

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISM

ACCORDING TO, the popular conception, Seventh-Day Adventism is no cult at all. Ask at random several persons from evangelical circles what they know about the Seventh-Day Adventists, and you will probably get such replies as: "They keep Saturday for Sunday." "They are prophets of doom, always telling us we are nearing the end of the world." "They are morally straight laced." "They are very religious and sincere."

While all this is true, it is not all of the truth. Theirs is a religion of deception. "The whole system of Seventh-Day Adventism is built upon a lie, and consists of a series of lies from beginning to end," asserts William L. Pettingill, in "Bible Questions Answered." Deceit is inherent in the system.

Mrs. Ellen G. White, the Seventh-Day Adventists' self-styled "messenger" or prophet, claimed a divine calling and prophetic gift. She re-

ferred to her own words, both written and spoken, as "God speaking through clay." Her followers believe she was inspired in the same sense that the Bible writers were inspired, and that her writings are necessary to a correct interpretation of the Bible. But Mrs. Ellen G. White, like Mary Baker Eddy, Madam Blavatsky, Annie Besant, and other charlatans, was a deceiver, as Dr. A. Ironside points out in his "Lectures on The Revelation."

During their early days, Seventh-Day Adventists publicly taught several false doctrines which they later dropped, and quietly deleted from Mrs. White's "inspired" writings. Here is an example of such "abandoned truth." (Every quotation in this article is from the pen of Mrs. E. G. White unless otherwise credited.) "Probation for sinners came to an end in the year 1844; the door of salvation was then forever shut" ("A Word to the Little Flock," p. 14).

Realizing that there are many "skeletons" in the sect's historical closet, Seventh-Day Adventist "evangelists" or "prophecy lecturers" of today seek to cover up the record

of the past and attract attention to what they now consider their flawless "message." They enter a community under disguise and accomplish much undercover preliminary work before opening one of their big campaigns.

They insert large ads in the newspapers to publicize such lecture subjects as "Death Struggle Between Democracy and Communism!" "The Vatican and Russia!" "The Atomic Bomb and the End of the World!" The names and pictures of the "evangelist" and his associates are prominently featured; but any prominent statement that the meetings are sponsored by the Seventh-Day Adventists is omitted. Instead, phrases such as the following give the impression that the campaign is a union effort: "Christians of all denominations attending!" "Twentieth Century Crusade for Christ."

Likewise, their radio and television work is carried on in a dishonest manner. The Adventists sponsor many broadcasts, but to conceal the sponsorship and veil the objective, they employ misleading names. Their principal radio broadcast, "The Voice of Prophecy," and

their television program, "Faith for Today," are traps which get many into their biggest trap of all, the "20th Century Free Bible Course." Through these slick mediums the membership of the Seventh-Day Adventist movement has increased considerably in recent years.

Like the Pharisees, Adventists "compass land and sea to make one proselyte." But our Lord said, "Beware" (Matt. 7:15-20). Such deceivers are not to be trusted in matters of doctrine. And any religion must be tested by its doctrines, not by the attractiveness of its adherents. The Apostle of Love warns, "If there come any unto you and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him Godspeed" (II John 10). What doctrine? "The doctrine of Christ," as the preceding verse shows.

Doubtless some reader is asking, "But do not Adventists believe in Christ?" Seventh-Day Adventists, as such, do not know the Christ of the Bible; theirs is a fictitious christ. Observe the following quotations from their official writings, which the General Conference of Seventh-

Day Adventists has never repudiated:

(1) Jesus' "brothers [were] older than [He]" ("The Desire of Ages," 1898 ed., p.87). But see Luke 2:7; Ps. 69:7,8.

(2) "Christ inherited just what every child of Adam inherits — a sinful nature" ("Bible Readings for the Home Circle," p.115) "In His veins was . . . bad blood and inherited meanness" (L.A.Wilcox in "The Signs of the Times," March 1927). But see Luke 1:35, R.S.V.; II Cor. 5:21; I Pet. 2:22.

(3) "Christ did not make the atonement when he shed His blood upon the cross" (Uriah Smith: "Looking Unto Jesus," p.237). But see Rom. 5:10,11; Heb. 9:25,26.

(4) "Those who accept the Savior, however sincere their conversion, should never be taught to say or feel that they are saved. This is misleading." ("Christ's Object Lessons," 1900 ed., p.155). But see I John 5:13.

(5) "We are placed here on probation to see if we will prove worthy of eternal life" ("Testimonies for the Church," Vol. I, p.199).

"Man . . . is called upon to strain every muscle and exercise every faculty in the struggle for immortality" ("Counsels to Teachers," 1913 ed., p. 366). But see Rom. 4:4,5; John 5:24.

(6) "Man does not now possess the undying spiritual nature . . . nor will he until the resurrection. Then, if righteous, he will be made immortal . . . And herein lies a most comforting thought in the Bible doctrine of the sleep of the dead, that in death there is no consciousness . . . All sentient life, animation, activity, thought, and consciousness . . . [cease] at death, and . . . all . . . wait till the resurrection for their future life" ("Bible Readings for the Home Circle," pp. 381, 387). But see Phil. 1:21-23; II Cor. 5:6-8.

(7) "The wicked are to be utterly destroyed — consumed away into smoke, brought to ashes" (Bible Readings for the Home Circle," p. 394). "This fire is called 'everlasting' because of the character of the work it does; just as it is called 'unquenchable' because it cannot be *put* out, and not because it will not *go* out when it has done its

work" (Ibid., p. 392). But see Matt. 9:42-48; Jude 7, Rev. 14:9-11.

(8) "The . . . dangerous error is that . . . our works have nothing to do with our redemption" ("Steps to Christ," 1908 ed., p. 65). "The desire for an easy religion . . . has made the doctrine of faith and faith only, a popular doctrine; but . . . the testimony of the Word of God is against this ensnaring doctrine" ("The Great Controversy Between Christ and Satan," 1911 ed., p. 272). But see Gal. 3:10,16; Eph. 2:8.

Have you in your heart "the love of the truth" (II Thes. 2:10)? If so, you will seek to guard yourself and your friends from false Seventh-Day Adventism, and you will seek to win Adventists to the Christ whose blood saves from hell by grace through faith alone.

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