

7-1-2004

A Lesson in Right Thinking (Work Station One)

Roland R. Hegstad

Adventist Theological Society

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.andrews.edu/pd>

Recommended Citation

Hegstad, Roland R. (2004) "A Lesson in Right Thinking (Work Station One)," *Perspective Digest*. Vol. 9 : No. 3 , Article 3.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.andrews.edu/pd/vol9/iss3/3>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Adventist Theological Society at Digital Commons @ Andrews University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Perspective Digest by an authorized editor of Digital Commons @ Andrews University. For more information, please contact repository@andrews.edu.

W O R K S T A T I O N O N E



Roland R. Hegstad

As I write this column, Adventist theologians and scientists are meeting to discuss issues of creation. Both groups are aware that theistic evolution has gained a footing among a few Adventist scholars. Though open-minded on many issues, I settled this one long ago. I also decided that God had, indeed, chosen a wise woman to be his spokesperson on critical issues facing his end-time church.

A few months ago I plucked a few of her early books from my library. For several years I had been reading/studying the Bible for my morning worship. Half a dozen different versions, ending most recently with the *Net Bible* (yes, you can order it over the Internet!). You can also challenge its translations. In other words, it is a work in process. It has (hold your breath) 57,875 translators' notes, and 2,396 pages. Having studied my way through that, I turned to Ellen White, not, however, to reread the Conflict series. Instead,

A LESSON IN RIGHT THINKING

I started with *Early Writings*. Then, *Sketches From the Life of Paul* and, currently, *Mind, Character, and Personality*, Volume

2, a 1977 compilation by the White Estate.

During the past two weeks, I completed segments on "Working With Science," "Happiness," "Doubts," and "Right Thinking." Would you believe I found a number of paragraphs that would be helpful to brothers and sisters struggling with issues of time and eternity, as well as personal conflicts! So why listen to me when you can read inspired counsel?

Proceed.

"God is the author of science. Scientific research opens to the mind vast fields of thought and information, enabling us to see God in His created works.

"Ignorance may try to support skepticism by appealing to science; but instead of upholding skepticism, true science contributes fresh evi-

dences of the wisdom and power of God. Rightly understood, science and the written word agree, and each sheds light on the other. Together, they lead us to God by teaching us something of the wise and beneficent laws through which He works" (1913), p. 739.

"A knowledge of true science is power, and it is the purpose of God that this knowledge shall be taught in our schools as a preparation for the work that is to precede the closing scenes of this earth's history" (1913). . . . "The great object in the establishment of our college [at Battle Creek, Michigan] was to give correct views, showing the harmony of science and Bible religion" (1879), p. 740.

"God is the foundation of everything. All true science is in harmony with His works; all true education leads to obedience to His government. Science opens new wonders to our view; she soars high and explores new depths, but she brings nothing from her research that conflicts with divine revelation" (1884), pp. 741, 742.

"We are dependent on the Bible for a knowledge of the early history of our world, of the creation of man, and of his fall. Remove the Word of God, and what can we expect but to be left to fables and conjectures and to that enfeebling of the intellect

which is the sure result of entertaining error.

"We need the authentic history of the origin of the earth, of the fall of Lucifer, and of the introduction of sin into the world. Without the Bible, we should be bewildered by false theories. The mind would be subjected to the tyranny of superstition and falsehood. But, having in our possession an authentic history of the beginning of the world, we need not hamper ourselves with human conjectures and unreliable theories.

"Wherever Christians are, they may hold communion with God. And they may enjoy the intelligence of sanctified science" (1904), p. 742.

"These persons [who disbelieve the Genesis account] have lost the simplicity of faith. There should be a settled belief in the divine authority of God's Holy Word. The Bible is not to be tested by men's ideas of science. Human knowledge is an unreliable guide. Skeptics who read the Bible for the sake of caviling may, through an imperfect comprehension of either science or revelation, claim to find contradictions between them; but rightly understood, they are in perfect harmony. Moses wrote under the guidance of the Spirit of God, and a correct theory of geology will never claim discoveries that cannot be reconciled with his statements. All truth, whether in nature

Hegstad: A Lesson in Right Thinking (Work Station One)

or in revelation, is consistent with itself in all its manifestations” (1890), p. 743.

“We need to guard continually against the sophistry in regard to geology and other branches of science falsely so called, which have not one semblance of truth. The theories of great men need to be carefully sifted of the slightest trace of infidel suggestions. One tiny seed sown by teachers in our schools, if received by the students, will raise a harvest of unbelief. The Lord has given all the brilliancy of intellect that man possesses, and it should be devoted to His service” (1898), *ibid.*

“There must be schools established upon the principles and controlled by the precepts of God’s World. Another spirit must be in our schools to animate and sanctify every branch of education. Divine cooperation must be fervently sought. And we shall not seek in vain” (1885), p. 744.

“The mind is a trust from God. The powers of the mind are to be cultivated. They are to be so wisely used that they will increase in strength. Each one is to use his entrusted talents in a way that the greatest good will be done. The mind is to be so educated that the best energies of the soul will be brought out and every faculty be

developed” (1901), p. 665.

“The mind is the best possession we have; but it must be trained by study, by reflection, by learning in the school of Christ, the best and truest educator the world has ever known” (1885), *ibid.*

“He [Christ] died for me that I might be blessed and that His joy might remain in me. Therefore I keep my mind in that channel: I educate it; I train it; I train my tongue; I train my thoughts; I train all that there is of me that I may fasten it upon Jesus Christ” (1891), p. 666.

“Your last thought at night, your first thought in the morning, should be of Him in whom is centered your hope of eternal life” (1895), *ibid.*

“If you allow another to do your thinking for you, you will have crippled energies and contracted abilities. There are many whose intellects are dwarfed because they confine them to dwell upon commonplace subjects. You should wrestle with problems of thought that require the exercise of the best powers of your mind” (1889), p. 667.

*All quotations can be found in the chapters cited. Page numbers are from *Mind, Character, and Personality*. Figures in brackets indicate the year the copy was written.