

Chapter 15, *The Return of the Latter Rain*
 "Stand by the Landmarks--"The Law in Galatians Was Their Only Plea"
 Fred Bischoff
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1889-1890 Ministerial Institute

16 Sun	17 Mon	18 Tue	19 Wed	20 Thu	21 Fri	22 Sab
23 Sun	24 Mon	25 Tue	26 Wed	27 Thu	28 Fri	1 Sab
2 Sun	3 Mon	4 Tue	5 Wed	6 Thu	7 Fri	8 Sab
9 Sun	10 Mon	11 Tue	12 Wed	13 Thu	14 Fri	15 Sab
16 Sun	17 Mon	18 Tue	19 Wed	20 Thu	21 Fri	22 Sab
23 Sun	24 Mon	25 Tue	= last day of Institute			

Positive Reports on Institute:

Dan Jones: felt like "a changed man." (1888 643.4) "Sister White attended many of the meetings, and bore her testimony with much freedom and power. The restraint which had existed on the part of some connected with the school was removed by explanations that were made, and a tender spirit came in.... All were greatly benefited, and many who had been cold and formal in their work in the past, received such an experience in the things of God as to give them new courage and hope for the future. At the morning meeting on the last day of the school nearly all spoke, and their unanimous testimony was that they had been greatly benefited by the school and by their associations together, and that they could go to their fields of labor with better courage and greater hopes of success than ever before." (RH 4/4/1890, pp. 204, 205)

Ellen White: "thank God, victory has come." (1888 620.3) "The backbone of the rebellion is broken in those who have come in from other places." (1888 625.1)

O. A. Olsen: "so glad and feels so relieved, he scarcely knows what to do with himself." (1888 626.1) "One important feature of the Bible school was the labors of Sister White.... These were seasons of special interest, and will be long remembered by those who were present. Sister White enjoyed great freedom, and on several occasions the power of the Lord was manifest in a large measure.... [W]e feel very thankful for the blessing of God and the success that has attended the present effort." (RH 4/4/1890, pp. 201)

EJW: "feels so thankful." (1888 626.1)

More Details on Dan Jones

Absent March 2-10 (red above)

First meeting on return: March 11 Tuesday morning: "kept his head bowed upon the seat all the time. Did not lift it up once till the meeting closed." (1888 625.3)

March 14: "Sister White has come out a little stronger in favor of Dr. Waggoner, but yet has not committed herself definitely as to the points of doctrine in his exposition of the two covenants. She says that she has been shown that he had light on the covenant question, but was not shown as to what that light was. At least that is the way I understand it at the present time." (Dan Jones to R. A. Underwood)

March 16: "For a time it was thought that [Ellen White] fully endorsed Dr. Waggoner's position on the covenant question, and was so reported to be when I returned from Tennessee... but later developments show that such was not the case. It turns out now that the doctrinal points in the matter have [not] been the real points at issue. It is the spirit alone that has been manifested to which she objected, and to which Eld. Waggoner takes exceptions. Both Sister White and Dr. Waggoner stated that the doctrinal points were not the points at issue." (Dan Jones to R. M. Kilgore)

March 17: "Sister White... says it is not what we believe that she feels exercised about; it is not that we should all hold just the same view in reference to the covenants, in reference to the law in Galatians, or in reference to any point of doctrine; but that we should all have the spirit of Christ, and should all be united in building up and pushing forward the third angel's message. It seems to me that her position is evidently the correct one, and the principle will apply to other matters with just as much force as it applies to the covenant question, or the law in Galatians." (Dan Jones to J. D. Pegg)

March 21: "Sister White says she has not endorsed Dr. Waggoner's position on the law in Galatians, and expected it would be a long time before she should; her mind is not exercised on that matter at all. They said

it was not the question of points of doctrine that they cared for; all could believe what they pleased; but they wanted to see the spirit of Christ come in more." (Dan Jones to R. M. Kilgore)

March 27: "While I hold the same position on the law in Galatians, and the covenant question that I have always held, I am glad to have my mind relieved in reference to the motive and plans of some of the brethren.... Let us hope that in the future our brethren will not act in such a way as to lay the foundation for unjust judgement on their plans and purposes." (Dan Jones to G. I Butler)

April 14: "I consider that we gained every point that we were holding for, and think the other side was glad enough to be let down a little easy; and I was willing that it should be, if they have learned the lessons that we designed they should learn. I feel confident now that Dr. Waggoner will be very cautious about throwing his peculiar views before the people until they have been carefully examined by the leading brethren; and I think the leading brethren will be much more careful in their examinations of these peculiar views than they have been in the past." (Dan Jones to G. I Butler)

Law in Galatians Issue

End of 1888 GC Session: "For the first time I began to think it might be we did not hold correct views after all upon the law in Galatians, for the truth required no such spirit to sustain it." (1888 p. 221.3)

Sunday March 16

[Ellen White] "very close remarks.... what they had done to make of none effect that which the Lord was trying to do and why. The law in Galatians was their only plea." (1888 p. 631.1)

"Why, I asked, is your interpretation of the law in Galatians more dear to you, and you more zealous to maintain your ideas on this point, than to acknowledge the workings of the Spirit of God? You have been weighing every precious heaven-sent testimony by your own scales as you interpreted the law in Galatians. Nothing could come to you in regard to the truth and the power of God unless it should bear your imprint, the precious ideas you had idolized on the law of Galatians." (1888 p. 631.2)

"These testimonies of the Spirit of God, the fruits of the Spirit of God, have no weight unless they are stamped with your ideas of the law in Galatians. I am afraid of you and I am afraid of your interpretation of any scripture which has revealed itself in such an unchristlike spirit as you have manifested and has cost me so much unnecessary labor.... Let your caution be exercised in the line of fear lest you are committing the sin against the Holy Ghost.... I say if your views on the law in Galatians, and the fruits, are of the character I have seen in Minneapolis and ever since up to this time, my prayer is that I may be as far from your understanding and interpretation of the Scriptures as it is possible for me to be.... You could not have given a better refutation of your own theories than you have done. (1888 p. 631.3 & 632.1)

"The gospel of Christ, His lessons, His teachings, have had but very little place in the experience and the discourses of those who claim to believe the truth. Any pet theory, any human idea, becomes of gravest importance and as sacred as an idol to which everything must bow. This has verily been the case in the theory of the law in Galatians.... The law in Galatians is not a vital question and never has been. Those who have called it one of the old landmarks simply do not know what they are talking about. It never was an old landmark, and it never will become such....

"I say, through the word given me of God, Those who have stood so firmly to defend their ideas and positions on the law in Galatians have need to search their hearts as with a lighted candle, to see what manner of spirit has actuated them. With Paul I would say, "Who hath bewitched you, that you should not obey the truth?" Gal. 3:1. What satanic persistency and obstinacy has been evidenced! I have had no anxiety about the law in Galatians, but I have had anxiety that our leading brethren should not go over the same ground of resistance to light and the manifest testimonies of the Spirit of God, and reject everything to idolize their own supposed ideas and pet theories. I am forced, by the attitude my brethren have taken and the spirit evidenced, to say, God deliver me from your ideas of the law in Galatians." (1888 p. 841.2&3)

1896: "'The law was our school master....' In this Scripture [Gal 3:24], the Holy Spirit through the apostle is speaking especially of the moral law.... An unwillingness to yield up preconceived opinions, and to accept this truth, lay at the foundation of a large share of the opposition manifested at Minneapolis against the Lord's message through Brethren Waggoner and Jones. By exciting that opposition, Satan succeeded in shutting away from our people, in a great measure, the special power of the Holy Spirit that God longed to impart to them.... The light that is to lighten the whole earth with its glory was resisted." (1888 p. 1575.1&2)