

cannons and swords, well enough in some places, but ploughs and reaping-hooks? Not rifle balls and chain shot, but wheat and corn, and the seed for the orchard and the garden, that the land may bloom in the spring and rejoice in the autumn with overflowing abundance? It were vain to go to war, not having proved our weapons. It were vain to go to farming, not knowing our seed. So time may not be all lost, if we shall at length have ascertained which are indeed the fighting doctrines and which are the working doctrines of the Church of God.

It may set forth more clearly what we shall designate the Church's working doctrines, if first we devote a little attention to those we speak of as its fighting doctrines. These latter, will, of course, depend upon the character of the war, the nature of the foe, and whence the conflict arises. The Church of God, like the soul of a man, has foes without and foes within. The Church of God came not to attack or assail anybody; but to save everybody: to help, comfort and strengthen everybody. Its element, its natural condition, its spirit and normal estate is not strife and confusion, but, order and peace. It came with a meek and quiet energy to cultivate, develop, ennoble and bless. Yet because darkness is here, light must press it out. Because sin is here, righteousness must contend for its place. So even the gentle Shepherd is compelled to say He came not to send peace on earth, but a sword; and inspiration divine crowded by the fearful facts, commits itself to that startling contradiction, that inexplicable combination, the wrath of the Lamb.

The battle may be against Atheists, or Infidels, or Agnostics, or Materialists, or Rationalists, or Evolutionists; or Pagan, or Turk, or Jew. No wonder the Lord God instituted a living ministry, and provided for the bright succession through all the centuries. The battle may be amongst Christians themselves as to the relation of God to the government of the world; the two-fold relation of the nature of Christ; the office and work of the Spirit; the essence, status and functions of the Church; the intent and scope of an atonement; its relation to the sovereignty of God and freedom of man; the immortality of the soul and the final destiny of the human race. No wonder the Lord God gave the Written Word, the infallible rule of faith and practice for all generations; the clear declaration of the will of God and the ultimate and decisive court of appeal on