

Elder Wilcox then expressed feelings representative of thousands who have been blessed by her labors:

We thank God that He gave a prophet to the remnant church. No Seventh-day Adventist should be ashamed of this blessed truth. Rather we should rejoice that the Lord has in this manner visited His people, and again and again warned them of their danger in the midst of the evils which threaten the church at the present time. These messages, we believe, should be faithfully followed by every believer. *Next to the Bible, and in connection with it*, they should be read and studied. They throw a floodlight upon the Sacred record: "Believe in the Lord your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper." 2 Chronicles 20:20. - *Ibid.* Italics supplied.

Lesson 16 will answer the following questions:

- What was Mrs. White's position on church organization?
- What was her attitude toward the church leaders?
- Did she pay her tithes into the Seventh-day Adventist Church?
- Did she support the Advent Movement till the time of her death?

PROPHETIC GUIDANCE IN THE ADVENT MOVEMENT

GLIMPSES OF A NOBLE CHRISTIAN LIFE

Test Questions – Lesson 15

Fill in the words missing here:

There is ..... to the usefulness of one who, by putting ..... aside, makes room for the ..... of the ..... upon his ....., and lives a life ..... to God.

1. Underline the correct completion (in parentheses) for each sentence:

1. In the White family (Elder White) (Mrs. White) was the head of the home.
2. When engaged in church activities (Mrs. White) (Elder White) was the one who led out.
3. Elder James White’s health was restored by a kind Providence as a result of (a new kind of treatment) (Mrs. White’s faithful nursing care).
4. At the funeral of elder White, 15 years later, Mrs. White (lost control of herself) (spoke briefly to the audience).

2. Complete the following statements:

1. Pure religion and .....before God and the Father is this, To visit the..... and .....in their affliction, and to keep ..... unspotted from the world.”
2. Ellen White seemed to live for just .....purpose – to .....and ..... Christ and to ..... to others.

3. Answer the following questions:

1. How did Mrs. White regard her possessions?  
.....  
.....
2. Did she ever incur debts by careless or extravagant spending?  
.....  
.....
3. Where outside of North America was the work of God benefited by her benevolence?  
.....  
.....

4. Fill in the words missing from the following sentences:

1. She spoke with assurance and as one having ..... Her voice was .....and .....  
.....
2. She seemed to speak as under the direct ..... of the .....  
.....
3. While Mrs. White was serious-minded, she had a large ..... for .....  
.....
4. She never lost her ..... and appreciation of .....  
.....

5. From statements made by Mrs. White shortly before she died, quote three sentences that you consider most impressive.

1. ....  
.....
2. ....  
.....
3. ....  
.....

THINK ON THESE THINGS (No written answer)

Have you thought that “no limit to the usefulness” could include you?

Was Mrs. White’s life a proof of what can be done by one who is fully consecrated to God?

Think of Bible prophets – was benevolence characteristic and prominent in their labors? Was I t. characteristic of Jesus? Why was it essential that true benevolence should be seen in Mrs. White's life and ministry?

When you are called to lay down your life's work, will you have done your best for Jesus?



PROPHETIC GUIDANCE

GUIDING TEXT: He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God? - Micah 6:8.

INTRODUCTION.

The important place Mrs. E. G. White occupied in the rise and growth of the Advent Movement demands that the student know something of her personal life and habits. This lesson is just what its title indicates -"glimpses" here and there of Mrs. White as a human being. It is not a biographical sketch, nor are the stories here related intended to be chronological. A biographical account is given in the *Treasure Chest*, pp. 153-161. What kind of person was Ellen White? warm and friendly? or stern and dictatorial? Did she, ever smile? Was she well adjusted? A victor in the struggle against human weaknesses? Did she practice what she taught? Was she wealthy or was she poor?

Mrs. White's life experience well illustrated the lesson so forcefully expressed in her own words:

He who loves Christ the most, will do the greatest amount of good. There is no limit to the usefulness of one who, by putting self aside, makes room for the working of the Holy Spirit upon his heart, and lives a life wholly consecrated to God. - *Desire of Ages*, p. 250,

Mrs. White was a Wife and Mother

Not many people are living today who knew Mrs. White personally and were acquainted with her way of life and her dealings with others. There are few remaining who lived in her home or who had visited there.

But there are many bona fide reports of contemporaries that provide representative views, and many of her personal letters are on file in the White Publications office in Washington, D. C.

Mrs. White was for 35 years the faithful companion of her husband, James Springer White. So long as he lived she faithfully discharged the duties of a warmhearted wife and companion. She never permitted her unique position as the Lord's special messenger to project herself into a dominating role. Whether in home or in the church, her husband was always the leader. He was the preacher at the meetings they attended together, and the one in charge.

James and Ellen White had four sons, Henry, Edson, Willie, and Herbert, in that order. The middle two became ministers. Death took the first-born at sixteen years and the youngest at three months. Mrs. White was acquainted with tragedy, and knew the meaning of hardship and suffering.

It was through her sacrificial devotion to her husband that his life was saved when he suffered from the effects of a nervous collapse in the 1860's. Then Mrs. White moved from the family home in Battle Creek and took her ailing companion to a little place in the country, near Greenville, Michigan, where through her careful nursing his life was saved. Read her own account of her husband's illness and recovery, and of the experiences through which they passed, as recorded in *Selected Messages*, Book 11, pp. 306-308.

When Elder White died fifteen years later, Mrs. White's courageous character stood out in full relief. III at the time herself, she managed to attend the funeral service, where she addressed a few words to the audience:

I want to say a few words to those present on this occasion. My dear Saviour has been my strength and support in this time of need. . . .

In Jesus Christ all our hopes of eternal life are centered, so then let us eve labor for Him. He from henceforth is my Guide, and my Husband, and my Counselor, and my Friend. He will walk with me through the thorny paths of life, and at last we shall meet again where there is no parting, where there is no separation, and where none shall any more say. "I am sick." I yield my precious treasure; I bid him farewell; I do not go to his grave to weep. Nor can I shed any tears over my youngest nor my eldest sons. The morning of the resurrection is too bright. And then I look to that morning when the broken family links shall be reunited and we shall see the King in His beauty, and behold His matchless charms, and cast our glittering crowns at His feet, and touch the golden harps, and fill all heaven with the strains of our music and songs to the Lamb. We will sing together there. We will triumph together around the great white throne. - *Life Sketches of James and Ellen White*, pp. 448-451.



James White's earthly pilgrimage had ended, but Ellen White was to live on for 34 more rich and useful years, and bear her witness to the church and to the world.

### Mark of True Religion in Mrs. White's Life

Benevolence, like a pure and steady stream, flows from the lives of those who are the channels of blessing to the world.

**Pure religion and undefined before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world. - James 1:27.**

Throughout her long life Ellen White exemplified the spirit of pure religion. She seemed to live for just one purpose-*to exalt and glorify Christ and to do good to others*. Hers was a life of kindly ministry. She was of a sympathetic nature. The following account of her understanding care of a family or two in which husbands and fathers had lost their employment is revealing:

There are families who have lost their situations which they have held for twenty years. One man and his wife have a large family of children which we have been caring for. I am paying the expenses of four children in school from this one family. We see many cases we must help. These are excellent men we have helped. They have large families, but they are the Lord's poor. One man was a coachbuilder, a cabinetmaker, and a wheelwright, and a gentleman of superior order in the sight of God, who reads the hearts of all. This family we provided with clothing from our family for three years. We moved the family to Cooranbong. We hoped to help them get a home this winter. I let them live in my tent, and they put an iron roof on it and have lived in it a year. Everyone loves this man, his wife, and children. We must help them. They have a father and mother they must support. Three families of this same order are on the school premises, and oh, if we only had money to help them build a cheap wooden home, how glad they would be! I use every penny I have in this helping work. - *Welfare Ministry* , pp. 336, 337.

Of her feelings toward the bereaved Mrs McKinley at the time the president was assassinated, September 6, 1901, Mrs. White wrote:

I am not able to sleep past two o'clock A.M. I am awakened often at one o'clock at night with my heart drawn out in tender sympathy for the bereaved wife of President McKinley. One is taken and the other left. The strong one upon whose large affections she could ever lean, is not ....

My heart is in deep sympathy for the one who is left. I have been repeating over and over, Oh, how short come all words of human sympathy. There are thousands that would speak words to relieve if possible the breaking heart, but they do not understand how feeble are words to comfort the bereaved one, who in her feebleness ever found a human heart in her husband, full of tenderness and compassion and love. The strong human arm upon which the frail suffering wife leaned, is not. - *Ibid.*, p. 338.

Mrs. White's charitable labors brightened her toil in Australia, in Europe, and in America. This pattern was invariable, whether at home or abroad. For a refreshing account of Mrs. White's personal experiences as a welfare worker, secure a copy of *Welfare Ministry* and read the appendix, pp. 321-340.

### Genuineness of Mrs. White's Character Revealed by Test

Mrs. White's benevolence was tested as the benevolence of all is tested by the use she made of money entrusted to her care. Jesus said to the rich young ruler:

**If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me. But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful : for he had great possessions. - Matthew 19 :21, 22.**

While Mrs. White lived, she gave many thousands of dollars to the Seventh-day Adventist Church and its institutions. When she died she left no large estate, but was actually in debt. This was due to the fact that while living she drew upon the assured income from the sale of her books after her death, to furnish money with which to advance the work of God on earth in lines to which she could give direction. The in-debtedness was not because of careless management, reckless or extravagant personal spending, or unwise investments. Rather, it was because she had borrowed money from time to time in order to contribute to church enterprises that desperately needed assistance, and to provide capital for the initial printing of her books. This debt was soon fully paid off by the sale of her home property and by royalties from her books. Now the modest royalties from her books go directly to the treasury of the General Conference, in Washington, D. C., to assist in financing the work of the church.

*Mrs. White regarded her possessions as a trust from God.* In the early days her only income was a modest royalty from her books. These yielded but a small sum. After the death of Elder White in 1881, she was paid the salary of an ordained minister, though she was never ordained. She continued to receive royalties from her books, and at times some financial assistance for the help of a copyist in the preparation of articles she furnished for church periodicals. She was instructed that she should administer these monies as a steward for the Lord:

I do not profess to be the owner of any money that comes into my hands. I regard it as the Lord's money, for which I must render an account. - Letter .. 11, 1895; Quoted in *Messenger to the Remnant*, p. 12:2.

Records bear testimony that she was faithful to her trust. One example is the following order sent to provide for a destitute widow:

L. H. Christian, for many years leader of our work in Europe, testified to her benevolence in this heartwarming reminiscence:

I remember when we began our mission work among the Icelanders in America. The Icelanders are small in numbers, there being about 120,000 in Iceland and about 25,000 in Canada and the United States. We were eager to get a little paper started among these people. It was in the day when money was scarce, and there were many calls for mission giving. We said. "Let us write Mrs. White and tell her about our desire to begin the work among the Icelandic people, and just bluntly ask her for one hundred dollars. If we get one hundred dollars from her, others will give, and we will soon have the three thousand dollars needed." In about two weeks an answer came in which she greatly encouraged us to begin work among Icelanders, stressing that everyone was to hear the gospel and that no nation was so small that it should be neglected; and she enclosed a check for one hundred dollars. -*Fruitage of Spiritual Gifts*, pp. 54, 55.

Mrs. White wrote to a friend in 1908:

A brother in Europe wrote to me, "I have a thousand dollars that is due you on the sale of your books. Could not you let us have a portion of this to help in the education of young men, and fitting them to engage in missionary work?"

In reply I wrote, "Keep it all, if you can only train young men to go out and labor as missionaries. I will continue to pay interest on money, in order that I may give this to you as a donation."

This is how Sister White is becoming rich. I have been laying up my treasure in heaven. - Letter 106, 1908; Quoted in *Messenger to the Remnant*, p. 124.

Mrs. White was for years a member of the Battle Creek Tabernacle church, and later of the Sanitarium church in California. She testified of her tithe-paying habits as follows: "I pay my tithes gladly and freely, saying as did David, 'Of thine own have we given thee.'" - Series A, No. I, p. 27, August 10, 1890. (A special testimony entitled

### Eyewitnesses Testify to Mrs. White 's Public and Private Labors

Here are revealing testimonials of eyewitnesses who heard her speak or who lived in her home and observed the quiet, steady influence of her life:

*A Gentle, Kind Authority.*

I lived in her home as a helper for ten years. At the table, at the family altar, and on other occasions she met with her family of workers, but at none of these times did I ever hear her raise her voice above its natural tone or degenerate into unfriendly remarks, censure or criticism. It was always kind and gentle.

When opposed by leaders, she made no effort to dominate, but submitted to their judgment, leaving the results with Him whom she served. . . . I often heard her in halls, in churches, at camp-meetings, schools, etc. . . . While not dogmatic, she spoke with assurance and as one having authority. Her voice was melodious und fervent. - Sarah E. Peck, Angwin, California.

*Spoke with Spirit's Power.*

She seemed to speak as though under the direct inspiration of the Holy Spirit. - Elder A. E. Sanderson, Warehouse Point, Connecticut.

*Sought to Arouse the People.*

She nearly always used the expression, "Brother and Sisters, we have a heaven to win and a hell to shun." - Henry Bruce Blackburn, Ridgefield, Washington.

*A Rich, Distinctive Voice.*

I was greatly impressed in her public work with her very remarkable voice. Her enunciation was always clear and distinct; and the tone of voice was rich, melodious, and organ like, such as I never heard from any other human being. - George McCready Price, Loma Linda, California.

*Read from the Bible.*

In speaking on Sabbath in the Tabernacle in Battle Creek, I noticed that she never gave an address without introducing it by reading from the Bible, and sometimes even a whole chapter. This always impressed me for she did the same while in attendance at the conference, the last she attended near the sanitarium in Takoma Park. Mrs. E. A. Richardson, Parkersburg, West Virginia.

While serious-minded, Mrs. White had a large capacity for humor. Here is an eye-witness account of a religious service in which Mrs. White participated:

Elder W. C. White was, as usual, on the rostrum with his mother. The meeting had been opened and his mother was in the midst of the good sermon.

No doubt he had arisen early and felt weary, for with his responsibilities at rest, he relaxed into a good nap. Noticing this, his mother stopped and offered an apology thus-"When Willie was a baby I used to take him into the pulpit and let him sleep in a basket beneath the pulpit, and he has never gotten over the habit"! Then amid the keen appreciation of the audience, she proceeded as if there had been no break in her thought. - Mrs. Bertha Spear Boger, Greeneville, Tennessee.

Mrs. White's love and appreciation of children is shown in the following experience. One night in Battle Creek, just before bedtime Mrs. White told a Bible story to two little girls who were visiting. Then after prayer she sent them scampering up the stairs to bed, while the kindly "grandmother" followed, Mrs. White sat on the top step and watched the little ones as, dressed in their nighties, they came together again for a brief and exciting pillow fight. There were girlish shrieks and howls of delight. Then one of the pillowcases split wide open, and there were muffled exclamations as small hands clutched at little mouths to shut off the sounds of distress.

But Mrs. White said quietly and with a happy laugh, "No harm has been done, and you can sew up the pillowcase tomorrow." So the happy little girls went off to bed. One of these girls is today Mrs. Carrie Rogers, widow of H. E. Rogers who was for many years General Conference statistician. And she told us the story. It is a pleasant glimpse of an adult's kindly and considerate adjustment to the innocent joys of childhood and a wholesome reaction to a childish perplexity.

### How Mrs. White Faced Her Sunset Years

Mrs. White's last days were spent at Elmhaven, her home near St. Helena, California. Here she lived for 15 years after her return from Australia in 1900. Arthur W. Spalding, a member of the Elmhaven staff a few years before Mrs. White's death, gave this heart-warming glimpse of her when she was past eighty years of age:

One day she took my arm and led me outdoors. "I want to show you, my garden," she said. She always loved the beautiful things that God had made. . . .

Now out in the garden she took me from flower bed to flower bed and from shrub to shrub. Some of the things she had planted with her own hands, and nearly every day she came out to watch them grow.

We stopped before a beautiful bed of pansies. You know, pansies look almost like human faces, with their great velvety eyes. They seem to be smiling at you, and you want to stoop down and kiss them. Sister White knelt down before the pansy bed. She put her hand under one and then another, and turned their faces upward. And quietly, almost so low I could not hear, she murmured, "The smiles of God! The smiles of God!" - *Sister White*, pp. 117, 118.

All through life Mrs. White possessed this beautiful appreciation of nature. In an interview with another, a short time before her death, Mrs. White spoke of her courage:

My courage is grounded in my Saviour. My work is nearly ended. Looking over the past, I do not feel the least mite of despondency or discouragement. I feel so grateful that the Lord has withheld me from despair and discouragement, and that I can still hold the banner. I know Him whom I love, and in whom my soul trusted." - *Life Sketches*, pp. 443, 444.

And to her son she remarked:

I do not worry about the work I have done. I have done the best I could. I do not think that I shall be lingering long. I do not expect much suffering. I am thankful that we have the comforts of life in time of sickness. Do not worry. I go only a little before the others." - *Ibid.*, p. 445.

On a Sabbath day, February 13, 1915, Ellen White fell and broke her left hip. From that time she was confined to her bed or wheelchair. On a later Sabbath day during her last illness, she declared to her loved ones, "We shall all be home very soon now," The last words she spoke to her son, who was with her when she died, were, "I know in whom I have believed." -Ibid., p. 449. Thus she expressed her fervent hope in Him who is the resurrection and the life. On Friday afternoon, July 16, 1915, she fell asleep in Christ.

Elder F. M. Wilcox, reminiscing on her life, wrote:

Her experience was one of earnest Christian labor, of sacrifice for the Master she loved. Separated oftentimes from her children, denied the comforts of home life in her extensive travels, handicapped frequently by physical suffering, meeting the natural prejudice and opposition which existed in many minds against her work, she labored on, faithfully and untiringly, even to the close of life. She rests from her labors, but her works follow her. - The *Testimony of Jesus*, p. 160.