

THE BATTLE FOR THE MIND



Prayer Thought: GC 518.1. “The great Controversy between Christ and Satan, that has been carried forward for nearly six thousand years, **is soon to close**; and the wicked one **redoubles** his efforts to defeat the work of Christ in man’s behalf, and **to fasten souls in his snares**.

To hold the people in darkness and impenitence till the Saviour’s mediation is ended, and there is no longer a sacrifice for sin, is the object which he seeks to accomplish.”

Introduction: “For they that are after the flesh do

mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For **to be carnally minded [is] death**; but **to be spiritually minded [is] life and peace**. Because the carnal mind [is] enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. **So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.** But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that **the Spirit of God dwell in you.”** (Romans 8:5-9.)

The English Dictionary can tell more about the meaning of the word **CARNAL**. It says, Carnal means something “**Relating to the physical especially sexual appetites. Something Worldly, Earthly or of the Flesh.**” The Carnal mind is enmity against God? Can you be happy to be the enemy of heaven brother, sister? I guess you do not wish to join the group of Satan which wars against the Truths of God and the Supremacy of Christ. To understand this truth is very important as we approach the

Day of Final Deliverance.

“Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they [also] which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.” (Revelation 1:7, see also 1 Thess 4:16,17.)



This glorious, Visible and Audible return of the Saviour **will surely be amazing to God's people who follow the Lamb wherever he goes.** Are you preparing yourself in advance? **Are your garments white as snow?**

“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away

with a great noise, and **the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.**” - 2 Peter 3:10.

This day will indeed come as a thief to those only who do not watch (Revelation 3:3, Luke 21:34). To God’s people, however, it won’t be a surprise, for they know **the signs of the coming Kingdom of Glory and of the coming of the Lord.**

How Can We Prepare Ourselves?

“ [Seeing] then [that] **all these things shall be dissolved,** what manner [of persons] ought ye to be in [all] holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?” (2 Peter 3:11,12.)

Are you preparing yourself brother, sister? Is your

conversation with yourself, family and friends holy and acceptable in the sight of the Holy God and the holy angels? Are you possessing true godliness which will enable you to stand in the day of the Lord? Are you following peace with all men and **“holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord?”**(Hebrews 12:14). If we don’t become holy like Christ we cannot be saved.

“Nevertheless we, according to his promise, **look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.** Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him **in peace, without spot, and blameless.”**(2 Peter 3:13,14.)

From these two verses, two important points are clear. Firstly, **heaven is a place of righteousness**, i.e no wrong or evil thing is found there, but peace and holiness are abundant. Secondly, those who will live with Christ in heaven for 1000 years, and whom Christ will live with in the new earth **must be**

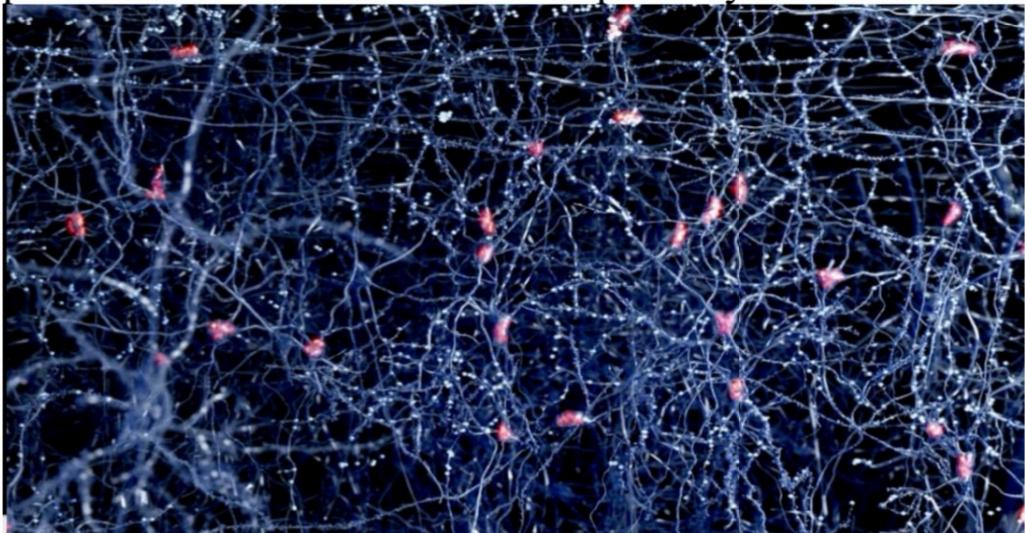
spotless and blameless before God. This issue means your salvation brothers and sisters. It is of absolute importance.

“...None but those who have been overcoming by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony will be found with the loyal and true, **without spot or stain of sin, without guile in their mouths.**”(7BC 911.6)

“Be ye therefore perfect, even as your father which is in heaven is perfect.”(Matthew 5:48)

The core issue, you see here, is **Purity**. And as “..those things which **proceed** out of the mouth **come forth from the heart**; and they defile the man.”(Matthew 15:18), then we must closely look at

The Mind.



“Every organ of the body was made to be the servant of the mind. The mind is the capital of the body. The mind controls the whole man. All our actions, good or bad, have their source in the mind. It is the mind that worships God and allies us to heavenly things. Yet many spend all their lives without becoming intelligent in regard to the casket[jewel case] that contains the treasure....The brain is the capital of the body...”

(Mind, Character and Personality Vol.1 page 72.)

“Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, and with all

thy mind.”(Matthew 22:37)

“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by renewing of your mind.”(Romans 12:2)

“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.”(Philippians 2:5)

“Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober...”(1 Peter 1:13)

“The first work of those who would reform is to purify their imagination.”(2MCP 595.3)

Let no one, therefore, neglect their mind. Character development begins with thoughts which then emerge into actions. When the thoughts are bad, the feelings and emotions will be bad, then these will combine to form moral character.

What is Satan doing now in order to deceive

People? Who controls People's thoughts?

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, **as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.**”(1 Peter 5:8)

“Who is it that is ruling the world today, and who is it that have chosen to stand under the banner of the Prince of darkness?.....**Either the evil angels or the angels of God are controlling the minds of men.** Our minds are given to the control of God , or to the control of the powers of darkness.”
(6BC 1120.1))

“Satan is watching that **he may find the mind in an unguarded moment,** and so get possession of it...**If permitted,** the evil angels will work [captive and control] the minds of men **until they have no mind or will of their own.**”(1MCP 24.1.2)

Even though Satan is a mighty enemy of truth and righteousness, yet he is “**not permitted to read the**

thoughts of men; but he is a keen observer, and he marks the words; he takes account of actions, and skillfully adapts his temptations to meet the cases of those who place themselves in his power”
(2MCP 658.3)

Do not allow Satan to deceive you. Your duty is to
“Set your affections on things above, not on things on earth.”(Colossians 3:2)

“As we are not our own, as we are bought with a price, it is the duty of everyone who professes to be a Christian **to keep his thoughts under the control of reason and oblige himself to be cheerful and happy...If your thoughts, your plans, your purposes, are all directed toward the accumulation of the things of the earth, your anxiety, your study, your interests, will all be centered upon the world.** The heavenly attractions will lose their beauty.....When the mind has been **long permitted** to dwell only on earthly things , it is a difficult matter to change the habits of thought.....But if

we would enter the city of God and look upon Jesus and his glory, **we must become accustomed to beholding him with the eye of faith here.”**(2MCP 662.1.2.3)

Satan’s Marketing Plans.

“Satan is now **using every device** in this sealing time to keep the minds of God’s people from the Present Truth and to cause them to waver.” (EW 43.2)

He’s inventing everything that is beneficial to his satanic work. Hereunder are some of the methods he’s using...

1) MEDIA.



Media, as you know, include Movies, Music , Internet, the likes of Facebook, WhatsApp, TikTok, SnapChat, Instagram e.t.c

“Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity; and quicken thou me in thy way.”(Psalms 119:37)

“Hell and destruction are never full; so the eyes of man are never satisfied.”(Proverbs 27:20)

“... He that **walketh righteously**that stoppeth his ears from hearing of blood, and shutteth his eyes from seeing evil; He shall dwell on high . . . Thine eyes **shall see the king in his beauty.** ” (Isiah

33:15,16)

“ The thoughts must be bound about, restricted, withdrawn from branching out and contamplating things that will only weaken and defile the soul. **The thoughts must be pure, the meditations of the heart must be clean....”**(2MCP 657.2)

“Those who would not fall a prey to Satan’s devices **must guard well the avenues of the soul; they must avoid seeing, or hearing that which will suggest impure thoughts.”**(2MCP 732.4)

“It better to hear the rebuke of the wise, than for a man to hear the song of fools.”(Eccl 7:5)

This not the time to entertain sin. We must build our Characters for eternity. What we watch, hear and do will determine our destiny. By a continuous repetition of a single habit, Character is formed.**Action movies, not excluding wrestling and boxing, and horror**

movies have a corrupting influence. Nude pictures and phonographic movies are satanic. You can not be watching these and still claim to be a Christian.

2) AMUSEMENTS.



“But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth.”(1 Timothy 5:6)

“For men shall be.....lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God.”(2 Timothy 3:2,4)

“ If you give to pleasure and amusement the

precious mind that should be strengthened by high and noble purposes, **they degrade the powers that God has given them...**"(MYP 42.1)

“Through attendance at **worldly gatherings** a taste is created **for exciting amusements, and moral power is weakened.** Those who love pleasure may keep up a form of godliness, **but they have not vital connection with God. Their faith is dead, their zeal has departed.**”(MYP 141.3)

“....There is a danger in amusement that is sought merely for self gratification. All habits of indulgence **that weakens the physical powers, that becloud the mind, or that benumbs the spiritual perceptions, are fleshly lusts, which war against the soul.**”(CSA 22.2)

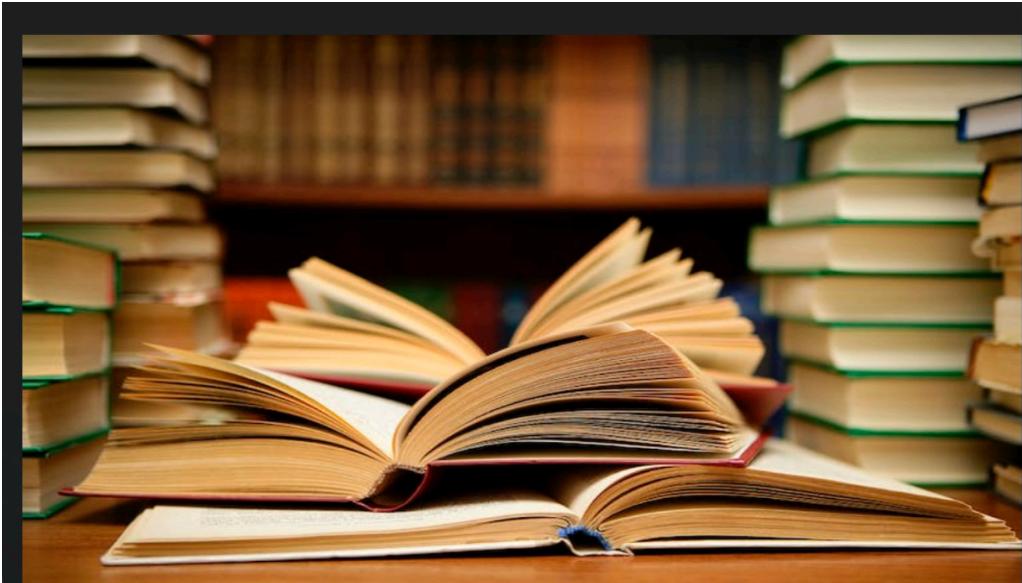
“The true followers of Christ will have sacrifices to make. **They will shun places of worldly amusements because they find no Jesus there ,**- no influence which will make them heavenly minded

and increase their growth in grace.”(MYP 376.3)

Places of Dancing, Drama, and all forms of satanic shows should be avoided. We are to walk only in the path of holiness. Other Common amusements are **Gambling** and **Sport**. Gambling(Card Playing, Betting) “should be condemned by Christians”(MYP 392.1)

“Satan has devised a multitude of ways in which to **keep men from serving God**. He has invented **sports and games**, into which men enter with such intensity that one **would suppose** a crown of life was to reward the winner. At the horse races and football matches, which are attended by thousands and thousands of people, lives for which Christ shed His blood are thrown away. What will become of the souls of the men and boys whose lives are thus extinguished? Will they be counted worthy of the redemption which Christ died to secure for them?”(RH September 10, 1901, par. 5)

3) READING.



"Parents and Guardians must themselves maintain the purity of heart... Everyday new thoughts are awakened in the minds of the young, new impressions made upon their hearts. The associations they form, the books they read, the habits they cherish - all must be guarded."(CG 113.3)

"Many of the young are eager for books. They read everything they can obtain. Exciting love stories and impure pictures have a corrupting

influence. Novels are eagerly perused by many; and, as a result, their imaginations become defiled."(CG 439.2)

"Both Old and Young neglect the Bible. They do not make it their study, the rule of their life. **Especially are the young guilty of this neglect.** Most of them find time to ready other books, but the book that points out the way to eternal life is not daily studied, idle stories are attentively read, while the Bible is neglected."(CG 508.3)

The Lord says, "**Resolutely discard all trashy reading.** It will not strengthen your spirituality, but will introduced into the mind sentiments that pervert imagination, causing you to think less of Jesus and dwell less upon his precious lessons" All exciting story books and those that contain falsehood should not be read. (Counsels for the Church 169.3.4.5).

The Character of a person is largely determined by

the books he or she reads. There is poison in most of the books. God's people must be very careful when choosing which books to read. Many scientific books teach wrong theories about God. Satan has even attacked the Bible by introducing many wrong modern versions. Fictions and novels are found almost everywhere. Be careful, be selective, brother, sister. Do not just read anything.

4) CONVERSATIONS AND VAIN IMAGINATIONS.



“ But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as become saints; **neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting.**”(Ephesians 5:3)

“ As Christ ’ s ambassador, I entreat you who profess present Truth to promptly resent any approach to impurity and forsake the society of those who breath impure suggestion.....Flee from those who would, even in conversation, let the mind run such a channel, for out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks.”(AH 333.3)

“**You should control your thoughts.** This will not be an easy task; you cannot accomplish it without close and even severe effort. Yet God requires this of you; It is the duty resting upon every accountable being. You ’ re responsible to God for your thoughts. If you indulge in vain imaginations, permitting your mind to dwell upon impure subjects, you are, in a degree, as guilty before God as if your thoughts were carried into action. All that prevents

the action is the lack of opportunity.”(2MCP 661.1)

Not only do foolish words affect the mind, but they are also recorded in the heavenly books. Many people will not be saved because of foolish conversations. Furthermore, those who are not scared of contemplating evil things **will never overcome sin**. The Lord cannot help those who don’t help themselves. There must be a determined resistance against Temptations.

We must persistently oppose the forces of evil. **Our Conversations should be of heavenly nature.**

Wherever we maybe we must uplift God’s law and present to the world “the Lamb of God that takes way the sins of the world”(John 1:29)

(Read Matthew 12:36, ChS 45.2, CCh 107.2)

5) OVERSTUDYING

“Let us not overtax the strength that the Lord has given us. We are to preserve our brain power.....The gathering together of many books for study too often interpose between God and man a mass of knowledge that weakens the mind and makes it incapable of assimilating that which it has already received. The mind becomes dyslectic..If you are putting an undue amount of labour on the brain, thinking you will lose ground unless you study all the time, you should at once change your views and your course. Unless greater care is exercised in this respect, there are many who will go down to the grave prematurely.”(2MCP 506)

The Brain must be kept healthy and strong. Weakening the brain by studying continuously opens the door to the flood of temptations. God’s people must know when they should study and when they should rest. We must be healthy Physically, Spiritually and Mentally. The habit of

staying late at night is destructive.

(Read also CPTS 296 and 2MCP 508.1)

6) **WRONG HABITS OF EATING.**



“Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do,
do all to the glory of God”(1 Corinthians 10:31)

“....If by correct habits of eating and drinking the blood is

kept pure, the brain will be properly nourishedThe human organism is a wonderful piece of machinery, **but it can be abused.** The Transformation of food into good blood, is a wonderful process, and all human beings should be intelligent upon this subject.... Indulgence of appetite is the greatest cause of physical and mental debility and lies at the foundation of feebleness which is apparent everywhereThrough appetite Satan controls the mind of the whole being. Thousands who might have lived have passed into the grave , physical, mental, and moral wrecks, because they sacrificed all their powers to the indulgence of appetiteEating, drinking and dressing all have a direct bearing upon our Spiritual advancement....Obey the principles of health reform and educate others to do this. **The health of the mind is to a large degree dependent upon the health of the body, and the health of the body is dependent upon the way in which the living machine is treated** Overeating, even of the most wholesome food, is to be guarded againstThe indulgence of appetite in overeating is gluttony ... This indulgence strengthens the animal propensities and blunts the nobler

sentiments of the mind. The who being is degraded , and the human agent becomes the slave of appetite, by pampering and indulging his own groveling and sensual passions.....**You are a gourmand when at the table.**

This is one great cause of your forgetfulness and loss of memory ... Erroneous eating and drinking result in Erroneous thinking and actingWe are composed of what we eat.. “(2MCP 385-388,390.3.4)

Weakening the mind by eating wrong foods and overeating open the doors of For evil angels to work. No one can advance In Spiritual growth by breaking the laws of health. Breaking the laws of health is not difference from breaking the ten commandments.

(Read Counsels on Diet and Foods page 63.1)

