Overview

In the heavenly judgment, God weighs our character in the balances. His law is the weigh, the standard in which our thought and action, the character will be gauged. Our only hope to pass this judgment is to have the righteousness of Christ. With Him, we have the equity—the righteousness that meets the balance. Without His righteousness, the iniquity will be found—will be found wanting. The Bible translations often uses the word righteousness in place of the word just or equity instead of using the word evenhandedness. To understand the original meaning is to understand the balance use to weigh money or other things. Balance is also a symbol of judgment. The balance is a weighing tool composing of two hangers in each side with the scales at the middle. The weights are the important components, the standard in judging the weight.

TRANSLATION: RIGHTEOUSNESS—EQUITY—BALANCE—EQUALITY--IMPARTIAL
TsDQ or tsedek (Hebrew)—right, even, equity, just, (impartial)
tsed-aw-kaw' (Hebrew)—righteousness (impartiality or equity)
Δικαίος—dikaios (Greek)—equitable, holy, just, meet, right
dikaiosune (Greek)--equity, righteousness

HEBREW:

Deu 6:25 And it shall be our righteousness if we observe all these commandments before the LORD our God, he hath commanded us.

Lev 19:15 Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment: thou shalt not respect the person of the poor, nor honour the person of the mighty: but in righteousness shalt thou judge thy neighbour.

Lev 19:36 Just balances, just weights, a just ephah, a just hin, shall ye have: I am the LORD your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt.

Gen 38:26 And Judah acknowledged them, and said, She hath been more righteous than I; because that thou gavest her not to Shelah my son. And he knew her again no more.

Gen 6:9 These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations.

H6662

tsaddnu_yq

tsad-deek'
From H6663; just: - just, lawful, righteous (man).

H6663

tsadaq

tsav-dak'
A primitive root; to be (causatively make) right (in a moral or forensic sense): - cleanse, clear self, (be, do) just (-ice, -ify, -ify self), (be, turn to) righteous (-ness).

H6664

tsedeq

tseh'-dek
From H6663; the right (natural, moral or legal); also (abstractly) equity or (figuratively) prosperity: - X even, (X that which is altogether) just (-ice), (un-)right (-eous) (cause, -ly, -ness).
tsidqah

Chaldee); corresponding to H6666; beneficence: - righteousness.

H6666
tsid-aw-kaw'

From H6663; rightness (abstractly), subjectively (rectitude), objectively (justice), morally (virtue) or figuratively (prosperity): - justice, moderately, right (-eous) (act, -ly, -ness).

GREEK:

δικαιοσύνη
dikaiosune

dik-ah-yos-oo'-nay

From G1342; equity (of character or act); specifically (Christian) justification: - righteousness.

δικαιος

dikaios

dik'-ah-yos

From G1342; equitable (in character or act); by implication innocent, holy (absolutely or relatively): - just, meet, right (-eous).

δικαιωμα
dikaioma

dik-ah-yo'-mah

From G1344; an equitable deed; by implication a statute or decision: - judgment, justification, ordinance, righteousness.
I. FACTS ABOUT BALANCES

“The balance (also balance scale, beam balance and laboratory balance) was the first mass measuring instrument invented. In its traditional form, it consists of a pivoted horizontal lever of equal length arms, called the beam, with a weighing pan, also called scale, scalepan, or bason (obsolete [1]), suspended from each arm (hence the plural term "scales" for the entire instrument). The unknown mass is placed in one pan, and standard masses are added to the other pan until the beam is as close to equilibrium as possible. In precision balances, a slider weight is moved along a graduated scale. The slider position gives a fine correction to the weight value. Although a balance technically compares weights, not masses, the weight of an object is proportional to its mass, and the standard weights used with balances are usually labeled in mass units.” —Wikipedia

“A traditional mechanical balance consists of a symmetric lever called a balance beam, two pans suspended from its ends, and a pivotal axis (fulcrum) at its center (see illustration). The object to be weighed is placed on one pan, whereupon the balance is brought into equilibrium by placing the required amount of weights on the opposite pan. Thus the weight of an object is defined as the amount represented by the calibrated standard masses that will exactly counterbalance the object on a classic equal-arm balance. Although this is not self-evident with modern balances and scales, the measurement of weight continues to be based on this original understanding.” —Answers.com


II. BIBLE FACTS ABOUT BALANCES

Leviticus 19:35-37 Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment, in meteyard, in weight, or in measure. Just balances, just weights, a just ephah, and a just hin, shall ye have: I [am] the LORD your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt. Therefore shall ye observe all my statutes, and all my judgments, and do them: I [am] the LORD.

Jeremiah 45:10 Ye shall have just balances, and a just ephah, and a just bath.

Proverbs 11:1 A false balance [is] abomination to the LORD: but a just weight [is] his delight.

JUST OR FAIR BALANCES

Lev 19:36 Just balances, just weights, a just ephah, and a just hin, shall ye have: I am the LORD your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt.

H3976

מֹֽזֶן

mōzēn

BDB Definition:
1) scales, balances

Part of Speech: noun masculine
A Related Word by BDB/Strong’s Number: from H239

Same Word by TWOT Number: 58a

H3976

מֹזֶן
mo'zen
mo-zane'

From H239; (only in the dual) a pair of scales: - balances.

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Honest Weights and Measures.--An honest man, according to Christ's measurement, is one who will manifest unbending integrity. Deceitful weights and false balances, with which many seek to advance their interests in the world, are abomination in the sight of God. . . Firm integrity shines forth as gold amid the dross and rubbish of the world. Deceit, falsehood, and unfaithfulness may be glossed over and hidden from the eyes of man, but not from the eyes of God. The angels of God, who watch the development of character and weigh moral worth, record in the books of heaven these minor transactions which reveal character. {CG 152.4}

Honest With Time and Money.--Men are wanted whose sense of justice, even in the smallest matters, will not allow them to make an entry of their time that is not minute and correct--men who will realize that they are handling means that belong to God, and who would not unjustly appropriate one cent to their own use; men who will be just as faithful and exact, careful and diligent, in their labor, in the absence of their employer as in his presence, proving by their faithfulness that they are not merely men-pleasers, eyeservants, but are conscientious, faithful, true workmen, doing right, not for human praise, but because they love and choose the right from a high sense of their obligation to God. {CG 153.1}

III. BIBLE FACTS IN WEIGHING CHARACTER

1Samuel 2:3 Talk no more so exceeding proudly; let [not] arrogancy come out of your mouth: for the LORD [is] a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed.

Job 31:5,6 If I have walked with vanity, or if my foot hath hasted to deceit; Let me be weighed in an even balance that God may know mine integrity.

Daniel 5:24-28 Then was the part of the hand sent from him; and this writing was written. And this [is] the writing that was written, MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN. This [is] the interpretation of the thing: MENE; God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it. TEKEL; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting. PERES; Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.

Note: King Belshazzar lifted Himself against God and hardened his heart. He ventured to desecrate the holy things from the temple of God during their revelry and drunkenness. They glorified the idols and did not give glory to God. Then the judgment came, the writing on the wall by the hand of the unseen one signals the probation for Babylon was closed. God numbered the kingdom of Babylon and finished it. Its time is over. The king in representing Babylon was judged according to the balances and was found wanting—the iniquity was found in him. The judgment was; the kingdom fell into the hands of the Medes and the Persians.
Little did Belshazzar think that an unseen Watcher beheld his idolatrous revelry. But there is nothing said or done that is not recorded on the books of heaven. The mystic characters traced by the bloodless hand testify that God is a witness to all we do, and that He is dishonored by feasting and reveling. We cannot hide anything from God. We cannot escape from our accountability to Him. Wherever we are and whatever we do, we are responsible to Him whose we are by creation and by redemption.—Manuscript 50,1893. {Te 49.2}

Those who are unfaithful to the work of God are lacking in principle; their motives are not of a character to lead them to choose the right under all circumstances. The servants of God are to feel at all times that they are under the eye of their employer. He who watched the sacrilegious feast of Belshazzar is present in all our institutions, in the counting-room of the merchant, in the private workshop; and the bloodless hand is as surely recording your neglect as it recorded the awful judgment of the blasphemous king. Belshazzar's condemnation was written in words of fire, "Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting"; and if you fail to fulfill your God-given obligations your condemnation will be the same. {MYP 229.1}

IV. THE WEIGHT'S STANDARD

The Lord requires weights and balances which meet the standard

Leviticus 19:35-37 Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment, in meteyard, in weight, or in measure. Just balances, just weights, a just ephah, and a just hin, shall ye have: I [am] the LORD your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt. Therefore shall ye observe all my statutes, and all my judgments, and do them: I [am] the LORD.

God’s commandments, His words—the standard of weighing every thought and action

Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this [is] the whole [duty] of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether [it be] good, or whether [it be] evil.

The word of God will judge every one of us at the last great day. Young men talk about science and are wise above that which is written; they seek to explain the ways and work of God to meet their finite comprehension; but it is all a miserable failure. True science and Inspiration are in perfect harmony. False science is a something independent of God. It is pretentious ignorance. This deceptive power has captivated and enslaved the minds of many, and they have chosen darkness rather than light. They have taken their position on the side of unbelief, as though it were a virtue and the sign of a great mind to doubt, when it is the sign of a mind too weak and narrow to perceive God in His created works. They could not fathom the mystery of His providence should they study with all their power for a lifetime. And because the works of God cannot be explained by finite minds, Satan brings his sophistry to bear upon them and entangles them in the meshes of unbelief. If these doubting ones will come into close connection with God, He will make His purposes clear to their understanding. {4T 584.2}

You who have erred and have made crooked paths for your feet, so that others who look to you for an example have been turned out of the way, have you no confession to make? You who have sowed doubts and unbelief in the hearts of others, have you nothing to say to God or to your brethren? Review your course for years in the past, you who have not formed a habit of confessing your sins. Consider your words, your attitude, you whose influence has counteracted the message of the Spirit of God, you that have despised both the message and the messenger. After seeing the fruit borne by the message, what have you to say? Weigh your spirit, your actions, in the balance of eternal justice, the law of God: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, . . . and thy neighbor as thyself." Unless your sins are canceled, they will testify against you at that day when every work shall pass in review before God. {RH, December 16, 1890 par. 23}
V. EQUITY AND UPRIGHTNESS

Equity—righteousness, obedience, impartiality, balance, evenness (antonym of iniquity)

Psalms 98:9 Before the LORD; for he cometh to judge the earth: with righteousness shall he judge the world, and the people with equity.

Psalms 99:4 The king's strength also loveth judgment; thou dost establish equity, thou executest judgment and righteousness in Jacob.

Proverbs 1:2-4 To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding; To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity; To give subtlety to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion.

Proverbs 2:9 Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; [yea], every good path.

Proverbs 17:26 Also to punish the just [is] not good, [nor] to strike princes for equity.

Ecclesiastes 2:21 For there is a man whose labour [is] in wisdom, and in knowledge, and in equity; yet to a man that hath not laboured therein shall he leave it [for] his portion. This also [is] vanity and a great evil.

Isaiah 11:4,5 But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.

Micah 2:5, 6 My covenant was with him of life and peace; and I gave them to him [for] the fear wherewith he feared me, and was afraid before my name. The law of truth was in his mouth, and iniquity was not found in his lips: he walked with me in peace and equity, and did turn many away from iniquity.

UPRIGHT OR PERFECT

H8549

tamîym

tâmîym

taw-meem'

From H8552; entire (literally, figuratively or morally); also (as noun) integrity, truth: - without blemish, complete, full, perfect, sincerely (-ity), sound, without spot, undefiled, upright (-ly), whole.

H8552

tâmam

tâmam
A primitive root; to complete, in a good or a bad sense, literally or figuratively, transitively or intransitively: - accomplish, cease, be clean (pass-) ed, consume, have done, (come to an, make an) end, fail, come to the full, be all gone, X be all here, be (make) perfect, be spent, sum, be (shew self) upright, be wasted, whole.

2Sa 22:24 I was upright before him, and have kept myself from mine iniquity.

2Sa 22:26 With the merciful thou wilt shew thyself merciful, and with the upright thou wilt shew thyself upright.

Psa 19:13 Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression.

RIGHTEOUS AS UPRIGHT OR STRAIGHT (SYNONYMOUS)

He who would build up a strong, symmetrical character, he who would be a well-balanced Christian, must give all and do all for Christ; for the Redeemer will not accept divided service. Daily he must learn the meaning of self-surrender. He must study the word of God, learning its meaning and obeying its precepts. Thus he may reach the standard of Christian excellence. Day by day God works with him, perfecting the character that is to stand in the time of final test. And day by day the believer is working before men and angels a sublime experiment, showing what the gospel can do for fallen human beings. {AA 483.1}
simple, commonplace duties of home life will be seen in their true importance, and we shall perform them in accordance with the will of God. We are to be vigilant, watching for the coming of the Son of man; and we must also be diligent; working as well as waiting is required; there must be a union of the two. This will balance the Christian character, making it well developed, symmetrical. We should not feel that we are to neglect everything else, and give ourselves up to meditation, study, or prayer; neither are we to be full of bustle and hurry and work, to the neglect of personal piety. Waiting and watching and working are to be blended. "Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord." {AH 23.1}

VI. INIQUITY AND CROOKEDNESS OR IMBALANCE

Definition: Iniquity—partiality, sin, transgression, unrighteousness, perverseness, wickedness, unbalance, unjust, uneven (antonym of equity).

Isaiah 59:13-15 In transgressing and lying against the LORD, and departing away from our God, speaking oppression and revolt, conceiving and uttering from the heart words of falsehood. And judgment is turned away backward, and justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter. Yea, truth faileth; and he [that] departeth from evil maketh himself a prey: and the LORD saw [it], and it displeased him that [there was] no judgment. Micah 3:9,10 Hear this, I pray you, ye heads of the house of Jacob, and princes of the house of Israel, that abhor judgment, and pervert all equity. They build up Zion with blood, and Jerusalem with iniquity.

H5766
עֵ֣לֶל 'av'el
'av'el, aw'-vel, av-law', o-law', o-law'
From H5765; (moral) evil: - iniquity, perverseness, unjust (-ly), unrighteousness (-ly), wicked (-ness).

H5771
עָוָן 'åvôn
aw-vone', aw-vone'
From H5753; perversity, that is, (moral) evil: - fault, iniquity, mischief, punishment (of iniquity), sin.

H5773
עָעָה 'av'eh
av-eh'
From H5753; perversity: - X perverse.

Exo 34:9 And he said, If now I have found grace in thy sight, O Lord, let my Lord, I pray thee, go among us; for it is a stiffnecked
15:31 Because he hath despised the word of the LORD, and hath broken his commandment; that soul of him shall utterly be cut off, his iniquity shall be upon him.

Deu 19:15 One shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin, in any sin, that he sinneth at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, he shall be established.

Deu 32:4 He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth, and without iniquity.

1Sa 15:23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.

2Sa 19:19 And said unto the king, Let not my lord impute iniquity unto me, neither do thou remember what thy servant did perversely the day that mine lord the king went out of Jerusalem, that the king should take it to his heart.

Job 10:6 That thou enquirest after mine iniquity, and searchest after my sin,

Psa 32:1 A Psalm of David. Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not sin, and in whose spirit there is no guile.

Psa 51:5 Behold, I was shapen in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

Psa 51:6 Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom.

Psa 51:7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Psa 51:8 Make me hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice.

Isa 13:11 And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity, and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible.

Eze 33:13 When I shall say to the righteous, that he shall surely live; yet if he trust in his own righteousness,

H3988 (H853) For the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.

H8342 And said unto the king, Let not my lord impute iniquity unto me, neither do thou remember what thy servant did perversely the day that mine lord the king went out of Jerusalem, that the king should take it to his heart.

H106 That thou enquirest after mine iniquity, and searchest after my sin,

H2403 A Psalm of David. Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not sin, and in whose spirit there is no guile.
Dan 9:24 Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.

Zec 3:4 And he answered and spake unto those that stood before him, saying, Take away the filthy garments from him. And unto him he said, Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment.

Mat 23:28 Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.

Lev 19:15 Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment: thou shalt not respect the person of the poor, nor honor the person of the mighty: but in righteousness shalt thou judge thy neighbour.

Psalm 58:2 Yea, in heart ye work wickedness; ye weigh the violence of your hands in the earth.

Isaiah 46:6 They lavish gold out of the bag, and weigh silver in the balance, [and] hire a goldsmith; and he maketh it a god: they fall down, yea, they worship.

Hab 2:4 Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.

Exodus 34:6, 7 And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear [the guilty]; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth [generation].

INIQUITY AS WANTING AND CROOKED

Dan 5:27 TEKEL; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting.

Ecc 1:15 That which is crooked cannot be made straight: and that which is wanting cannot be numbered.
No man who is dishonest with God or with his fellow men can truly prosper. The most high God, the possessor of heaven and earth, says, "Thou shalt not have in thy bag divers weights, a great and a small. Thou shalt not have in thine house divers measures, a great and a small. But thou shalt have a perfect and just weight, a perfect and just measure shalt thou have: that thy days may be lengthened in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee. For all that do such things, and all that do unrighteously, are an abomination unto the Lord thy God." Through the prophet Micah, the Lord again expresses His abhorrence of dishonesty: "Are there yet the treasures of wickedness in the house of the wicked, and the scant measure that is abominable? Shall I count them pure with the wicked balances? . . . Therefore also will I make thee sick in smiting thee, in making thee desolate because of thy sins."--R. & H., Dec. 17, 1889. {CS 77.3}

"And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger from his right, and fear not me, saith the Lord of hosts." There are those who have obtained means by dishonest practices or by oppression of the poor, and then to ease their conscience they bring an offering to God. In so doing they dishonor the Lord. He cannot accept their gifts. The prophet Micah declares: "Wherewith shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before the high God? shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves of a year old? will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, or with ten thousands of rivers of oil? shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" "Are there yet the treasures of wickedness in the house of the wicked, and the scant measure that is abominable? Shall I count them pure with the wicked balances, and with the bag of deceitful weights?" Money acquired by doing wrong to your neighbor, whether believer or unbeliever, is registered in the books of heaven as unlawful gain. And those who think to make a compromise with God by bringing this means to his treasury are deceiving their own souls. {RH, May 9, 1893 par. 10}

"Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth eaten. Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days. Behold, the hire of the laborers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton: ye have nourished your hearts, as in the day of slaughter." {RH, May 9, 1893 par. 11}

The prophet Malachi continues: "Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the Lord of hosts.
But ye said, Wherein shall we return? Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. Bring ye all [the full amount required by God. Let there be no withholding part of the price because the selfish heart desires to do this, and will even take from the Lord that which he claims as his own.] the tithes into the store-house, that there may be meat in mine house." {RH, May 9, 1893 par. 12}

God has made men his stewards, and from all to whom he has intrusted his gifts he asks for a return. As he has blessed us, he asks of us a gift to bless others. The revenue thus brought into his treasury, to supply the needs of his cause, he calls "meat in mine house." {RH, May 9, 1893 par. 13}

VII. THE JUDGMENT—RIGHTEOUSNESS IN THE BALANCES

Isaiah 26:7-9 The way of the just [is] uprightness: thou, most upright, dost weigh the path of the just. Yea, in the way of thy judgments, O LORD, have we waited for thee; the desire of [our] soul [is] to thy name, and to the remembrance of thee. With my soul have I desired thee in the night; yea, with my spirit within me will I seek thee early: for when thy judgments [are] in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness.

Those who are unfaithful to the work of God are lacking in principle; their motives are not of a character to lead them to choose the right under all circumstances. The servants of God are to feel at all times that they are under the eye of their employer. He who watched the sacrilegious feast of Belshazzar is present in all our institutions, in the counting-room of the merchant, in the private workshop; and the bloodless hand is as surely recording your neglect as it recorded the awful judgment of the blasphemous king. Belshazzar's condemnation was written in words of fire, "Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting"; and if you fail to fulfill your God-given obligations your condemnation will be the same. {MYP 229.1}

The words spoken to these were most solemn: "You are weighed in the balances, and found wanting. You have neglected spiritual responsibilities because of busy activity in temporal matters, while your very position of trust made necessary that you should have more than human wisdom and greater than finite judgment. This you needed in order to perform even the mechanical part of your labor; and when you disconnected God and His glory from your business, you turned from His blessing." {4T 386.3}

While there are not a few who conscientiously give of their annual increase of substance and business prosperity to God in tithes and offerings to pass into the Lord's treasury for the support of the gospel and for missionary work in different parts of the land, it is a lamentable fact that so large a number deliberately rob God by withholding the portion which God claims. We must all be tested in God's balances whereby He weighs character. Then decide to be honest, whatever may be your circumstances, and let no temptation of Satan force you to be dishonest with your fellow men or to be dishonest with God. {13MR 235.2}

VIII. CHRIST'S RIGHTEOUSNESS, OUR HOPE IN THE BALANCES

Galatians 5:5, 6 For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.

Philippians 3:8, 9 Yea doubtless, and I count all things [but] loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them [but] dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: God takes none to heaven but those who are first made saints in this world through the grace of Christ, those in whom He can see
Christ exemplified. When the love of Christ is an abiding principle in the soul, we shall realize that we are hid with Christ in God. . . . {ML 273.2}

These only who, by prayer and watchfulness and love, work the works of Christ, can God rejoice over with singing. The more fully the Lord sees the character of His beloved Son revealed in His people, the greater is His satisfaction and delight in them. God Himself and the heavenly angels rejoice over them with singing. The believing sinner is pronounced innocent, while the guilt is placed on Christ. The righteousness of Christ is placed on the debtor's account, and against his name on the balance sheet is written: Pardoned. Eternal Life. . . . {ML 273.3}

"None are too high to fall. Sin originated with Satan, who was next to Christ. Lucifer became the destroyer of those whom heaven had committed to his guardianship. Satan has a church in our world today. In his church are all the disaffected ones and the disloyal. All who harbor pride, ambition, vainglory, or selfishness, will be found wanting when weighed in the balance of the Lord. We cannot of ourselves perfect a true moral character, but we can accept the righteousness of Christ. 'He that saith he abideth in Him ought himself also so to walk, even as He walked.'" {AUCR, October 1, 1906 par. 2}

**REFLECTION**

By their words, their works, and their spirit those who pursue such a course are making a record in the books of heaven which they will not care to meet; for God does not value them as they value themselves. They are abusing their probationary opportunities and are grievously neglecting the high privileges conferred upon them. Though finding nothing in the word of God to vindicate their actions or countenance their opinions, yet they persist in their own way. In that day when judgment is passed upon all, the sentence will be pronounced against them, "Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting." {TM 286.1}

In this world we have temporal duties to perform, and in the performance of these duties we are forming characters that will either stand the test of the judgment or be weighed in the balances and found wanting. We may do the smallest duties nobly, firmly, faithfully, as if seeing the whole heavenly host looking upon us. Take a lesson from the gardener. If he wishes a plant to grow he cultivates and trims it; he gives water, he digs about its roots, plants it where the sunshine will fall upon it, and day by day he works about it; and not by violent efforts, but by acts constantly repeated, he trains the shrub until its form is perfect and its bloom is full. {TMK 157.2}

Prophecy about Christ: Weighed for thirty pieces of silver
Zechariah 11:12 And I said unto them, If ye think good, give [me] my price; and if not, forbear. So they weighed for my price thirty [pieces] of silver.

Matthew 26:14-16 Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests, And said [unto them], What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver. And from that time he sought opportunity to betray him.