

SIGH AND CRY

In the time of the end the people of God will sigh and cry for the abominations done in the land. With tears they will warn the wicked of their danger in trampling upon the divine law, and with unutterable sorrow they will humble themselves before the Lord in penitence. The wicked will mock their sorrow and ridicule their solemn appeals. But the anguish and humiliation of God's people is unmistakable evidence that they are regaining the strength and nobility of character lost in consequence of sin. It is because they are drawing nearer to Christ, because their eyes are fixed on His perfect purity, that they discern so clearly the exceeding sinfulness of sin. Meekness and lowliness are the conditions of success and victory. A crown of glory awaits those who bow at the foot of the cross. PK 590.2

The time has fully come when darkness is called light, and light is called darkness. We are living in an age when sham liberality is extolled; when those who scatter falsehood, false doctrines, and soul-destroying heresies are received and exalted by society, and the most terrible deeds of iniquity are glossed over and excused on the plea of charity. Even the voices from the pulpits of our land are saying, "It shall be well with the transgressor." Sin is not dealt with as a thing of fearful consequence, destined to bring inevitable ruin upon those who persist in its indulgence. **It is not pictured in its abhorrent character before the people of the world.** Smooth things are prophesied by false teachers, and the multitudes are resting in their sin, unmindful of the solemn warnings and examples of the word of God. **The time has come when we should "sigh and .. cry for all the abominations" that are done in the land.** RH January 10, 1888, par. 1

The day of God's vengeance is just upon us. **The seal of God will be placed upon the foreheads of those only who sigh and cry for the abominations done in the land.** Those who link in sympathy with the world are eating and drinking with the drunken and will surely be destroyed with the workers of iniquity. "The eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and His ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil." 5T 212.3. T31 208.3

Who are standing in the counsel of God at this time? Is it those who virtually excuse wrongs among the professed people of God, and murmur in their hearts, if not openly, against those who would reprove sin? Is it those who take their stand against them, and sympathize with those who commit wrong? No, indeed! These, unless they repent, and leave the work of Satan in oppressing those who have the burden of the work, and holding up the hands of sinners in Zion, will never receive the mark of God's sealing approval. They will fall in the general destruction of all the wicked, represented by the five men bearing slaughter weapons. **Mark this point with care: Those who receive the pure mark of truth, wrought in them by the power of the Holy Ghost, represented by a mark by the man in linen, are those "that sigh and cry for all the abominations that are done" in the church.** Their love for purity and the honor and glory of God is such, and they have so clear a view of the exceeding sinfulness of sin, that they are represented as being in an agony, even sighing and crying. Read Ezekiel, chapter nine. RH September 23, 1873, par. 5

BY OUR INFLUENCE

Who are the company who are sealed with the seal of the living God? What saith the Lord? He says to the angel, Go, and place the mark upon the foreheads of those who sigh and cry for the abominations which are done in the land. [Ezekiel 9:4.] That should keep us in sobriety, in prayerfulness, and **watchfulness.** And as we see the iniquity taking away the youth right out of our arms, do you suppose it would be so if the right influence were exerted over them by every member who professes to be a child of God? What is the matter? The high standard is left to trail in the very dust. You are acting as the world acts. You are not to follow their moves, but are to come out and be separate. 4LtMs, Ms 2, 1885, par. 14

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DRESS

Mary, you write about quilted skirts, that it is wrong to wear heavy skirts. My answer you will see in next paper. If that does not convince and settle your mind, please write again. The more I dwell upon this matter, the plainer is it to me that **the wearing of hoops is one of the abominations of the land** that God would have us utterly discard. Our practice and example should be a standing rebuke to this ridiculous fashion. **This I believe is one of the abominations which causes God's people to sigh and cry.** The more I investigate, the plainer does it appear that the people of God should not have the least to do with it. 1LtMs, Lt 6, 1861, par. 3

SPORTS AMUSEMENTS

I hope that you, my son, will watch unto prayer and not let Satan take advantage of you in any way. Cling to Jesus by living faith. Be firm as a rock to principle. Preserve your integrity at any cost. Let the frivolous-minded enjoy their cheap and fashionable sports and amusements if they will, but, my son, let your mind be elevated above this. In humility and in simplicity work for the good of others. Crowd all the good works you can into heaven, freighted with many prayers. **The angel with the writer's ink horn is to place a mark upon those who sigh and cry for the abominations done in the land.** Those who unite with these follies and vanities and sins of this age will be passed by and receive no mark. 2LtMs, Lt 7, 1874, par. 3

TEARING DOWN GOD'S LAW

I call to mind that Christ, when contending with the devil, durst not bring against him a railing accusation. While those men, with ruthless, sacrilegious hands, would tear down God's moral standard of righteousness and blacken the character of all who vindicate the truth, God sees it. God knows all about it. It is written in His books—the malice, the hatred of the adversaries of God's holy law. He can bring to confusion their malice; He can make of none effect their pride. The men who want to have it so that God's law is done away, that they may continue in sin, will exult. But **although we sigh and cry for the abominations done in the land, we dare not take the burden on ourselves.** We desire greatly to have peace, to have an opportunity to present truth to the people who are in darkness of error. But the cause is Thine, O God, and the truth is mighty and will prevail! 4LtMs, Ms 23, 1885, par. 3

APOSTASY

My heart was made sad to learn of the apostasy of Brother Ramsay; but you know I was expecting this by the letters I wrote to him. I am sorry for every soul who gives up running the race for the crown of life. I feel sure that another will take his place and win the crown he has lost. The only course we can take is to keep working faithfully and earnestly and humbly, trusting not in our own power, but in the Lord God of Israel. The sweet and sure benediction is to be given to those who do His commandments that they may have right to the tree of life. I am not the least bit discouraged, but I am **so sad and almost heartbroken as I see the abominations in our midst. I do indeed feel remorse of soul and sigh and cry for the abominations in our very midst.** 5LtMs, Lt 27, 1888, par. 7

We are not to be of sad countenance. **We are not to mourn and lament because of our trials, although we shall sigh and cry for the abominations done in the land.** But I did not think of writing on this strain. I will stop where I am. May the Lord bless you and make you stand firm, wholly on the Lord's side. The bell rings for breakfast. 6LtMs, Lt 112, 1890, par. 16

May the Lord guide you all, teachers and pupils and church members, to make diligent work for eternity. The end of all things is at hand. There is need now of men armed and equipped to battle for God. **Please read Ezekiel 9. Who bear the sign, the mark of God in their foreheads? The men that sigh and cry for the abominations done in the midst of Jerusalem—among those that profess to be God's people—not those who are engrossed in games for their selfish amusement.** After the mark had been

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set upon this class—who are registered in the books of heaven as overcomers—by the angelic messenger of God, the command is given to the ministers of destruction: **“Go ye after him through the city, and smite: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity: Slay utterly old and young, both maids and little children, and women; but come not near any man upon whom is the mark. And begin at my sanctuary. Then they began at the ancient men which were before the house.”** [Verses 5, 6.] God grant that these solemn predictions which are so speedily to be fulfilled, may be impressed upon the hearts of all! See Revelation 7:1-4, 12-17; Zechariah 3. 8LtMs, Lt 47, 1893, par. 34

We feel depressed, greatly depressed, as we see the world and its wickedness. **The professed Christian world is enveloped in the darkness that covers the earth. We sigh and cry for the abominations that are done in the land.** Why is it that all this wickedness does not break forth in decided violence against righteousness and truth? It is because the four angels are holding the four winds, that they shall not blow upon the earth. But human passions are reaching a high pass, and the Spirit of the Lord is being withdrawn from the earth. Were it not that God has commanded angelic agencies to control the satanic agencies that are seeking to break loose and to destroy, there would be no hope. But the winds are to be held until the servants of God are sealed in their foreheads. 13LtMs, Ms 120, 1898, par. 6

Consider the scene presented in the ninth chapter of Ezekiel. Such a delineation needs to be carefully considered. When those who are set for the defense of true religion in our world become middlemen, leading the people to a knowledge of the truth, but failing to show the sanctifying power of truth upon their own hearts, the churches of Seventh-day Adventists are in danger of becoming corrupted and through their defective characters leading others astray. **But notwithstanding the deplorable lack of vital godliness, there is a faithful remnant who sigh and cry for the abominations done in a land of professed knowledge and piety.** 15LtMs, Lt 3, 1900, par. 12