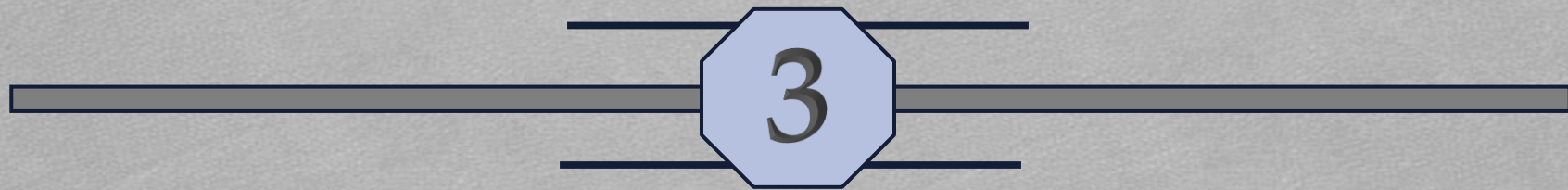


# Religious Liberty and the Eternal Gospel



Transformed by  
Renewing the Mind

# Review

Part 1: Religious liberty is inherent in the everlasting gospel. It has existed from eternity past and will exist forever in the future because it exists in the heart of God.

Part 2: Satan's mind is the mind of self above all others, while the mind of Christ is the mind of all others above self. Satan's spirit of self-exaltation always crushes the liberty of others.

# Desire of Ages, 435, 436

Had Lucifer really desired to be like the Most High, he would never have deserted his appointed place in heaven; for **the spirit of the Most High is manifested in unselfish ministry.** Lucifer desired God's power, but not His character. He sought for himself the highest place, and every being who is actuated by his spirit will do the same.

# Desire of Ages, 436

Thus alienation, discord, and strife will be inevitable. Dominion becomes the prize of the strongest. The kingdom of Satan is a kingdom of force; every individual regards every other as an obstacle in the way of his own advancement, or a steppingstone on which he himself may climb to a higher place.

# Notes on Thanksgiving

Lucifer's first error was ingratitude.

If he had maintained a spirit of thanksgiving for all that God had given him, he would have never become discontent with the position in which God had placed him.

Lucifer's ingratitude led him to forget God and think he was self-sufficient, and this pride developed into the spirit of self-exaltation.

# Notes on Thanksgiving

Our thanksgiving to God is essential because it is a rejection of the mind of Satan.

Daily thanksgiving is a daily rejection of self-sufficiency and instills a spirit of humility. Thus, giving thanks to God is embracing the mind of Christ. Gratitude stems from knowing:

“It is He who has made us,  
and not we ourselves.” (Psalm 100:3)

# Matthew 18:1-4

The disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”

<sup>2</sup>Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, <sup>3</sup>and said, “Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup>Therefore . . .

# Matthew 18:4

<sup>4</sup>Therefore **whoever humbles himself as this little child** is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”

“The spirit of the Most High is manifested in unselfish ministry.” (Desire of Ages, 435)

# Desire of Ages, 435

They [the disciples] did not understand the nature of Christ's kingdom, and this ignorance was the apparent cause of their contention. But the real cause lay deeper. By explaining the nature of the kingdom, Christ might for the time have quelled their strife; but this would not have touched the underlying cause.

...

# Desire of Ages, 437

It was not enough for the disciples of Jesus to be instructed as to the nature of His kingdom. What they needed was a change of heart that would bring them into harmony with its principles.

# Matthew 20:20, 21

Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Him with her sons, kneeling down and asking something from Him.

<sup>21</sup>And He said to her, "What do you wish?"

She said to Him, "Grant that these two sons of mine may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on the left, in Your kingdom."

# Matthew 20:24-26

And when the ten heard it, they were greatly displeased with the two brothers. <sup>25</sup>But Jesus called them to Himself and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over [control; subjugate] them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. <sup>26</sup>**Yet it shall not be so among you; but . . .**

# Matthew 20:26-28

Whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. <sup>27</sup> And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave — <sup>28</sup>**just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.**”

# Matthew 23:1-5

Then Jesus spoke to the multitudes and to His disciples, <sup>2</sup>saying: “The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat. <sup>3</sup>Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, that observe and do, but do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do. . . . <sup>5</sup>all their works they do to be seen by men. . . .

# Matthew 23:6-8

<sup>6</sup>They love the best places at feasts, the best seats in the synagogues, <sup>7</sup>greetings in the marketplaces, and to be called by men, 'Rabbi, Rabbi.'\* <sup>8</sup>But you, do not be called 'Rabbi'; for One is your Teacher,\*\* the Christ, and **you are all brethren.**

\*A title of honor and prestige

\*\* (Master, KJV) not a title, but service/function

# Matthew 23:9-12

<sup>9</sup>Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. <sup>10</sup>And do not be called teachers; for One is your Teacher, the Christ. <sup>11</sup>But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. <sup>12</sup>And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.

# Desire of Ages, 613

In such plain words the Saviour revealed the selfish ambition that was ever reaching for place and power, displaying a mock humility, while the heart was filled with avarice and envy. When persons were invited to a feast, the guests were seated according to their rank, and those who were given the most honorable place received the first attention and special favors.

# Desire of Ages, 613

The Pharisees were ever scheming to secure these honors. This practice Jesus rebuked.

He also reprovved the vanity shown in coveting the title of rabbi, or master. Such a title, He declared, belonged not to men, but to Christ. Priests, scribes, and rulers, expounders and administrators of the law, were all brethren, children of one Father.

# Luke 9:51-53

Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem,<sup>52</sup> and sent messengers before His face. And as they went, they entered a village of the Samaritans, to prepare for Him.<sup>53</sup> But they did not receive Him, because His face was set for the journey to Jerusalem.

# Luke 9:54-56

And when His disciples James and John saw this, they said, “Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?”

<sup>55</sup>But He turned and rebuked them, and said, “You do not know what manner of spirit you are of. <sup>56</sup>For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men’s lives but to save them.”

# Desire of Ages, 487

It is no part of Christ's mission to compel men to receive Him. It is Satan, and men actuated by his spirit, that seek to compel the conscience.

# Desire of Ages, 487

Under a pretense of zeal for righteousness, men who are confederate with evil angels bring suffering upon their fellow men, in order to convert them to their ideas of religion; but Christ is ever showing mercy, ever seeking to win by the revealing of His love.

# Desire of Ages, 487

He can admit no rival in the soul, nor accept of partial service; but He desires only voluntary service, the willing surrender of the heart under the constraint of love. **There can be no more conclusive evidence that we possess the spirit of Satan than the disposition to hurt and destroy those who do not appreciate our work, or who act contrary to our ideas.**

# Desire of Ages, 488

Every human being, in body, soul, and spirit, is the property of God. Christ died to redeem all. Nothing can be more offensive to God than for men, through religious bigotry, to bring suffering upon those who are the purchase of the Saviour's blood.

# Romans 12:1, 2

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable [gk. *logikos*] service. <sup>2</sup>And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

# Romans 12:3

For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to **think** soberly [be sane, of sound mind], as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

# Desire of Ages, 436

He who feels most deeply his need of divine aid will plead for it; and the Holy Spirit will give unto him glimpses of Jesus that will strengthen and uplift the soul. From communion with Christ he will go forth to work for those who are perishing in their sins. He is anointed for his mission; and he succeeds where many of the learned and intellectually wise would fail.

# Romans 8:7; Genesis 3:15

The carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.

Divine intervention is required.

<sup>15</sup>I will put enmity between you [Satan] and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.

# Jeremiah 31:33

This is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: **I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.**

# Ezekiel 36:26, 27

I will give you a **new heart** and put a **new spirit** within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

<sup>27</sup>I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.

# Genesis 3:4, 5

The serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. <sup>5</sup>For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

Once **Satan's word** was accepted over **God's word**, the mind of Satan immediately became the mind of humanity.

## 2 Peter 1:3, 4

His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, <sup>4</sup>by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that **through these** you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

## 2 Corinthians 3:17

“Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.”

Where Christ’s humility is manifest, there is liberty.

Wherever conscience is compelled, and we find a spirit of control, a striving for authority —

**the Spirit of the Lord is absent,  
and the profession of Christianity is a sham!**