

A. "LIBERTY OF CONSCIENCE" AS AN END-TIME EVANGELISTIC THEME"

- A.1 "The minds of the people must be agitated; every controversy, every reproach, every effort to restrict **liberty of conscience**, is God's means of awakening minds that otherwise might slumber." MB 33.2
- A.2 "Our own land is to become a battlefield on which is to be carried on the struggle for religious liberty - to worship God according to the dictates of our own **conscience**. ... Shall men cry, Peace and safety, now, when sudden destruction is coming upon the world, when God's wrath shall be poured out?" 3SM 387.2
- A.3 "**Liberty of conscience**, which has cost so great a sacrifice, will no longer be respected. In the soon-coming conflict we shall see exemplified the prophet's words: 'The dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.'" GC 592.3
- A.4 "As religious aggression subverts the liberties of our nation, those who would stand for **freedom of conscience** will be placed in unfavorable positions. For their own sake, they should, while they have the opportunity, become intelligent in regard to disease, its causes, prevention, and cure." CME 11.4
- A.5 "We are engaged in an important and an essential work, and we must carry on an aggressive warfare. We are to stand for true Protestant principles; for the policies of the papacy will edge their way into every possible place to proscribe **liberty of conscience**." RH September 9, 1909
- A.6 "From the first presentation of Christianity to the world, there has been a deadly warfare instituted against it. Its messengers have been hated, pursued, imprisoned, and put to death, because they would not yield to the power of apostasy, and become one with Satan and his angels. ... Those who suffer for the truth know the value of a pure gospel, a free Bible, and **liberty of conscience**." BEcho March 12, 1894
- A.7 "All who in that evil day would fearlessly serve God according to the dictates of **conscience**, will need courage, firmness, and a knowledge of God and His word; for those who are true to God will be persecuted, their motives will be impugned, their best efforts misinterpreted, and their names cast out as evil. Satan will work with all his deceptive power to influence the heart and becloud the understanding, to make evil appear good, and good evil." AA 431.1

B. "LIBERTY OF CONSCIENCE" AS A PROTESTANT LEGACY

- B.1 "For the last time, Huss was brought before the council. It was a vast and brilliant assembly - the emperor, the princes of the empire, the royal deputies, the cardinals, bishops, and priests, and an immense crowd who had come as spectators of the events of the day. From all parts of Christendom had been gathered the witnesses of this first great sacrifice in the long struggle by which **liberty of conscience** was to be secured." GC 108.2
- B.2 "The principle for which the disciples stood so fearlessly when, in answer to the command not to speak any more in the name of Jesus, they declared, 'Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye,' is the same that the adherents of the gospel struggled to maintain in the days of the Reformation. When in 1529 the German princes assembled at the Diet of Spires [Speyer], there was presented the emperor's decree restricting religious liberty, and prohibiting all further dissemination of the reformed doctrines. It seemed that the hope of the world was about to be crushed out. Would the princes accept the decree? Should the light of the gospel be shut out from the multitudes still in darkness? Mighty issues for the world were at stake. Those who had accepted the reformed faith met together, and their unanimous decision was, 'Let us reject this decree. In **matters of conscience** the majority has no power.'" AA 68.1
- [Continuing from previous paragraph above] "This principle we in our day are firmly to maintain. The **banner of truth and religious liberty** held aloft by the founders of the gospel church and by God's witnesses during the centuries that have passed since then, has, in this last conflict, been committed to our hands. The responsibility for this great gift rests with those whom God has blessed with a knowledge of His word. We are to receive this word as supreme authority. We are to recognize human government as an ordinance of divine appointment, and teach obedience to it as a sacred duty, within its legitimate sphere. But when its claims conflict with the claims of God, we must obey God rather than men. God's word must be recognized as above all human legislation. A 'Thus saith the Lord' is not to be set aside for a 'Thus saith the church' or a 'Thus saith the state.' The crown of Christ is to be lifted above the diadems of earthly potentates." AA 68.2
- B.3 "One of the noblest testimonies ever uttered for the Reformation was the Protest offered by the Christian princes of Germany at the Diet of Spires [Speyer] in 1529. The courage, faith, and firmness of those men of God

gained for succeeding ages **liberty of thought and of conscience**. Their Protest gave to the reformed church the name of Protestant; its principles are "the very essence of Protestantism." GC 197.1

- B.4 "[At the Diet of Spires/Speyer (1529)]: Those who thus refused to sacrifice liberty of conscience and the right of individual judgment well knew that their position marked them for future criticism, condemnation, and persecution. Said one of the delegates: 'We must either deny the word of God, or - be burnt.'" GC 201.2
- B.5 "[Luther said:] 'Let there be no compulsion. I have been laboring for **liberty of conscience**. Liberty is the very essence of faith.'" 4SP 148.2
- B.6 "It was the desire for **liberty of conscience** that inspired the Pilgrims to brave the perils of the long journey across the sea, to endure the hardships and dangers of the wilderness, and with God's blessing to lay, on the shores of America, the foundation of a mighty nation." GC 292.3
- B.7 "Williams 'was the first person in modern Christendom to establish civil government on the **doctrine of the liberty of conscience**, the equality of opinions before the law.' - Bancroft, pt. 1, ch. 15, par. 16" GC 293.1
- B.8 "The fundamental principle of Roger Williams's colony was 'that every man should have liberty to worship God according to the **light of his own conscience**.' - Martyn, vol. 5, p. 35" GC 295.1
- B.9 "The time was when Protestants placed a high value upon the **liberty of conscience** which had been so dearly purchased." GC 563.1

C. "LIBERTY OF CONSCIENCE" AS A PRINCIPLE TO BE DEFENDED

- C.1 "**It is our duty**, as we see the signs of approaching peril, to arouse to action. Let none sit in calm expectation of the evil, comforting themselves with the belief that this work must go on because prophecy has foretold it, and that the Lord will shelter His people. We are not doing the will of God if we sit in quietude, doing nothing to preserve liberty of conscience." 5T 713.4
- C.2 "God has revealed what is to take place in the last days, that His people may be prepared to stand against the tempest of opposition and wrath. Those who have been warned of the events before them are not to sit in calm expectation of the coming storm, comforting them-selves that the Lord will shelter His faithful ones in the day of trouble. We are to be as men waiting for their Lord, not in idle expectancy, but in earnest work, with unwavering faith. ... While men are sleeping, Satan is actively arranging matters so that the Lord's people may not have mercy or justice. The Sunday movement is now making its way in darkness. The leaders are concealing the true issue, and many who unite in the movement do not themselves see whither the undercurrent is tending. Its professions are mild and apparently Christian, but when it shall speak it will reveal the spirit of the dragon. **It is our duty** to do all in our power to avert the threatened danger. We should endeavor to disarm prejudice by placing ourselves in a proper light before the people. We should bring before them the real question at issue, thus interposing the most effectual protest against measures to restrict liberty of conscience." 5T 452.1
- C.3 "So should the followers of Christ, as they approach the time of trouble, make every exertion to place themselves in a proper light before the people, to disarm prejudice, and to avert the danger which threatens liberty of conscience." GC 616.2

D. "LIBERTY OF CONSCIENCE" AS A RIGHT TO BE PROTECTED BY AUTHORITIES

- D.1 "To protect **liberty of conscience** is the duty of the state, and this is the limit of its authority in matters of religion." GC 201.1
- D.2 "The authorities of this world will rise up in their pride and power to make laws to restrict religious liberty. They will assume a right that is God's alone, and, like Nebuchadnezzar, will think that they can force the conscience, which only God can control." RH December 20, 1898
- D.3 "Earthly governments may not force the conscience or usurp the place reserved to God alone in the theocracy of Israel. Not until the second coming of Christ will God again establish His theocracy. Until then, men must not arrogate to themselves authority over the human conscience that God has not entrusted to them." EP 551.3
- D.4 "Protestantism sets the power of **conscience above the magistrate**, and the authority of the word of God above the visible church. ... The Protest of Spires [Speyer] was a solemn witness against religious intolerance, and an assertion of the right of all men to worship God according to the dictates of their own consciences." GC 203.4

- D.5 "And the Constitution guarantees, in the most explicit terms, the inviolability of **conscience**: 'No religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States.'" GC 295.2
- D.6 "'The framers of the Constitution recognized the eternal principle that man's relation with his God is above human legislation, and his rights of conscience inalienable. Reasoning was not necessary to establish this truth; we are conscious of it in our own bosoms' - [Congressional documents (U.S.A.), serial No. 200, document No. 271]." GC 295.3
- D.7 "'They felt that their duty to God was superior to human enactments, and that man could exercise no authority over their consciences. It is an inborn principle which nothing can eradicate.' - Congressional documents (U.S.A.), serial No. 200, document No. 271." GC 295.3
- D.8 "No man was to exercise an arbitrary power over another man's **conscience**." 3SP 245.1

E. "CONSCIENCE" FOR GOD VS. SATAN

- E.1 "It is no part of Christ's mission to compel men to receive Him. It is Satan, and men actuated by his spirit, who seek to compel the conscience." AA 541.1
- E.2 "We may attribute the spirit of persecution - because men and women want **liberty of conscience** - to its origin, Satan. He is a deceiver, a liar, a murderer, an accuser of the brethren. He loves to see human misery." CTr 248.4
- E.3 "God never forces the will or the conscience; but Satan's constant resort - to gain control of those whom he cannot otherwise seduce - is compulsion by cruelty. Through fear or force he endeavors to rule the conscience and to secure homage to himself. To accomplish this, he works through both religious and secular authorities, moving them to the enforcement of human laws in defiance of the law of God." GC 591
- E.4 "You belong to God, soul, body, and spirit. ... We are only human beings, and one human being has no jurisdiction over the conscience of another human." 2MCP 708.4
- E.5 "Trust in the Lord at all times. Listen to the voice of conscience. Love God and you will have his approving smile." AY 41.1
- E.6 "Obedience is the highest dictate of reason as well as of **conscience**." AA 506.2

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