

## **Salvation - How is it Gained? Once Gained, Can it be Lost?**

### *Part Fourteen*

Friends, this has been a journey of many months but I believe it is time to close this subject. When I started writing these, little did I know my good friend Mike Nicholson would be taken from us. It is my belief that Mike's work was finished and our Lord took him to save him from the trials of this old world. A pastor once told me, "Bill, you must think the church has gone to hell in a handbasket". His words, not mine. Looking back, I find his words insightful. Over time, I have expressed deep concern for God's people in their inability to use history as a reference point. Sailors, when discovering the new world, took readings from their simple instruments to help guide them to points unknown. In our world we cannot, must not, ignore those markers from the past or we will be lost on the sea of uncertainty. It will be as tough our rudder is gone finding us being "tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;" [Eph 4:14]

So many are grieved at heart when they see the worldly trends that have come into our beloved church. Worse still are those who embrace and accept these new trends as supposed irrefutable evidence God is guiding His people.

Matt 15:13-16 But he [Jesus] answered and said, **Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up. Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.** Then answered Peter and said unto him, Declare unto us this parable. And Jesus said, **Are ye also yet without understanding?**

Jesus had just given them a discourse about transgressing God's commandments by their traditions making His commandments of none effect. There are times we leave our services because the focus on Jesus has been removed by irreverence either by music or behavior. Criticism is wielded and pastors and members are removed after years of service. Shouldn't this wake up the sleeping saints? Many of us are left in wonderment as rumors of inaccurate gossip filters back to us. Yet, the shaking must continue. One wonders how the shaking will end. It seems that from our perspective the good are being shaken out of the conference churches. Who will be left but those who have apostatized?

On one occasion we were chided for not being able to immediately relate the three angels messages. We took note and spent the next five Tuesday evenings studying these messages. However, the pastor who chided us still didn't address them in his sermons.

Then I saw souls that were needy. They were honest and they needed the prejudice torn from them that they have received from their leaders and then they can receive the truth. I saw the burden of the message should be the first, second, and third angels' messages, and those who had any hope in God would yield to the force of that truth. {5MR 203.3}

How is the barrier to be breached? Mike so wanted to break down the walls of prejudice to teach people life saving truths that have been lost in recent years. Those who have come into the church during/since the 1970's have been given very little instructions from the old school of thought. Our Firm Platform of truth has often been replaced by the Heppenstall/Ford theories brought in from the Calvinistic thought of Barnhouse and Martin. Time is short we cannot afford to play church any longer. Modern thinking must be compared with and adjusted by/to past truths as given by Scripture and the SOP.

Then I saw Laodiceans. They will make a mighty effort. Will they get the victory? One who has the truth will chase a thousand, and two will put ten thousand to flight. They are coming to conclusions that bring them into close quarters and they cannot tell where they be themselves, for they are lost in the foggy, terrible fear that takes hold of them. Anguish of spirit will seize them. Dare they admit that the door is shut? The sin against the Holy Ghost was to ascribe to Satan what belongs to God, or what the Holy Ghost has done. They said the shut door was of the devil, and now admit it is against their own lives. They shall die the death. Look ye at the Pattern. Follow Him, for He is meek and lowly in heart. Shut your eyes to everything but the present, saving truth.--Ms 11, 1850, pp. 3, 4. (Vision at Paris, Maine, December 25, 1850.) {5MR 204.3}

Open communication is so often sought and denied in favor of politics. It happened in Sister White's day. Apparently the lessons were not learned because we still see such today. Interestingly, the quote below was in opposition to the Sabbath. So, what do we have today but that a pastor of an SDA university church started a Sunday church, took instructions in eastern techniques and is given kudos by many leaders of NAD for his part in organizing the One Project.

I saw that this world was rocked in the cradle of security so that communications might not be cut off from place to place, and that messengers might have full time to carry the message to the children of God, that they receive it and be sealed with the seal of the living God, and be prepared to pass through the time of trouble such as never was.--Ms 5, 1851, p. 3. ("Opposition to the Sabbath," May 18, 1851.) {5MR 204.4}

The irreverence of applause has so intruded into Adventism that it is considered acceptable as is Megachurch/Willow Creek music and programing. We see the NAD president promoting the un-Biblical practice of women's ordination contrary to 1 Tim 3. How many Seventh-day Adventist will allow themselves to be educated in the tenets of Biblical and Spirit of Prophecy truths? Is it possible for a people who once accepted God's call to be His last day ambassadors to lose their first love in favor of cultural trends? Can salvation once gained, be lost? Never, is salvation a corporate pass. The Jewish people believed if they were of Abraham's seed they had salvation secured. Many Seventh-day Adventist people believe as did the Jews. It is a false premise for it is not so. Believing being glued to the pew is a shoe in for seeing heaven is a tragic frame of thinking. Are we to be quiet? We are told:

If God abhors one sin above another, of which his people are guilty, it is of doing nothing in a case of emergency. Indifference or neutrality in a religious crisis is regarded of God as a grievous crime; and equal to the very worst type of hostility against God. {RH, September 30, 1873 par. 9}

Isa 58:1 Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.

If we are faithful we will continue to do so.

Bill Eichner