.**” GC 597

The great majority have no answer to their faith. They point to their religious leaders as an answer to their faith. “Well, I am under the teaching of Dr. Pastor Bishop T. M. Willham of the Evaluation Express Church! We have a good time in the Lord!”

Remember, pastors and bishop are NOT kings. They should be fellow servants teaching the full truth of God's Word and rebuke sin and apostasy and encourage others to stay in the true church of God in which Jesus is the head. Jesus is the KING!

1 Peter 5:1-3

- 1 The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:
- 2 Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;
- 3 Neither as **being lords (or kings)** over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.

In addition to blind church pastors and leadership, what is another method that Satan uses to keep people in spiritual darkness?

Satan also uses worldly associations to seduce professed Christians into rejecting Bible truth!

“Many are the ways by which Satan works through human influence to bind his captives. He secures multitudes to himself by attaching them by the **silken cords of affection to those who are enemies of the cross of Christ**. Whatever this attachment may be, parental, filial (son or daughter), conjugal (husband or wife), or social, the effect is the same; the opposers of truth exert their power to control the conscience, and the souls held under their sway have not sufficient courage or independence to obey their own convictions of duty.” GC 597

These “silken cords of affection” creates a web of doubt and sin. Never allow family or social relationship keep you from fully embracing God's truth. The reason why a GREAT majority of professed christian reject the seventh day Sabbath is not only their ministers, but their family and social associations.

What does Jesus say concerning this?

Luke 14:26

26 If any man come to me, and hate (love less) not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.

In other words, if you love your family more then you love Jesus you are not a true follower of Jesus. If you allow their words to turn your from fully accepting ALL the truths of the Bible, you are not a true follower of Jesus.

Who are your true family of sisters and brothers according to Jesus?

Matthew 12:47-50

- 47 Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee.
- 48 But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren?
- 49 And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren!
- 50 **For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.**

There are cases where “blood” family member reject, ridicule, mock, persecute, betray, or even kill family members who are sharing the unadulterated truth of God's word. Those who do this are possessed with demonic spirits! Jesus says even though some of your “blood” relatives will reject you, always remember you have a family of brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus!

If the light of truth is within your reach, is ignorance an excuse not know truth for yourself?

“The truth and the glory of God are inseparable; it is impossible for us, with the Bible within our reach, to honor God by erroneous opinions. Many claim that it matters not what one believes, if his life is only right. But the life is molded by the faith. If light and truth is within our reach, and we neglect to improve the privilege of hearing and seeing it, we virtually reject it; we are choosing darkness rather than light.” GC 597

Our current generation especially those in America have NO excuse. We live in an information age where TRUTH of God’s Word is right at our finger tips. Bibles and truth filled literature is right before all of us and all we need to do is take time and study for ourselves.

Can you trust your opinions, emotions, or gut feelings or the beliefs of others?**Jeremiah 17:9**

9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

Proverbs 16:25

25 There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

Jeremiah 17:5-6

5 Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD.

6 For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited.

“Ignorance will not excuse young or old, nor release them from the punishment due for the transgression of God’s law; because there is in their hands a faithful presentation of that law and of its principles and claims. It is not enough to have good intentions; it is not enough to do what a man thinks is right or what the minister tells him is right. His soul’s salvation is at stake, and he should search the Scriptures for himself. However strong may be his convictions, however confident he may be that the minister knows what is truth, this is not his foundation. He has a chart pointing out every waymark on the heavenward journey, and he ought not to guess at anything.” GC 598

How often should you study God’s Word? What was in Jesus’ model prayer?**Matthew 6:11**

11 Give us this day our daily bread.

“We should day by day study the Bible diligently, weighing every thought and comparing scripture with scripture. With divine help we are to form our opinions for ourselves as we are to answer for ourselves before God.” GC 598

Allow the Bible to be its own interpreter by comparing scripture with scripture

“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.” GC 599

When studying the Bible you must first pray for understanding and have teachable and humble attitude.

“One reason why many theologians have no clearer understanding of God's word is, they close their eyes to truths which they do not wish to practice. As understanding of Bible truth depends not so much on the power of intellect brought to the search as on the singleness of purpose, the earnest longing after righteousness.” GC 599

Personal questions: Do you have a longing to know Bible truth for yourself? Do you want to go deeper in God's Word especially Bible prophecy in these last days? Do you want to have more love and zeal for God's truth in the last days?

If your answer is yes, you must intentionally and consistently minister God's truth to others. This is a command by God for ALL of His true followers. When you develop and implement a personal ministry to reach other for Jesus Christ, your study and relationship with Jesus will go deeper! You can be a bible worker, teacher, preacher, evangelist, writer, literature evangelist, true medical missionary, musician and the list goes on. God has a work for you to do. The more you do for Christ in leading others to heaven the more you will prosper spirituality. He will take care of you and your family IF you make this a priority in your life. If you are consistent and diligent.

Matthew 6:31-34

31 Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

32 (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

34 Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

Psalms 37:25

25 I have been young, and now am old; yet have **I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.**

As you diligently study for yourself and present Bible truth to others, the Holy Spirit will bring things back to your mind to remember in times of temptation, crisis, distress, or ministering to others.

Are you “an evergreen” in the word of God sharing God's everlasting gospel to others?

“When the testing time shall come, those who have made God's word their rule of life will be revealed. In summer there is no noticeable difference between evergreens and other trees; but when the blasts of winter come, the evergreens remain unchanged, while other trees are stripped of their foliage. So the falsehearted professor may not now be distinguished from the real Christian, but the time is just upon us when the difference will be apparent. Let opposition arise, let bigotry and intolerance again bear sway, let persecution be kindled, and the halfhearted and hypocritical will waver and yield the faith; but the true Christian will stand firm as a rock, his faith stronger, his hope brighter, than in days of prosperity.” GC 602

Psalms 119:104

104 Through thy precepts (commandments) I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way.

Do you hate every false way? Stay faithful to truth in God's word and you will be like an evergreen tree!

Jeremiah 17:7-8

7 Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is.

8 For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.