
SEVENTH DAY ADVENTISM

IS SEVENTH DAY ADVENTISM CHRISTIAN? Now the only way to test that is to examine their teachings in the light of Scripture. And that is exactly what we will do. However, many evangelicals have followed the lead of Dr. Donald Grey Barnhouse who accepted them as true, Bible-believing Christians. Dr. Walter Martin, the cult specialist, claims they are. He says, "...It is perfectly possible to be a Seventh-day Adventist and be a true follower of Jesus Christ." (The Kingdom of the Cults, p. 360) However, we must keep several things in mind: 1. Just because people say they believe the Bible does not make it so. 2. Evangelicals are believing all kinds of things today such as the validity of the Charismatic Movement and the idea that many practicing Roman Catholics are saved. 3. While many Seventh-day Adventists are sincere, sincerity does not change error into truth.

THE FOUNDER OF THE SDA MOVEMENT. A lay preacher named William Miller had gathered a considerable following by predicting the date that the Lord would return. Christ did not come on that date and he submitted a correction saying that He would come on October 22, 1844. Miller and many others became quite discouraged and mostly scattered, but as one might suspect, some could not see all of these people just disappearing. Thus, Elder James White and his visionary wife Ellen G. White became leaders of the movement. She not only claimed to have visions from God but also said she was "inspired". Of her own writings she said, "It is God and not an erring mortal that has spoken." While she (and her followers) loudly proclaimed that she received nothing from man, many have conclusively shown that she was indeed a plagiarist. While some try to deny it, she is still considered the prophetess of the movement and her teachings are considered authoritative.

Worship on the seventh day. As everyone knows, the seventh day of the week is Saturday—the Jewish Sabbath. Mrs. White said that Sunday worship is a mark of the beast and that Sabbath worship is enjoined upon God's people. I have an SDA tract which says, "The seal of the living God is observance of the Sabbath..." Ellen G. White's last and greatest book, The Great Controversy (p. 435-6) says, "In order to be prepared for the judgment, it is necessary that men should keep the law." Sabbath worship stands for the law! The Church is not under law but under grace, see

Romans 6:14. The Book of Acts and many of the Epistles seek to get God's people away from the idea that the Church is to observe the Law. Adventists teach that there was no change in the day of worship until 364 AD. That is pure fabrication. Jesus was resurrected on the first day of the week. The early Church met on the first day (I Corinthians 16:2, Acts 20:7). The seventh day is purely Jewish, see Exodus 31:16-17. Almost every Church father can be quoted concerning Christian worship as being on the first day of the week: Epistle of Barnabas, AD 100; Epistle of Ignatius, 107; Justin Martyr, 145-150; Cyprian, 253; Tertullian, 200; etc. Let me add, with them it is not merely a preference, but they require it, for they have placed themselves under the law. HOW COULD THEY BE SAVED? I urge you to read Galatians 3:17, 5:4, 4:21-31.

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS DO NOT BELIEVE IN HELL. Mrs. White said, "The theory of eternal punishment is one of the false doctrines that constitute the wine of the abominations of Babylon." She taught, and SDA still teaches that there is no Hell; that the unbelieving dead are in the grave and unconscious and when the Lord comes, they will be annihilated. I have one of their tracts entitled "How Will God Punish Sinners?" It says, "The wicked who have died are not now being punished in hell-fire, but are in their graves, and will remain there until the day of judgment." They fly right into the face of the Savior who said they were in Hell where there was real fire (Luke 16). He said they would be cast into the lake of fire forever (Revelation 20:11-15). SDA also teaches that a believer who dies is now in a state of "soul sleep" and is unconscious until the return of Christ. The Word of God says, "ABSENT FROM THE BODY (IS TO BE) PRESENT WITH THE LORD." How could any hope be derived from being unconsciously in the presence of the Lord? The real problem is they simply do not believe God! This is not a Christian sect with a few peculiar beliefs. The whole thing is built on the sand and must fall.

SDA IS PLAINLY SALVATION BY LAW. While they may talk about faith (so do Roman Catholics) and when under attack they deny they believe in salvation by the works of the law, their writings past and present say otherwise. We have already given one quote from Mrs. White's greatest book. SDA author E.J. Salde in "The Way of Life" said, "God's true Sabbath, the seventh day of the week is declared to be the sign of

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sanctification...” In “Signs of the Times” (12/24/46) we read, “Yes, the test will come on the question of obedience to the commandments of god...” There is no room for grace in the scheme of Ellen G. White and her followers, for you can not have salvation by both grace and works. Listen to the Spirit of God: “AND IF BY GRACE, THEN IS IT NO MORE OF WORKS: OTHERWISE GRACE IS NO MORE GRACE. BUT IF IT BE OF WORKS, THEN IT IS NO MORE GRACE: OTHERWISE WORK IS NO MORE WORK.” Romans 11:6.

CHRIST AND SALVATION ACCORDING TO SDA. Over and over again they teach that Christ had a sinful nature like everyone else. Dr. Louis Talbot said, “In the 240 excerpts from Mrs. White’s writings including the 1957 SDA book ‘Questions on Doctrine’ there are many references to this teaching.” Pages 654-660 include many such references as the following: “he took upon his sinless nature our sinful nature. He took the nature of man with the possibility of yielding to temptation.” She goes on to say that He was even “at risk of failure and eternal loss.” Could such teaching be Christian? Certainly not! God’s Word says, “GOD CANNOT BE TEMPTED WITH EVIL...” (James 1:13). Mrs. White wrote, “The Blood of Christ, while it was to release the repentant sinner from the condemnation of the law, was not to cancel sin...” (“Patriarchs and Prophets” p. 357). This is no gospel but a denial of the Gospel. “THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST (GOD’S) SON CLEANSETH US FROM ALL SIN.” SDA teaches that Christ is still engaged in the atonement for sin. Jesus cried, “IT IS FINISHED.” According to this heretical system Christ only provided an opportunity for man to save himself. A tract of SDA entitled “Fundamental Principles of S.D. Adventists” says there must be cooperation between man and Christ in affecting salvation. Then, they teach that in reality Satan was the sin-bearer. (“CHRIST...SUFFERED FOR US...WHO HIS OWN SELF BARE OUR SINS IN HIS OWN BODY ON THE TREE.” I Peter 2:21 & 24). How anyone can call this a true Christian system is beyond me unless they themselves do not understand the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is just another system of bondage and has no

“good news”. It is under the curse of god, for it is another gospel—Galatians 1:8, “BUT THOUGH WE, OR AN ANGEL FROM HEAVEN, PREACH ANY OTHER GOSPEL UNTO YOU THAN THAT WHICH WE HAVE PREACHED UNTO YOU, LET HIM BE ACCURSED.” That curse is repeated in verse 9. There is only one Gospel, just as there is only one Word of God: anything else is heresy. Any hope that one derives from this counterfeit system is a false hope and therefore, no hope at all. As we have said before, at the heart of every false system you will find that human effort or merit has something to do with salvation. The truth is only found in God’s Word and it says that we are saved by grace through faith plus nothing!

A WORD ABOUT HELL. Hell is not the invention of any man as the cultists and a few others would have you believe. Some New Evangelicals act as though it is the invention of fundamentalists. Many fundamentalists claim to believe in it but they are strangely silent about it. Billy Graham said it may be just a burning thirst for God, BUT IF LANGUAGE MEANS ANYTHING IT MUST BE AN ETERNAL PLACE OF FIRE AND TORMENT. Read Luke 16. Jesus spoke of a man who was in hell and it says he was “TORMENTED IN THIS FLAME.” Four times that passage mentions TORMENT. If it wasn’t a flame, why did Jesus say it was? Why did He speak of a “lake of fire” in Revelation 20? Most people fail to see that even the unsaved will be resurrected (John 5:28, 29, etc.) when cast into the Lake of Fire. Some who do see that truth say, “How can the body survive the flames?” That is simply unbelief like the disbelief in hell itself. How did the three Hebrew young men survive the fire in Daniel’s day?

It is not a matter of making it reasonable but one of believing God. Again listen to Jesus: “Depart from me ye cursed into everlasting fire...and these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous onto life eternal.” (Matthew 25:41 & 46). To deny the existence of a real place called hell is to deny the veracity of the Son of God. To make it to be something else is to correct the Word of God.

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