

**COME
TO THE
MARRIAGE**

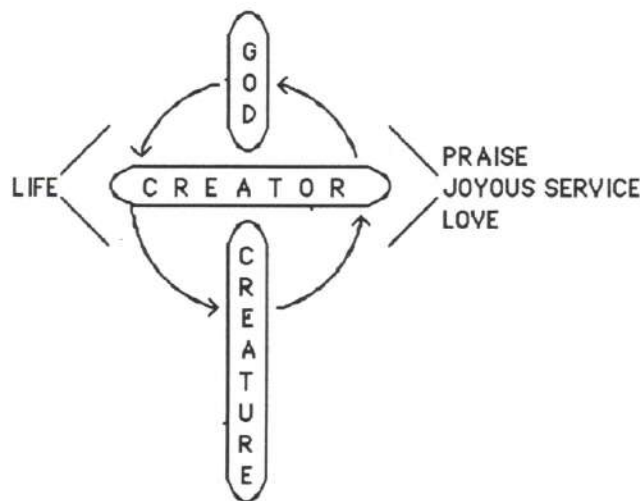
Man needs a substitute because he has the desire for self-exaltation. The way Satan is going to deceive us is by saying that Christ had a desire for self-exaltation. If Christ had that desire then that desire is not sin. If that desire is not sin then man can be holy with these desires.

Chapter 12

THE UNMASKING OF SPIRITUALISM

"Already there are coming in among our people spiritualistic teachings that will undermine the faith of those who give heed to them. . ." These theories, followed to their logical conclusion, sweep away the whole Christian economy. They do away with the necessity for the atonement and make man his own saviour." 8T 291

Christianity is Christ worship. Spiritualism is Satan worship. But how is it possible for Satan worship to come into a Christian church? The spiritualistic theories that were introduced in the book by Kellogg did not deal directly with the concepts of life after death. He was not advocating consulting spiritualistic mediums in order to talk to dead relatives. But the Spirit of Prophecy tells us that they were spiritualistic theories. From this, one can see that there is an intellectual aspect of spiritualism that does away with the need of the atonement. In order to understand what spiritualism is all about let us review the natures (characters) of Christ and Satan. Let us also analyze what it means to worship. The following illustrates the nature (character) of Christ. (See DA 21).



This illustration represents the unselfish nature (character) of God by showing the relationship between the Creator and His creatures. Each party takes to give. God gives life and takes praise, joyous service, and love. The creatures take life and give praise, joyous service, and love. This nature (character) can be described as, "I seek not my will but the will of Him who sent me". Christ's desire is always to help others. He has no innate desires to exalt self by making self first. Satan's claim against Christ at the time of the fall of the angels was this:

"He reiterated his claim that angels needed no control, but should be left to follow their own will, that would ever guide them right." GC 499

Notice the contrast in characters.

Christ character is described as:

"I came not to do my own will."

Satan's character is described as:

Angels should be left to follow or do their own will.

Satan makes his own will, desire, or self first. That is another way of describing self-exaltation. God's law, by contrast, is self-sacrificing. That means you place the desires of others first.

"In heaven itself this law was broken. Sin originated in self-seeking. Lucifer, the covering cherub, desired to be first in heaven. He sought to gain control of heavenly beings, to draw them away from their Creator, and to win their homage to himself. Therefore he misrepresented God, attributing to Him the desire for self-exaltation. With his own evil characteristics he sought to invest the loving Creator. Thus he deceived angels. Thus he deceived men. He led them to doubt the word of God, and to distrust His goodness." DA 21, 22

Satan wanted homage. That means he wanted to be worshipped. Worshipping Satan is spiritualism. Notice in the above quotation that Satan wanted to win homage (worship) to himself, therefore he misrepresented Christ, attributing to Him the desire for self-exaltation. The word therefore introduces how Satan came to get worship; that is by misrepresenting Christ and making Christ appear to have the nature (character) of Satan. The nature (character) of Satan has the desire for self-exaltation. Christians worship Satan when they believe that Christ has a desire for self-exaltation. So a false concept of the nature (character) of Christ means man can be worshipping Satan when he really believes he is worshipping Christ. If Satan wanted to be worshipped and he accomplished this by misrepresenting Christ and investing Christ with his own evil nature (character) then it would be obvious that man worships by worshipping the nature (character) of one or the other of these two beings. Notice carefully that he received worship by misrepresenting God. Satan substituted his character (nature) in place of God's character. He made it appear that Christ had the desire for self-exaltation. How did that move on Satan's part cause angels to worship Satan? Let us review the meaning of the word worship.

Worship (worth-ship): Courtesy or reverence paid to worth; hence; honor, respect.

Worth:	Something has value. It is useful. It has merit.
-ship:	This suffix denotes state, condition, or quality.

For a person to worship an object, he must consider that object to have a condition of worth, value, or merit.

Satan is worshipped when a person thinks that the character of Satan has a condition of worth, value, or merit. Christians believe that the sinless character of Christ

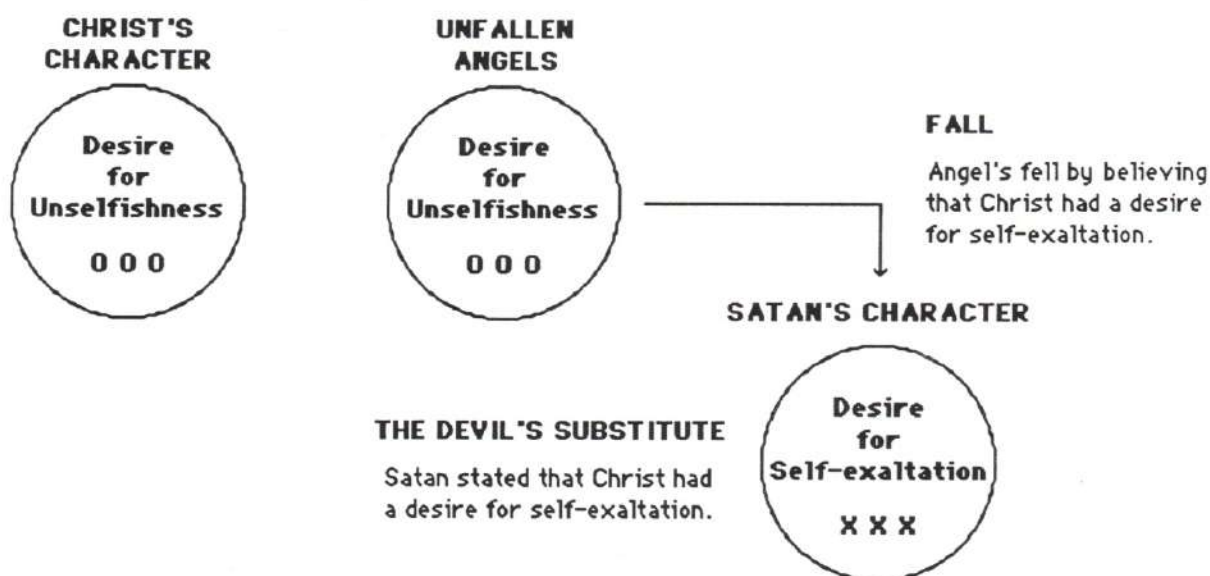
has worth, value, or merit. So if Satan can get Christians to believe that the character of Satan is the character of Christ then they would believe that Satan's character has worth and therefore unwittingly would be worshipping Satan while thinking they were worshipping Christ.

The law requires perfect righteousness. Every innate desire in the nature or character of Christ is a desire to bless others. He came not to do His own will (desire) but the will of the Father. The above character has worth, value or merit because it is a perfect character.

With this definition in mind, let us consider how Satan received worship by investing Christ with his own nature (character). (See DA 21,22) The angels that believed Satan's lies about Christ believed that Christ had a desire for self-exaltation. It caused them to distrust and doubt Christ's love, but notice that it caused them to place value or worth to that character. When they believed that Christ had a desire for self-exaltation, they believed that He was withholding something that would make them equal to Him. Therefore they tried to exalt themselves in order to obtain more freedom and happiness. By attempting to exalt themselves they fell. When they exalted themselves that would show that they had placed value or worth to the character of Satan. As a result they received the nature of Satan. They obtained a character with a desire for self-exaltation by developing thoughts and feelings of self-exaltation.

THE ANGEL'S CHOICE:

Which Character has worth, value, or merit?



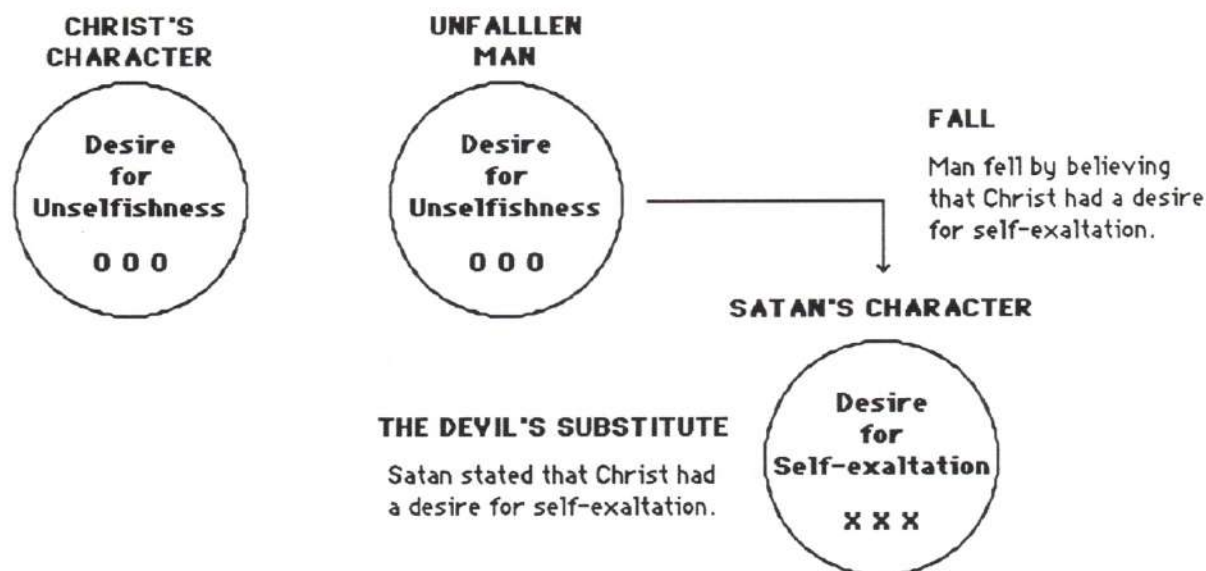
Let us carefully note that Satan used the same deceptive methods with Eve.

"By partaking of this tree, he declared, they would attain to a more exalted sphere of existence and enter a broader field of knowledge. He himself had eaten of the forbidden

fruit, and as a result had acquired the power of speech. And he insinuated that the Lord jealously desired to withhold it from them, lest they should be exalted to equality with Himself." PP 54

Notice carefully the method that Satan used to cause the fall of man. He said that Christ had a desire for self-exaltation. This idea is conveyed in the statement that Christ "jealously desired to withhold it from them, lest they would be exalted to equality with Himself." Along with this Satan made it appear that by disobedience man could exalt himself to a higher plane and thereby be like God. So Eve disobeyed God in order to arrive at a higher state. She exalted herself. The act of self-exaltation demonstrated that she thought that to exalt herself she would receive something of worth or value. She did receive the nature (character) of Satan, a knowledge of evil. By indulging self-exaltation she placed worth to the character of Satan and therefore "worth-shipped" Satan.

MAN'S CHOICE IN THE BEGINNING: Which character has worth, value, or merit?



Eve believed Satan's lie and distrusted God. She thought that the character with a desire for self-exaltation had value, worth, or merit. She exalted herself to get that knowledge. That caused her fall. She worshipped Satan by believing his character had worth. From then on man had innate desires for self-exaltation.

We have discussed how Satan deceived the angels in heaven and how Satan deceived Eve. This is very important because he is using the same deceptive methods today. Please review the quotation in *Desire of Ages* pages 21, 22 at the beginning of this chapter and notice the phrase, "Thus he deceived angels. Thus he deceived man." (pg. 22) The deceptions that man needs to be on guard against today are any deceptions that attempt to place worth, value, or merit to the defective character of man or Satan. Man's character

is Satan's character because they both have the innate desire to place self first. We call this self-exaltation.

Also notice the following:

"Satan beguiles men now as he beguiled Eve in Eden by flattery, by kindling a desire to obtain forbidden knowledge, by exciting ambition for self-exaltation. It was cherishing these evils that caused his fall, and through them he aims to compass the ruin of men." GC 554

Satan caused the fall of angels and the fall of Adam and Eve by exciting ambition for self-exaltation. The deceptions today are the same so we need to be on guard against any theories that exalt self. This next section on spiritualism will attempt to point out theories that are current today that exalt self. Exalting self is placing worth or value to the nature (character) of Satan or men. Let us discover how Satan is placing worth to his nature (character) today in order to be worshipped.

"To persons of culture and refinement he presents spiritualism in its more refined and intellectual aspects, and thus succeeds in drawing many into his snare.. . .

Satan beguiles men now as he beguiled Eve in Eden by flattery, by kindling a desire to obtain forbidden knowledge, by exciting ambition for self-exaltation. It was cherishing these evils that caused his fall, and through them he aims to compass the ruin of men. "Ye shall be as gods, he declares, knowing good and evil." Genesis 3:5. Spiritualism teaches that "man is the creature of progression; that it is his destiny from his birth to progress, even to eternity, toward the Godhead." GC 553, 554.

"Thus in place of the righteousness and perfection of the infinite God, the true object of adoration; in place of the perfect righteousness of His law, the true standard of human attainment, Satan has substituted the sinful, erring nature of man himself as the only object of adoration, the only rule of judgment, or standard of character. This is progress, not upward, but downward." GC 554, 555

The method has been the same for angels, for Eve, and for men today. On each occasion Satan has excited ambition for self-exaltation. He accomplished this with the angels and with Eve by deceiving them into believing that Christ had a desire for self-exaltation.

Notice that the above statement repeats the idea from *Desire of Ages* page 22 that it was cherishing self-exaltation that caused the fall of man and it is through this same evil that he will ruin men today. It would be logical to assume that the next sentence would state how Satan will excite man today to cherish ambition for self-exaltation. That statement is:

". . .by exciting ambition for self-exaltation. It was cherishing these evils that caused his fall, and through them he aims to compass the ruin of men. 'Ye shall be as gods he declares, knowing good and evil.' Genesis 3:5." (GC 554)

In order to understand how Satan was trying to accomplish the ruin of men by making man believe this statement let us first analyze the phrase, "knowing good and evil."

"Where once was written only the character of God, the knowledge of good, was now written also the character of Satan, the knowledge of evil." Ed 26

"The result of the eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil is manifest in every man's experience. There is in his nature a bent to evil. . ." Ed 29

The *Desire of Ages* page 22 stated that the character of Satan was the desire for self-exaltation.

Now notice first that in Education page 26 the knowledge of evil is the character of Satan. The quotation on Education page 29 states that the knowledge of evil is a bent to sin. This tells us that the bent to sin is the nature (character) of Satan and therefore that the bent to sin is a desire for self-exaltation. Once again we can see that the bent to sin, the innate desire or the tendencies to sin are terms dealing with character. It is these innate desires that give man the defects in his character. Satan wants man to believe that he can be as god, knowing good and evil. If man can be as gods knowing good and evil then God must have the knowledge of evil in order for man to be like God, knowing good and evil.

Christ has a perfect, sinless character, so if Christ has a perfect, sinless character with the bent to sin then the Christian, too, can have a perfect, sinless character with the bent to sin. Whatever Christ is like that is what man can be like because that is the standard or ideal of character. So when the devil states that the Christian can be like god knowing good and evil he is first telling man what God is like; then he is telling man what he can be like too. This means that when the devil tells man he can be like Christ with a bent to sin (knowledge of evil), he is telling him that he can have a sinless character while having a bent to sin. The bent to sin gives man a defective character and he can't be perfect and holy with the innate desires for self-exaltation. When man thinks he can be holy with a bent to sin (self) he is exalting self by believing that self is not sinful.

The reason Satan's method excites ambition for self-exaltation is this: The devil's claim is that Christ has a desire for self-exaltation. (See DA 21, 22) Since Christ's nature (character) has worth because Christ is perfect and sinless then it follows that man can be perfect and sinless with the desire for self-exaltation (self or the bent to sin). In that way self is exalted and worth is placed to the nature (character) of sinful man because man believes that Christ had those desires and His character has worth.

Notice that the next paragraph reviews what has already been stated. By starting out the paragraph with the word "Thus", it is telling us what the result will be of accepting the above spiritualistic teachings.

"Thus, in place of the righteousness and perfection of the infinite God, the true object of adoration; in place of the perfect righteousness of His law, the true standard of human attainment, Satan has substituted the sinful, erring nature of man himself as the only object of adoration, the only rule of judgment, or standard of character." GC 554, 555

The above quotation plainly states that the character of Christ as the standard of perfection has been substituted by the sinful, erring nature of man himself as the standard of perfection. Notice that the sinful, erring nature of man was referred to as a standard of character. That means character and nature are being equated.

If character is equated with nature in the above quotation then the character of Christ is substituted by the character of Satan. This is the same method of nature (character) substitution as Satan used in heaven. (see DA 22)

Notice that this substitution takes place so that adoration is given to the nature of man instead of God. Adoration means worship. The devil is substituting the character of Christ with the character of Satan in order to place worth to the character of man. That is how Satan is worshipped.

Let us review what has been discussed.

The angels in heaven were in a sinless unfallen condition. Satan told them that Christ had a desire for self-exaltation. That lie was expressed in such a way that it excited ambition for self-exaltation in the angels. That caused their fall. Instead of having a character that desired to help and bless others, they desired to be first.

Adam and Eve fell for the same scheme. Satan told them that Christ had a desire for self-exaltation. They, too, fell by exalting themselves.

The way Satan deceived angels and men is the same way Satan plans to cause the ruin of men today. That way is to try to excite ambition for self exaltation. (see GC 554, 555). When angels and man originally fell they both had sinless unfallen natures or characters. But how can man fall today when he is already fallen?

1. Fallen man must realize that he is sinful and defective in character (nature) because of the natural desire for self-exaltation and therefore his character does not have worth.
2. Then man will see his need of a character that does have worth and flee to Christ as his substitute. Christ's character stands in place of his character and man stands before God just as if he had never fallen. Therefore man stands before God just as sinless as Adam and the angels of heaven because Christ is his substitute. This fact places fallen man on the same level as the angels and unfallen man.

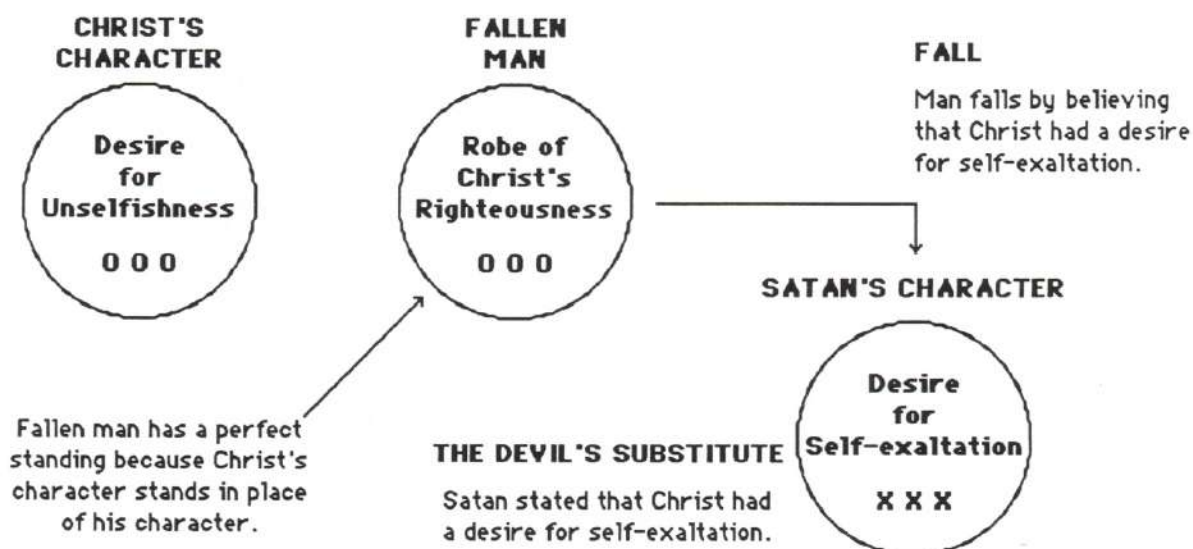
3. Man cannot rise any higher than that. He is perfect because Christ is his substitute. Now Satan comes along as he came to the angels and to Adam and Eve and tells them that Christ had a desire for self-exaltation. If one believes that lie, then he will believe that self, the sinful innate desires, are not sinful because Christ had them, therefore they could not be sin. They are not sin because Christ was perfect and sinless and He was sinless with these desires. If he believes that lie, man is placing worth to the character of Satan and thereby is "worth-shipping" Satan. If Christ had these innate desires than man can have a perfect, sinless character with these innate desires.

As Satan stated it in Eden, men can be like gods knowing good and evil.

If one believes that lie, (that Christ had the innate desire for self-exaltation) then he falls. The reason he falls is that he no longer believes that he needs Christ as his substitute. This is so because a person erroneously believes that when man is born with the inherited desires or nature he is not defective in character until he knowingly commits a known sin. When man is converted and in theory gains victory over sin he no longer would have a defective character because the innate desires do not make man defective in character. Any time that man's character is not defective then he would obviously not need the character of Christ to stand in his place, as his substitute. In other words man would not need the atonement. Christ's character standing in man's place makes him at/one/ment with God. When his character ceases to be defective he would not need a substitute to stand in place of his defective character. (See 8T 291)

MAN'S CHOICE TODAY:

Which character has worth, value, or merit?



For emphasis let us review what we have just stated. If one believes the devil's lie that Christ has a desire for self-exaltation (bent to sin) then he would believe that he can be perfect like God even though he has a desire for self-exaltation. As soon as man believes that he can be like Christ with a desire for self-exaltation then he does not see his character

as defective because of the innate desires. Because man does not see the need of a substitute to stand in place of his defective character, he falls. Thus man can reach the standard of Christ with a bent to sin, without the atonement, because he believes that right choices give man a perfect character. Since he believes that the bent to sin, the desire for self-exaltation, do not give him a defective character, then as soon as man is not willingly choosing to sin he no longer needs the character of Christ to stand in his place. That would place worth to the innate character of man.

"It was cherishing these evils that caused his fall, and through them he aims to compass the ruin of man. . . . 'Ye shall be as gods,' he declares, 'knowing good and evil.' Genesis 3:5. Spiritualism teaches 'that man is the creature of progression; that it is his destiny from his birth to progress, even to eternity, toward the Godhead.' And again: 'Each mind will judge itself and not another. The judgment will be right, because it is the judgment of self. . . .'" G.C. 554

Let us analyse the above concept that man is a creature of progression. "Ye shall be as gods" suggests progression to a future state that man can reach. The goal suggested by Satan is to be a god with a knowledge of good and evil. The knowledge of evil is the character of Satan, or a desire for self-exaltation. In the above statement Satan is saying that Christ has a desire for self-exaltation. (see DA 21,22)

We have been discussing self-exaltation so we could conclude that the progress we are talking about is the progress of self. We are born with self and it progresses to perfection to the Godhead. The progression then is a restoration of self until man is sinless with self. Ye shall be as gods (sinless & holy) knowing good and evil. In other words ye shall be sinless with self. (knowledge of evil)

But does not Christianity teach that man is a creature of progression? Does man not progress until he fully reflects the image of God? Let us contrast the teaching of Christian growth as portrayed by the sanctuary with the teaching of growth portrayed by spiritualism.

In Christianity man progresses toward the Godhead. The progress man makes is God giving him new desires for unselfishness, and he is learning to gain victory over the old desires. But the old nature still remains and man must battle the old desires. He must constantly be covered by the substitutional life of Christ. These blots, or tendencies are removed at the final atonement and then man is sinless. If we compare this concept with the spiritualistic concept we see that they both have man coming to judgment with a sinful nature (self). The difference is that spiritualism sets up the standard for the judgment as a man with a sinful nature. By stating that Christ has a desire for self-exaltation Satan has made that nature (character) the standard at the judgment. By stating that Christ has a desire for self-exaltation Satan is deceiving man into believing that self is not sinful. In other words the inherited tendencies to sin do not give man a defective character because they are not sin. Therefore man may progress to the Godhead with self because self is not sinful. This belief would teach that self is to be restored to Christlikeness (the Godhead). But the sanctuary teaches that the inherited tendencies remain and therefore when man

comes to judgment he has a defective character (self). Christ must cover him in the judgment with His perfect life on earth. The final atonement eradicates the sinful nature (self - the blots of sin) in order for man to be sinless. The spiritualistic teaching, we have illustrated is self-exaltation. The reason it is self-exaltation is because it teaches that man can be sinless with a sinful nature (self). That belief would restore self but self cannot be restored, it must be eradicated. It is spiritualism that is always trying to exalt self (the sinful nature). The spiritualistic theory substitutes the sinful nature of man as the standard at the judgment. Spiritualistic theories and Christianity both teach progress. The difference is what is set up as the standard at the judgment. The Christian recognizes that the inherited tendencies (self) are sin and make a defective character. Therefore the Christian does not believe his character has worth or value because he has these tendencies. Spiritualism would teach that man can be sinless with the tendencies to sin. That means worth has been placed to the sinful character of man. That in effect substitutes the character of man in place of the character of God because it places worth to a character with the inherited tendencies to sin.

1. The converted man aims at a Christ with a sinless nature (character) while spiritualism lowers the standard and has man aim at a Christ with desires for self-exaltation.
2. Man at the judgment still has the desires for self-exaltation in his being but if he is converted he is in harmony with the law because he recognizes that a character with the desires for self-exaltation is worthless. He therefore sees his great need at the judgment and sees the need of the final atonement. Spiritualism would have us believe that man with a sinful nature is good enough and does not need the atonement. Both come to judgment with a sinful nature (character), but one sees his need. The man that sees his need has his sins blotted out and thereby reaches the condition of sinlessness required by the law. The other believes that he can be sinless with a sinful nature.