

Dear Bro. Adam

January of 2013

We thank you for the information regards clericalism in the Movement. These general thoughts have been brought to our attention by others. Now, let me begin this work by saying that I do not have the answer to the problems facing the Brethren at this time! However we might give consideration to some things.

1. Who has called US at this time [YWs and CECs] our answer is given in John 6: 44--God. We are all on trial; the YWs have a double trial see E-4 p 433. The CECs having a resurrection of the just are under a more severe test of trust in the Lord's plan than others followed with a greater reward.
2. The Lord has appointed these leaders now as in the past and has set into His plan that we as helpers not agitate against His choice. Romans 12: 19.
3. We have put full trust in our Lord when we accepted our invitation into His work and He has had siftings going on since the time of our Lord. In E-15 p 129 we read of siftings among the Lord's disciples. We have evidence that God was able to separate the good from the bad then, so we have sufficient evidence to believe He can do so now. My hope is to adhere to the exhortation in 2 Cor. 13: 5 "Examine yourselves, whether you are in the faith"
4. Those of us, CECs "drawn by God" with the exception of the AWs who wrote the O.T. [under inspiration and revelation] have a greater and more detailed knowledge of How and What to do, with a greater ability to do it than the AWs. PT 66 p 66.
5. Since 1954 tentative justification has been granted to the Epiphany Camp for building up the Camp, only for those who go on to full Consecration. PT 68 p 31&45. As a fifth Elect Class the CECs are so close to being of the Elect. PT 72 p74. We are privileged to walk on a strait and narrow path. We have the Imputed Merit of Christ [tentatively] PT 74 p 12. Also we can pray to God, have the peace of God, also peace with God.
6. We are guided by the cloudy fiery pillar, upon them [CECs] the antitypical cloudy fiery pillar truth as due and its Spirit rest and they are the depository of these. PT 83 p 79.
7. There is no difference in the nature of the vows of consecration of these LF, GC, or CECs.
8. The antitypical Q of S class is the last class to consecrate prior to the opening of the highway of holiness—they will be the last Gospel Age class of God's consecrated people to bring their choice human powers as ingredients of the graces to the Lord in consecration. PT 54 p 42.
9. We CECs like all Gospel Age classes consecrate unto death-dying daily—at the expense of our human rights. E-4 p 410.
10. I offer these considerations for our help in knowing the importance of this last called class; as individuals we stand before God in the privileges He has given. Now it becomes necessary to separate the thoughts of HONOR and OBEDIENCE! We Honor our Lord and esteem his agents.

11. I offer some considerations from our writings.

Let us, dear brethren, **honor our Lord**, and **not** the agents that He uses, as the One who sits-functions officially-as the Refiner and Polisher, Developer, of the silver of Truth. While we are to hold His **pertinent agents as such in esteem**, we are always to remember that they are not the source either of the secular or religious Truth to the Church and the World. The ultimate source of it is God and the proximate source of it is Christ. The highest honor that others can rightly have in this connection is that of being privileged religious or secular servants of God and Christ. Such an attitude will keep them humble and restrain others from the extremes of (1) worshiping messengers, as is done, *e.g.*, by the Channelites, and (2) of despising dignities, as is done, *e.g.*, by those who reject all human teachers (Col. 2: 18; 2 Pet. 2: 10); while it will enable us highly to love, honor and adore God and Christ as such sources of the Truth, and to **esteem their agents** no more than as *their* agents. Let us, therefore, ever remember that it is our Lord who sits as the Refiner and Polisher of the Truth, and not His agents, however largely He may use them as His mouth and hand.

Having said all this let us yet consider how we received the understanding of the Lord's word; Jehovah gave it to Jesus who gave it to Pastor Russell who was given many helpers [not all succeeded in their trial] Messrs. Barbour and Paton, Mrs. Russell and Mr. M L McPhail were set aside by **God** by 1908. From that time to this very day God has continued to set in leadership positions those whom he indicates, through His appointed leaders.

Let us with diligence remember that we as appointees of God have one goal—to build such a character that when others see our true character they will have NO reason to question “Is He a child of God?” Do we find Jehovah's hand waxed short?

When I take time to ponder the servants of God that have gone before me I find tears come to my eyes; David, Solomon, Miller, Russell, Johnson, Jolly, Billy Graham and others: they all failed in some way as servants of God (some greater some lessor); will I do any better? I find good reason to repeat Psa. 51: 10 “Create in me a clean heart O God; and renew a right spirit within me”.

It was for the disciples to learn, as well as it is for us now to learn, that the fleshly mind is at enmity with God because of its blindness and perversion, and that men are not to put themselves in the **way of God's chariot**; for if they do, it will surely run over them to their injury. His ways are best, they lead to rest, since **God plans them all**.

Much more could be said but the Lord seems to be leading me that this is sufficient for now. It is my sincere desire that you find these thoughts helpful.

Jeremiah 15: 16 has become my guiding text “thy words were found and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of my heart: for I am called by thy name, O Lord God of host”.