

29 “as though they had none”

1Co 7: 29–35

29) But this I say, brethren, **the time is short, so that from now on even those who have wives should be *as though they had none*...**

31) ...For the form of this world is passing away.

32) But I want you to be without care. He who is unmarried cares for the things of the Lord--how he may please the Lord.

33) But he who is married cares about the things of the world--how he may please *his* wife.

34) There is a difference between a wife and a virgin. The unmarried woman cares about the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit. But she who is married cares about the things of the world--how she may please *her* husband.

35) And this I say for your own profit, not that I may put a leash on you, but for what is proper, and that you may serve the Lord without distraction.

The Greek word that is translated “as though” is:

5613 **wv** hos *hoce*

probably from comparative from 3739;; adv

KJV - as 342, when 42, how 18, as it were 20, about 14, misc 56; 492

1) as, like, even as, etc.

Examples of how this same word is used in the same chapter:

1Co 7:7* For I would that all men were even as **<5613>** I myself. But every man hath his proper gift of God, one after this manner, and another after that.

1Co 7:8* **I say therefore to the unmarried and widows, It is good for them if they abide even as **<5613>** I.**

1Co 7:17* But as **<5613>** God hath distributed to every man, as **<5613>** the Lord hath called every one, so let him walk. And so ordain I in all churches.

1Co 7:25* Now concerning virgins I have no commandment of the Lord: yet I give my judgment, as **<5613>** one that hath obtained mercy of the Lord to be faithful.

1Co 7:30* And they that weep, as **<5613>** though they wept not; and they that rejoice, as **<5613>** though they rejoiced not; and they that buy, as **<5613>** though they possessed not;

1Co 7:31* And they that use this world, as **<5613>** not abusing *it*: for the fashion of this world passeth away.

Lest there be any lingering doubt as to whether or not a married man has the right to embrace the ideal and choose “not to touch a women” (i.e. refrain from all non-procreative sex). And, lest there be any lingering doubt as to whether or not a married man has the right to be “even as [he is]” and refrain from *all* sexual activity (including procreative sex) as a “a eunuch for the kingdom”, Paul settles the question unequivocally in this verse. He makes it clear that extreme circumstances in a soon-coming crisis will make the ideal, *the necessary*. He puts it this way.

1Co 7: 29–35

“But this I say, brethren, the time is short, so that from now on even those who have wives should be as though they had none.”

Though I will certainly acknowledge that the phrase, “even those who have wives should be as though they had none” would be in reference to *more* than ones sexual behavior, I must insist –especially in consideration of the consistent theme of the passage in which we find these words –that it *at least* includes it. Indeed the context forces me to the conclusion that the sexual relationship between husband and wife is what Paul *primarily* has in mind as he pens these words. What is Paul actually saying here? It is this: “Listen, my dear Corinthian brothers, please know that the permission I granted you is something you’re *not* going to be able to cling to as a permanent provision. There’s an eminent crisis, and to get through it, you will need to embrace the ideal as I have. In this soon-coming emergency, the Lord’s service –not to mention your own spiritual survival –is going to preclude all sexual indulgence. Indeed, as far as your sex-life is concerned, you’re going to need to be as though you were an unmarried man.” Radical words, but that’s what Paul is saying.

But, as we have already acknowledged, this phrase “as though they had none” refers to more than the sexual relationship in marriage. Indeed, as the following verses make abundantly clear, it refers to any aspect of the marriage relationship that would hinder or distract a married man from doing and being all that he can for the Lord in such a crisis. He goes on to explain why it is going to be necessary to be as though they were unmarried by contrasting the difference between the demands upon the time and the attention of those who are married and those who are not.

1Cor 7:32-34

*“I want you to be without care. He who is unmarried cares for the things of the Lord--how he may please the Lord. But he who is married cares about the things of the world--how he may please *his* wife. There is a difference between a wife and a virgin. The unmarried woman cares about the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit. But she who is married cares about the things of the world--how she may please *her* husband.”*

Then, anticipating a spirit of resentment that there should ever come a time when they will actually need to be entirely disencumbered of the demands that the marriage relationship places upon them. He hastens to assure them:

1Cor 7: 32-35

“And this I say for your own profit, not that I may put a leash on you, but for what is proper, and that you may serve the Lord without distraction.”

Though these words were very applicable to the Corinthian believers who were soon to face the horrors of persecution at the hands of pagan Rome, they were ultimately “written for *our* admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come” (1Cor 10:11). Paul

knew that what they were soon to experience would require them to be in a constant “fasting and prayer” mode to survive, and that sex for pleasure would most certainly have to be given up. But he also knew that the extreme hardships they would soon be facing would be far more severe than they would want to take a young child through, so even *procreative* sex would need to be avoided. He knew that the prophecy of Christ regarding the destruction of Jerusalem was soon to be fulfilled, and would be applicable even to them. “Woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days!” (Luke 21:23) These solemn words of warning should, and would be taken very seriously by all true believers. With all this in mind he pens the words: “*But this I say, brethren, the time is short, so that from now on even those who have wives should be as though they had none.*”

But again, lest we miss the point. These things were written ultimately for *our* admonition upon whom the ends of the ages have come. Once again the church of Christ is facing a crisis. This time however, one of far greater magnitude. One that will require “fasting and prayer” as never before in the history of planet earth, in order to survive.

But I insist that the “fasting and prayer” level of Christian commitment and devotion has been what we *should* have been practicing as a people for a *long* time now and if we had, we would have been in the kingdom a *long time ago*. And why is a “fasting and prayer” type of experience needed? Well first of all, we are in the anti-typical day of Atonement, and what were the children of Israel doing all day long during the typical? Fasting and praying. With this in mind, consider the implications of the following statement regarding what we ought to be denying ourselves of as we come to the closing moments of the *anti-typical* day of atonement.

RH, January 21, 1890

We are in the day of atonement, and we are to work in harmony with Christ's work of cleansing the sanctuary from the sins of the people. Let no man who desires to be found with the wedding garment on, resist our Lord in his office work. As he is, so will his followers be in this world. We must now set before the people the work which by faith we see our great High-priest accomplishing in the heavenly sanctuary. Those who do not sympathize with Jesus in his work in the heavenly courts, who do not cleanse the soul temple of every defilement, but who engage in some enterprise not in harmony with this work, are joining with the enemy of God and man in leading minds away from the truth and work for this time.

The Spirit of truth has a refining, elevating, heavenly influence upon mind and character. We are to study the mind of Christ, and to receive the truth as it is in Jesus. We are to watch and pray, to consult the living oracles of God. When any lust takes possession of the mind in any way or to any degree, and there is a yielding to fleshly desires, we lose the image of Christ in spirit and character. The work in the heavenly sanctuary becomes obscure to the minds of those who are controlled by the temptations of the evil one, and they engage in side issues to gratify their own selfish purposes, and their true moral standing is determined by their works.

With this understanding, is it any wonder that we look *in vain* throughout *all* the writings of Ellen White –who was chosen to be God’s messenger to His people *during the anti-typical day of Atonement* –for any counsel that could be construed as encouraging us to be actively involved with sex for self-gratification only? Not a trace, and I would challenge anyone to find such a statement. (Granted, it was never even an option that she would have considered, since contraceptive measures in her day were universally excoriated by all Christian denominations as morally reprehensible, not to mention that they were unreliable and legally unavailable.) What we *do* find, is that she frequently and earnestly exhorts God’s people to restraint in *procreative* sex. Knowing that children absorb much time and energy from those who should be giving all such to bringing sons and daughters into *God’s* family, through spiritual rebirth, and that the rapid free fall of society into gross immorality at the closing hours of earth’s history would make raising *their own* to God’s glory exceedingly and increasingly difficult anyway. But what else could we expect by way of counsel from one who truly believed that the Lord was coming soon, and that we, His people, should fully consecrate ourselves, not only to prepare our own lives, but to help others prepare theirs as well, in the precious lingering moments of earth’s history. It is not until we take such counsel to heart, and apply it to our lives, that we will ever have the level of consecration to the kingdom that is going to get the job done. What it is going to take, is a solid core of entirely consecrated people that are willing to be “eunuchs for the kingdom”, so that all their time and energy is available to be used in the service of the soon-coming King.

Another reason that we should be in a “fasting and prayer” mode in our Christian experience is that we are to be preparing ourselves for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in latter rain power during the final, anti-typical Pentecost. And were not the disciples “fasting and praying” in preparation for the promised anointing before that Pentecost which was only a dim foreshadowing of the long delayed one to come? And why delayed? Because we haven’t been in the “fasting and prayer” mode –we aren’t really serious about preparing our minds, hearts, and bodies to receive that Holy Guest. We are far too involved in, and enamored with the “things of the world” including our earthly marriages and especially the very real sensual pleasure it affords us.

We have much to learn from the preparations required of Israel by God Himself, as they were to get ready for the *original* Pentecost at the foot of Sinai.

Exo 19: 10, 11, 14, 15

“Then the LORD said to Moses, “Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their clothes. And let them be ready for the third day. For on the third day the LORD will come down upon Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people....” So Moses went down from the mountain to the people and sanctified the people, and they washed their clothes. And he said to the people, “Be ready for the third day; *do not come near your wives.*”

YI, July 18, 1901

God commanded Moses to sanctify the people, to instruct them, to point out to them what God required. Much was included in this command, and great responsibility was laid upon Moses.... *The people were to spend their time in fasting and prayer. All outward impurity was to be put away, and their hearts were to be cleansed from all iniquity... The children of Israel were to do all in their power to cleanse themselves from inward and outward defilement. This is the work God requires us to do if we would be brought into close communion with him. The battle with wrong habits and sinful indulgence will be long and severe, but it must be undertaken. Through Christ, victory is sure.*

How can God pour out His Spirit in Pentecostal power on a people who are unconsecrated and unclean? How can He possibly entrust Divine power and energy to those who are choosing to squander their physical powers and energy on the lusts of the flesh? They would use His power for the same purpose, not to mention the fact they would conclude He approved such behavior! Only those whose love for Christ has motivated them to gladly deny themselves any and all selfish indulgence will be ready to receive the outpouring of His Spirit in latter rain power for only such would use that power to gratify and glorify *Him* rather than *self*.

That God calls His people to a "fasting and prayer" experience which *includes* a "fasting" in the area of sexual indulgence as an essential part of the preparation required to receive the latter rain. This is clearly evidenced in the very familial Joel 2 passage. But it is easily overlooked.

Joel 2:1, 2, 13,15, 16, 18, 23, 28, 29

Blow the trumpet in Zion, And sound an alarm in My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble; For the day of the LORD is coming, For it is at hand... "Now, therefore," says the LORD, "Turn to Me with all your heart, With fasting, with weeping, and with mourning." So rend your heart, and not your garments; Return to the LORD your God, For He *is* gracious and merciful... Blow the trumpet in Zion, consecrate a fast, call a sacred assembly; gather the people, Sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children and nursing babes; *let the bridegroom go out from his chamber, And the bride from her dressing room....* Then the LORD will be zealous for His land, And pity His people.... And He will cause the rain to come down for you-- The former rain, And the latter rain in the first *month*.... "And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions. And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days."

And what has ancient history and the sayings of ancient prophets have to do with us today? Everything! Listen,

Each of the ancient prophets spoke less for their own time than for ours, so that their prophesying is in force for us. “Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come” (1 Cor. 10:11). “Not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into” (1 Peter 1:12).... The Bible has accumulated and bound up together its treasures for this last generation. All the great events and solemn transactions of Old Testament history have been, and are, repeating themselves in the church in these last days.”

The experience of Israel at Sinai, the prophecy of Joel, and *manifold* other texts and passages –which this brief paper cannot include –all give us the *very same message*, if we are at all willing to hear it. And what is that message? It is most succinctly and forthrightly stated in the words of our text: “*But this I say, brethren, the time is short, so that from now on even those who have wives should be as though they had none.*” These words though initially written to admonish the self-indulgent Corinthians, were especially written for us “upon whom the ends of the world are come”. It is to self-indulgent Laodiceans that they primarily and most urgently apply. Note how very clearly the Lord’s messenger to this end-time church establishes that fact.

Lt 51a, 1878 (not released)

This solemn time, so near the judgment, on the very borders of the eternal world, is the very time when those whom God calls to a special work, if they have wives, should be as though they had none.... God speaks of some who have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven’s sake. [in reference to Mat 19:12] He refers to those who keep His Sabbath. He says they shall have a name and place in His house better than that of sons and of daughters.[in reference to Isa 56: 4,5] I tell you, men and women have no idea of self-denial, of consecration to the work and cause of God. Their own plans look right in their own eyes.

“Oh,” but you say, “that only applies to ‘those whom God calls to a special work’, certainly not to me!” But she has more to say:

Lt 6, 1888 (not released)

We are living in the last days, on the very borders of the eternal world, and now is the time when married men that have wives be as though they had none. The base passions have been indulged and gratified to the expense of health and religion and life itself, and many married men and women will never be accounted worthy to have the pure robe of Christ’s righteousness because they are defiled in heart and in life, they are steeped in defiling sin. I might write hundreds of pages upon this subject...

And again:

MS 34b 1885 (not released)

Your case has been troubling me as I am called to write out testimonies to different ones in regard to the inconsistency of their going out into distant fields as missionaries and at the same time bringing children into the world that will increase the cares and burdens in a large degree....

I am distressed as I see the state of things among our workers. Brother and Sister E professedly gave themselves to the missionary work, but all the time have labored as faithfully as if the salvation of their souls depended upon how large a number of children they could bring into the world. They have not been married many years, but they have five or six little children. Sister E was one who could do a good work, if she could have time to improve her powers, but she has been kept carrying or nursing babies nearly all the time,...and her strength is exhausted. So it would be better for them both to leave the field and take a piece of land and do their duty to their children they have brought into the world. As the case now stands they have to leave their children here and there for others to take care of. This is not after God's order... How much better would have been their influence if they had not married, but both devoted their interests to God's cause. And after they were married, how much better for them if they had thoughtfully considered the situation, and decided that God should have all the powers he had given them in the work of saving precious souls. Now their greatest care must be their family, or ought to be, now [that] they have brought them into the world. Brother C could have done a very good work for the Master, had he devoted himself to this work as the Lord's servant. When married, his work has not been more than one half what it might have been. Then he must bring a child into the world, and now he can do one-third what he might have done had he studied how he could best serve God who called him to be a soldier of the cross of Christ. These cases will illustrate all.

The time is, and has been for years, that the bringing of children into the world is more an occasion of grief than joy. The very atmosphere is polluted. Satan controls these children, and the Lord has but little to do with them. Parents give but little attention to them and in the near future they will be removed by death. "Woe unto them that be with child and give suck" even in these days, and if our workers were walking close with God, they would see the situation, and would feel that it is no matter of rejoicing to bring a child into the world. A blessing is pronounced upon the eunuchs who keep the Sabbath. He says He will give them a name, and a place better than the sons and daughters. *The time has come when, in all sense, they that have wives be as though they have none.* God wants us to be consistent people, our works corresponding with our faith....

The Lord wants your physical, mental, and moral powers, and if you think it the best work you can do to bring babies into your family, God help you to have wisdom enough to place yourself in different relation to His cause and do the work that seems so important to you at this time.

Our preachers and our workers seem to think one of the important branches of the work [is] first to get as many children into the world as possible, then if they can give the remnant of their thoughts and ability to the work, they are doing all God required of them. *We shall need a voice like John the Baptist, to show my people their transgressions and the house of Israel their sins.*

Oh yes, I am fully aware that these are “hard sayings”, *very hard*, but that does not mean that we should silence them. Though hard, they *must* be said. Never before in the history of this beloved church of ours have they been more urgently needed than *right now*. Of course, whoever should dare to say such things will be written off by the vast majority as a hopeless fanatic. He will be accused of everything from being mentally ill, to being physically impotent, from being a hopeless legalistic to being a over-zealous ascetic, from hating women, to being a homosexual, from promoting immorality to destroying marriages, and much, much more. The enemy of vital present truth will fight this message with all the forces of hell, for he knows that if the trumpet is sounded it will awake at least some of God’s remnant people whom he has nearly incapacitated with a “lethargy of unconscious sensualism” (GCDB, March 2, 1897) due directly to the fact that he has managed to convince us that it *is very good* for a man to “touch” a woman – that sex for mere pleasure is not only a virtue but mandatory for healthy marriages. Oh how totally deceived he has us, and how badly he wants to keep us that way until we loose our souls to sensuality!

Because this message is a key component in the straight testimony that will cause the long awaited “shaking” in this church, and will bring division to church families and home families –whoever dares to proclaim it will most assuredly be labeled as a “troublers of Israel”, and there will be Herculean efforts made to silence him. Nevertheless this message is of the Lord and *it will prevail*. Truth *always* prevails, for the Lord Himself is the Truth. To resist the truth is to resist Him. Furthermore, to resist this message is to resist His end time messenger. We *cannot* claim to have full confidence in Ellen White and the Spirit of Prophecy if we refuse to embrace the statements quoted above as fully inspired counsel from the Lord. And God forbid that we resort to the convenient methodologies of higher criticism to allow ourselves to get rid of whatever counsel we really don’t like –because it requires us to give up some cherished idol –while still assuring ourselves that we actually believe in the Spirit of Prophecy. I fear many will try to do just that.

This message is going to be divisive. It will of necessity divide. It will not bring peace but a sword. It will separate God’s remnant people from the world and from those who have embraced the selfish practices and principles of the world. It will inevitably separate those who are willing to deny themselves all selfish indulgence for the love of Christ, from those who are not. Because the message will divide, whoever the Lord calls to be His messengers will inevitably be accused by those who reject it, of causing the division, and will despise them for it. But, clinging to their Lord’s assurance: “Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.” They will only, “Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great *is* [their] reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before [them]” (Mat 5: 11,12). And

the persecution they will receive will only serve to deepen their love for, commitment to, and dependence upon their Master. For the love of Christ and the love of His church they will be undaunted for they know that the message is God's call to His people to "come out from among them, and be ye separate,... and touch not the unclean; and I will receive you." (this word "unclean" ties in directly with all that God has explicitly defined as "unclean" in His Levitical Laws –*including* Lev. 15: 16-18) This message is absolutely essential to prepare God's people to receive the latter rain and thereby the power to give the loud cry which will *also* most definitely include this message. Note how John makes that abundantly clear.

Rev 18: 1,2

After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory. And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird!

And what are these "*unclean and hated birds*"? Listen carefully to the words from our inspired commentary on the Scriptures.

PP 458

Satan seduced Israel into licentiousness before leading them to idolatry. Those who will dishonor God's image and defile His temple in their own persons will not scruple at any dishonor to God that will gratify the desire of their depraved hearts. Sensual indulgence weakens the mind and debases the soul. The moral and intellectual powers are benumbed and paralyzed by the gratification of the animal propensities; and it is impossible for the slave of passion to realize the sacred obligation of the law of God, to appreciate the atonement, or to place a right value upon the soul. Goodness, purity, and truth, reverence for God, and love for sacred things--all those holy affections and noble desires that link men with the heavenly world--are consumed in the fires of lust. The soul becomes a blackened and desolate waste, the habitation of the evil spirits, and the "cage of every unclean and hateful bird." Beings formed in the image of God are dragged down to a level with the brutes. [Indeed far *below* the brutes, for they unlike man are still subject to the laws of nature –which are verily the laws of God –being governed by instinct, and therefore have sex *only* for procreation.]

Before we, as a people can either be filled with the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit, or be able to give the "loud cry", we must ourselves have heeded the call to separate from all the defiling practices of the world. Otherwise, we too will be filled with "every unclean and hateful bird", empty of the Holy Spirit, and utterly incapable of giving that "loud cry" which exhorts others to do something we have not chosen to do ourselves. Therefore:

RH May 17, 1887

It is necessary to guard against the cultivation of the indulgence of the lower passions. This is not the fruit of sanctified thoughts or hearts. It is now the duty of God's commandment-keeping people to watch and pray, to search the Scriptures diligently, to hide the word of God in the heart, lest they sin against Him in idolatrous thoughts and debasing practices, and thus the church of God become demoralized like the fallen churches whom prophecy represents as being filled with every unclean and hateful bird.

And again:

21MR 380

We must as a people arouse and cleanse the camp of Israel. Licentiousness, unlawful intimacy, and unholy practices are coming in among us in a large degree; and ministers who are handling sacred things are guilty of sin in this respect. They are coveting their neighbors' wives, and the seventh commandment is broken. We are in danger of becoming a sister to fallen Babylon, of allowing our churches to become corrupted, and filled with every foul spirit, a cage for every unclean and hateful bird; and will we be clear unless we make decided movements to cure the existing evil?

Obviously the answer is, NO –we will *not* be clear. My dear friends, it is impossible to overstate how much is at stake here. There is a desperate need for this message to be heard by all God's people who are presently within His visible church. Its proclamation will bring the shaking, which will be a traumatic and painful experience for many families –both in our homes and in our churches. It will hurt deeply, but it is precisely what must happen in order to prepare us to give the loud cry to those who are members of Christ's invisible church but who for lack of light are still in Babylon. Only those who themselves have been set apart by the “straight testimony” will in turn be able – empowered by the Holy Spirit –to proclaim to all God's people still in Babylon the “loud cry” of Revelation 18, which most definitely includes this “hard saying”. Those among us who refuse to heed this call to be separated from the world and “touch not the unclean”, will be choosing to remain with the world and with those who love the things of world and the pleasures they afford, more than they love the Lord Himself. They will thereby choose to be on the wrong side for the grand finale of the great controversy.

The price of embracing this message is potentially very high. I can certainly testify to that fact from personal experience. To do so may well necessitate your loosing everything you have loved and cherished in this world. You must count the cost and make your decision. It may require intensive suffering, but the greater the suffering of bearing this cross, the greater the glory of wearing that crown which awaits all those who –for the love of Christ –have chosen for His sake to live by the highest standard, no matter how crucifying to the flesh.

My dear friends, several of you I have known and appreciated for many years, and I consider all of you my brethren in Christ. As a brother who by God's grace can honestly

say that he loves you, with all the sincerity of my heart I plead with you to embrace God’s ideal in this matter: “It is good for a man not to touch a women.” I plead with you to realize that “The time has come when, in all sense, they that have wives be as though they have none.” (MS 34b 1885). I do so first of all that you yourselves might experience the wonderful blessings that are inherent in obedience to God’s will. Indeed the closer we come to the center of His will, the greater the blessings.

Yes, and again, as I well know from personal experience, it will be a potentially very painful pilgrimage to the center of the Lord’s will, especially if those you *love* refuse to make it with you. But, I assure you, the Lord will prove true to His promise: “Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, *And I will receive you.*” As never before I have know a closeness with my Lord, and with our Father. I love Him more than I can possibly express, and I am willing to do anything He wants me to do –no matter what the cost, for I know that “great is [my] reward in heaven”. But I also know that even in the meantime, while I am still here on earth during the lingering moments of probationary time, the joy of knowing that I am doing my Lord’s good pleasure, gives me greater pleasure than I have ever known before, a pleasure that outweighs the suffering and persecution that obedience will inevitably bring from those who choose not to obey, and feel they must get rid of anyone who would make them feel guilty for it. But what a privilege to enter into sympathy with the Lord who experienced just the same –except on an infinitely higher scale. To this end, I invite you to the high and holy privilege of suffering for Christ. If you embrace this ideal you will most assuredly be made to suffer, but by the promises of God I assure you that it will be more than worth it for both time and eternity.

But secondly, I would invite you to embrace God’s ideal in this matter, that you –after experiencing for yourself the great blessings inherent in obedience, might join me in the urgent task of getting this vital “present truth” message to the church. I plead with you as fellow watchmen of the walls of Zion, to be willing for the love of Christ and His church to obey His command:

Isa 58: 1

“Cry aloud, spare not; Lift up your voice like a trumpet; tell My people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.”

Oh, may God help us love His people enough to tell them what they really need to hear even though many of them will hate us for it. We have no more time for “smooth things” that will continue to lull our people to sleep in carnal security until they are finally completely comatose. We are rapidly running out of time, we have none to spare. Soon, very soon, there will come even more dramatic evidences than we have already had that the Lord is about to cut things short in righteousness. We have for many, many years delayed His return, but we can delay it no longer. The human race is just about to self-destruct through self-indulgence and war. Not to mention the natural disasters which are so obviously growing in their frequency and intensity. God’s people must be awakened and prepared. There is so much to do and so little time in which to do it. Please, join me and blow the trumpet with me!

If you do not choose to join me, you will inevitably choose to oppose me. But please know that it is not me that you will be trying to oppose. This message is the Lord's, therefore if you reject it, you reject Him. I am only His bondservant, held willingly captive by bonds of love that “naught but death can sever”. I am by His grace irrevocably committed to getting this truth before His people. I am not here to ask you whether or not this is truth, the Lord has made that undeniably clear to me, I am here to seek your wisdom as to how best to present this to the church. To pretend to be asking for you to tell me whether or not I am on the right track would be dishonest. The Lord has confirmed that to me from the Word and the Spirit of Prophecy so many, many times that it would be an insult to Him if I were now to ask you to confirm for me whether or not this is truth. My mind is fully settled, I no longer have any question regarding the truth of this matter.

I assure you that I have come to *that* level of certainty only recently, but I must not give you the false impression that I presently have any personal doubt in this matter. It is the perfect consistency and the overwhelming quantity of evidence from Scripture and the Spirit of Prophecy that has lead me inexorably to this conclusion. Therefore, I cannot imagine that any fellow mortal could possibly give me sufficient evidence that could outweighed that mass of evidence that has brought me to this settled conclusion. If that sounds to you like an arrogant and unteachable spirit, I am sorry. I assure you, it is *not* the result of self-confidence. No one can imagine how much I have doubted myself as I have taken this pilgrimage the last two years or so. Especially as I was repeatedly being confronted with warnings and threatenings regarding the consequences of pursuing the course I was on. No one can imagine how the prospect of loosing literally every thing in this world that for a life-time you have embraced and counted dear, will motivate you to agonize on your knees with the Lord to let you know whether or not you're off on a tangent and bringing a time of trouble on your head that He never intended for you to experience. Especially when the path you're pursuing is so devoid of fellow pilgrims! No one can imagine how powerfully, being assured by church leadership you love and respect that if you do not recant, your ministry will be terminated, will drive you to study more diligently and earnestly than you ever have before in your entire life to make sure that what you *believe* is the Lord's will for you, is *actually* such, and not just the imagination of your own heart which you know full well is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked, and very capable of fooling you. This is the reason for my reclusive behavior. For several months now, I have been consumed in the study of Scripture and the Spirit of Prophecy, to determine whether or not what was appearing to me to be the Lord's will was indeed such. My present position is not because I do *not* have a teachable spirit, it is rather because with the teachable spirit He Himself gave me, the Master Teacher has done such a thorough job of enabling me to see His will in this matter, that my mind is now fully settled.

This is truth. It is vital, present truth. It is testing truth. It must be proclaimed. It will be proclaimed. If we don't do it, the rocks will. But God is offering us the awesome privilege. The question is: Will we take it? By His enabling grace and for the love of Him who *is* the Truth, I have decided to do so and again, I invite you to join me.

RH, March 11, 1902

The end of all things is at hand, and a world is to be warned. Eternity must be urged upon the people. Their attention must be called away from the things of this world, and attracted to everlasting realities. It is a time when the most poisonous errors are prevailing among men, working the destruction of souls. May God bless His messengers who feel the burden and the importance of the message which He has given them to bear to the world.