The Laws (instructions) of Life!

"The Lord holds us guilty when by our injurious habits we thus deprive the world of good. **Transgression of physical law** is transgression of the moral law; for God is as truly the author of physical laws as He is the author of the moral law.

His law (Romans 8:2) is written with His Own finger upon every nerve, every muscle, every faculty, which has been entrusted to man. And every misuse of any part of our organism is a violation of that law. All should have an intelligent knowledge of the human frame that they may keep their bodies in the condition necessary to do the work of the Lord.

The physical life is to be carefully preserved and developed that through humanity the Divine nature may be revealed in its fullness!

The relation of the physical organism to the spiritual life is one of the most important branches of education. It should receive careful attention in the home and in the school. All need to become acquainted with their physical structure and the laws that control natural life. He who remains in willing ignorance of the laws of his physical being and who violates them through ignorance is sinning against God. All should place themselves in the best possible relation to life and health. Our habits should be brought under the control of a mind that is itself under the control of God. {COL 348.1}

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"The uncontrolled indulgence and consequent <u>disease and degradation</u> that existed at Christ's first advent will again exist, with intensity of evil, before His second coming. Christ declares that the condition of the world will be as in the days before the Flood, and as in Sodom and Gomorrah.

Every imagination of the thoughts of the heart will be evil continually. Upon the very verge of that fearful time we are now living, and to us should come home the lesson of the Saviour's fast. Only by the inexpressible anguish which Christ endured can we estimate the evil of unrestrained indulgence. His example declares that our only hope of eternal Life (living for ever) is through bringing the appetites and passions into subjection to the will of God.

In our own strength it is impossible for us to deny the clamors of our fallen nature. Through this channel Satan will bring temptation upon us. Christ knew that the enemy would come to every human being, to take advantage of hereditary weakness, and by his false insinuations to ensnare all whose trust is not in God. And by passing over the ground which man must travel, our Lord has prepared the way for us to overcome.

It is not His will that we should be placed at a disadvantage in the conflict with Satan. He would not have us intimidated and discouraged by the assaults of the serpent. "Be of good cheer," He says; "I have overcome the world." John 16:33.

Let him who is struggling against the power of appetite <u>look to the Saviour in the wilderness of temptation</u>. See Him in His agony upon the cross, as He exclaimed, "I thirst." He has endured all that it is possible for us to bear. **His victory is ours** . . . !

Jesus rested upon the wisdom and strength of His heavenly Father. He declares, "The Lord God will help Me; therefore **shall I not be confounded**: . . . and I know that I shall not be ashamed. . . . Behold, the Lord God will help Me."

Pointing to His own example, He says to us, "Who is among you that feareth the LORD, . . . that walketh in darkness, and hath no light? let him trust in the name of the LORD, and stay upon his God." Isaiah 50:7-10.

"The prince of this world cometh," said Jesus, "and hath nothing in Me." John 14:30. There was in Him nothing that responded to Satan's sophistry. He did not consent to sin. Not even by a thought did He yield to temptation. So it may be with us . . . !

Christ's humanity was <u>united with Divinity</u>; He was fitted for the conflict by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit (John 14:10-11, John 10:30). And He came to make us partakers of the divine nature.

So long as we are united to Him by faith (John 15:7), sin has no more dominion over us (Romans 6:14). God reaches for the hand of faith in us to direct it to lay fast hold upon the divinity of Christ, that we may attain to perfection of character.

And how this is accomplished, Christ has shown us. By what means did He overcome in the conflict with Satan? By the Word of God (John 6:63). **Only by the Word could He resist temptation**. "It is written," He said (Ezekiel 36:26-28 and II Corinthians 3:3). And unto us are given "exceeding great and precious promises: <u>that by these</u> *unfailing promises*, ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust (carnal, fleshly desires). II Peter 1:4.

Every promise in God's Word is ours. "By every Word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" are we to live (Zechariah 4:6).

When assailed by temptation, <u>look not to circumstances</u> or to the weakness of self, but look to the power of the Word (Isaiah 45:22-25). All its strength is yours. "Thy Word," says the psalmist, "have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee." "By the Word of Thy lips I have kept me from the paths of the destroyer." Psalm 119:11; 17:4.

- Desire of Ages, p.122-123