

## INSPIRED COUNSEL AGAINST CREEDALSIM

“A brother asked, "Sister White, do you think we must understand the truth for ourselves? **Why can we not take the truths that others have gathered together, and believe them because they have investigated the subjects, and then we shall be free to go on without the taxing of the powers of the mind in the investigation of all these subjects?** Do you not think that these men who have brought out the truth in the past were inspired of God?"

I dare not say they were not led of God, for Christ leads into all truth; but when it comes to inspiration in the fullest sense of the word, I answer, No. I believe that God has given them a work to do, but if they are not fully consecrated to God at all times, they will weave self and their peculiar traits of character into what they are doing, and will put their mold upon the work, and fashion men in religious experience after their own pattern. It is dangerous for us to make flesh our arm.” CW 33,34

”There is **no excuse for anyone in taking the position that** there is no more truth to be revealed, and that **all our expositions of Scripture are without an error. The fact that certain doctrines have been held as truth for many years by our people, is not a proof that our ideas are infallible.** Age will not make error into truth, and truth can afford to be fair. No true doctrine will lose anything by close investigation.

We are living in perilous times, and it does not become us to accept everything claimed to be truth without examining it thoroughly; neither can we afford to reject anything that bears the fruits of the Spirit of God; but we should be teachable, meek and lowly of heart.” CW 35

“**Long-cherished opinions must not be regarded as infallible.** It was the unwillingness of the Jews to give up their long-established traditions that proved their ruin. They were determined not to see any flaw in their own opinions or in their expositions of the Scriptures; but **however long men may have entertained certain views, if they are not clearly sustained by the written word, they should be discarded. Those who sincerely desire truth will not be reluctant to lay open their positions for investigation and criticism, and will not be annoyed if their opinions and ideas are crossed.** This was the spirit cherished among us forty years ago. . . .

**We have many lessons to learn, and many, many to unlearn. God and heaven alone are infallible. Those who think that they will never have to give up a cherished view, never have occasion to change an opinion, will be disappointed.** As long as we hold to our own ideas and opinions with determined persistency, we cannot have the unity for which Christ prayed.” CW 36,37

“Precious light has come, appropriate for this time. It is Bible truth, showing the perils that are right upon us. This light should lead us to a diligent study of the Scriptures, and **a most critical examination of the positions which we hold.**

**God would have all the bearings and positions of truth thoroughly and perseveringly searched, with prayer and fasting.** Believers are not to rest in suppositions and ill-defined ideas of what constitutes truth. Their faith must be firmly founded upon the word of God, so that when the testing time shall come, and they are brought before councils to answer for their faith, they may be able to give a reason for the hope that is in them, with meekness and fear.” CW 40

“”To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them" (Isaiah 8:20). **Even the work of the Holy Spirit upon the heart is to be tested by the Word of God.** The Spirit which inspired the Scriptures, always leads to the Scriptures.” 1SM 43