

## PREPARATION FOR THE SEAL OR THE MARK?

The Experience of Those that Receive the Seal of God *	The Experience of Those that Receive the Mark of the Beast *
“Those who walk in the light will see signs of the approaching peril; but they are not to sit in quiet, unconcerned expectancy of the ruin, comforting themselves with the belief that God will shelter His people in the day of visitation.”	“...have not responded to the light God has given them.”
“They should realize that it is their duty to labor diligently to save others, looking with strong faith to God for help.	“Instead of being softened by the patience and long forbearance that the Lord has exercised toward them, those who fear not God and love not the truth strengthen their hearts in their evil course.”
“At the time when the danger and depression of the church are greatest, the little company who are standing in the light will be sighing and crying for the abominations that are done in the land. But more especially will their prayers arise in behalf of the church because its members are doing after the manner of the world.”	“...have become contaminated by the prevailing iniquity... doing after the manner of the world.”
“The earnest prayers of this faithful few will not be in vain.”	“Influenced by the unrighteous around them, many...have grown cold and are borne down by the strong current of evil.”
“...have preserved the faith in its purity and kept themselves unspotted from the world.”	“...the glory of the Lord had departed from Israel...many still continued the forms of religion, His power and presence were lacking.”
“These sighing, crying ones had been holding forth the words of life; they had reproved, counseled, and entreated.”	“...try to throw a cloak over the existing evil, and excuse the great wickedness everywhere prevalent...”
“Some who had been dishonoring God repented and humbled their hearts before Him.	“...religion despised in the very homes of those who have had great light.”
“...these humble, devoted followers of Christ will be distinguished from the rest of the world by their soul anguish, which is expressed in lamentation and weeping, reproofs and warnings.”	“...pride, avarice, selfishness, and deception of almost every kind are in the church.”
“...those who have a zeal for God's honor and a love for souls will not hold their peace to obtain favor of any.”	“The Spirit of God, which prompts to reproof, is trampled underfoot, while the servants of Satan triumph. God is dishonored, the truth made of none effect.”
“Their righteous souls are vexed day by day with the unholy works and conversation of the unrighteous.”	“...do not feel grieved over their own spiritual declension, nor mourn over the sins of others...”

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<p>“They are powerless to stop the rushing torrent of iniquity, and hence they are filled with grief and alarm.”</p>	<p>“...those to whom God had given great light and who had stood as guardians of the spiritual interests of the people, had betrayed their trust.</p>
<p>“They mourn before God to see religion despised in the very homes of those who have had great light.”</p>	<p>“They had taken the position that we need not look for miracles and the marked manifestation of God's power as in former days. Times have changed. These words strengthen their unbelief, and they say: The Lord will not do good, neither will He do evil. He is too merciful to visit His people in judgment.”</p>
<p>“They lament and afflict their souls because pride, avarice, selfishness, and deception of almost every kind are in the church.”</p>	<p>“Peace and safety” is the cry from men who will never again lift up their voice like a trumpet to show God's people their transgressions and the house of Jacob their sins.”</p>
<p>“The seal of God will be placed upon the foreheads of those only who sigh and cry for the abominations done in the land.”</p>	<p>“...dumb dogs that would not bark...”</p>
<p>“This small remnant, unable to defend themselves in the deadly conflict with the powers of earth that are marshaled by the dragon host, make God their defense.”</p>	<p>“...come to feel secure in their deceptions and, because of His long-suffering, say that the Lord seeth not, and then act as though He had forsaken the earth.</p>
<p>“Courage, fortitude, faith, and implicit trust in God's power to save do not come in a moment. These heavenly graces are acquired by the experience of years. By a life of holy endeavor and firm adherence to the right the children of God were sealing their destiny.”</p>	<p>“No superiority of rank, dignity, or worldly wisdom, no position in sacred office, will preserve men from sacrificing principle when left to their own deceitful hearts.”</p>
<p>“Beset with temptations without number, they knew they must resist firmly or be conquered.”</p>	<p>“Those who have been regarded as worthy and righteous prove to be ring-leaders in apostasy and examples in indifference and in the abuse of God's mercies.”</p>
<p>“They felt that they had a great work to do, and at any hour they might be called to lay off their armor; and should they come to the close of life with their work undone, it would be an eternal loss.”</p>	<p>“...once His faithful servants, favored with His presence and guidance...they departed from Him and led others into error...”</p>
<p>“They eagerly accepted the light from heaven, as did the first disciples from the lips of Jesus.”</p>	<p>“...link in sympathy with the world are eating and drinking with the drunken...”</p>
<p>“When those early Christians were exiled to mountains and deserts...left in dungeons to die with hunger, cold, and torture, when martyrdom seemed the only way out of their distress, they rejoiced that they were counted worthy to suffer for Christ, who was crucified for them. Their worthy example will be a comfort and encouragement to the people of God who will</p>	<p>“Not all who profess to keep the Sabbath will be sealed. There are many even among those who teach the truth to others who will not receive the seal of God...They had the light of truth...knew their Master's will...understood every point of our faith, but they had not corresponding works.”</p>

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be brought into the time of trouble..."	
"Everyone must now search the Bible for himself upon his knees before God, with the humble, teachable heart of a child, if he would know what the Lord requires of him."	"These who were so familiar with prophecy and the treasures of divine wisdom should have acted their faith."
"Not one of us will ever receive the seal of God while our characters have one spot or stain upon them. It is left with us to remedy the defects in our characters, to cleanse the soul temple of every defilement."	"...should have commanded their households after them, that by a well-ordered family they might present to the world the influence of the truth upon the human heart."
"In this life we must meet fiery trials and make costly sacrifices, but the peace of Christ is the reward."	"By their lack of devotion and piety, and their failure to reach a high religious standard, they make other souls contented with their position. Men of finite judgment cannot see that in patterning after these men who have so often opened to them the treasures of God's word, they will surely endanger their souls."
"The most exalted of the redeemed host that stand before the throne of God and the Lamb, clad in white, know the conflict of overcoming, for they have come up through great tribulation."	"However high any minister may have stood in the favor of God, if he neglects to follow out the light given him of God, if he refuses to be taught as a little child, he will go into darkness and satanic delusions and will lead others in the same path."
"Oh, for a living, active faith! We need it; we must have it, or we shall faint and fail in the day of trial."	"...too easily satisfied with...attainments."
"The darkness that will then rest upon our path must not discourage us or drive us to despair. It is the veil with which God covers His glory when He comes to impart rich blessings. We should know this by our past experience. In that day when God has a controversy with His people this experience will be a source of comfort and hope."	"...so little self-denial, so little suffering for Christ's sake, that the cross is almost entirely forgotten."
"It is now that we must keep ourselves and our children unspotted from the world...wash our robes of character and make them white in the blood of the Lamb...overcome pride, passion, and spiritual slothfulness...awake and make determined effort for symmetry of character."	"So long as we choose the easy path of self-indulgence and are frightened at self-denial, our faith will never become firm, and we cannot know the peace of Jesus nor the joy that comes through conscious victory."
"It is ever God's purpose to bring light out of darkness, joy out of sorrow, and rest out of weariness for the waiting, longing soul."	"Those who have yielded to circumstances rather than engage in this conflict will not know how to stand in that day when anguish will be upon every soul, when, though Noah, Job, and Daniel were in the land, they could save neither son nor daughter, for everyone must

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	deliver his soul by his own righteousness.”
“Those who are distrustful of self, who are humbling themselves before God and purifying their souls by obeying the truth these are receiving the heavenly mold and preparing for the seal of God in their foreheads. When the decree goes forth and the stamp is impressed, their character will remain pure and spotless for eternity.”	“Those who are uniting with the world are receiving the worldly mold and preparing for the mark of the beast.”
“All who receive the seal must be without spot before God--candidates for heaven...Search the Scriptures for yourselves, that you may understand the fearful solemnity of the present hour.”	“The seal of God will never be placed upon the forehead of an impure man or woman...the ambitious, world-loving man or woman...women of false tongues or deceitful hearts.

\* All quotes taken from **5T 207-216 “The Seal of God”**