

Salvation — How is it Gained? Once Gained, Can it be Lost?

Part Eleven

How does a church, our church “not be disorganized or broken up into independent atoms.”? And, why would Sister White make a statement like, “We hoped that there would not be the necessity for another coming out.”? First of all, we are broken up. Never in the time of this church have we seen so many “independent atoms”. Even those working with the church are, in many ways, having serious theological disagreements such as women’s ordination, the tenants of how the sanctuary service is being implemented in heaven, church structural implementation, how salvation actually works and a host of interconnected issues. Those not agreeing with many structures within the body are being marginalized even though they try and work within the denomination. For instance; Doug Batchelor’s denial to have meetings in the Florida Conference. A huge division was created with and by the publication of **Questions On Doctrine**. Whether or not we like to admit it, we do have a broken split church. Andreasen warned the church but leadership didn’t listen but instead severely disciplined him because men wanted their way instead of God’s way. We have only to see Israel’s history to note where we have gotten off course ourselves.

It is, of course, patent to all, that no one can claim to believe the Testimonies and also believe in the new theology that Christ was exempt from human passions. It is one thing or the other. the denomination is now called upon to decide. To accept the teachings of Questions on Doctrine necessitates giving up faith in the Gift God has given this people. [M. L. Andreasen, Letters to the Churches, Series A, No., p.7.]

The religion of Jesus Christ we need daily. Everything we do or say comes under the notice of God. We are a spectacle unto the world, to angels, and to men. . . . The church of Christ is to represent His character. . . . Though He had all the strength of passion of humanity, never did He yield to temptation to do one single act which was not pure and elevating and ennobling. {HP 155.7}

We know the enemy of souls has been at work. Why do some resist the truths once delivered to the saints? How do we sort out the fact that Sister White said; “The church may appear as about to fall, but it does not fall. It remains, while the sinners in Zion will be sifted out--the chaff separated from the precious wheat. This is a terrible ordeal, but nevertheless it must take place.”? Then she goes on to say; “None but those who have been overcoming by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony will be found with the loyal and true, without spot or stain of sin, without guile in their mouths....” [Ref. Mar. 203.2]

At the beginning of the paragraph just referenced she says; “Satan will work his miracles to deceive; he will set up his power as supreme.” and ended the paragraph by; “The remnant that purify their souls by obeying the truth gather strength from the trying process, exhibiting the beauty of holiness amid the surrounding apostasy.” What better way to deceive than to encourage the church into apostasy by whispering in the ear of leadership we need recognition by other Christian denominations. Yet, there is a “remnant that purify their souls amid surrounding apostasy”. Who and where are these remnant people? Again we read:

I know that the Lord loves His church. It is not to be disorganized or broken up into independent atoms. There is not the least consistency in this; there is not the least evidence that such a thing will be. Those who shall heed this false message and try to

leaven others will be deceived and prepared to receive advanced delusions, and they will come to nought. {Mar 203.3}

We know the church is broken up. So, what does Sister White mean? What is broken up and what remains true? She says: "I am encouraged and blessed as I realize that the God of Israel is still guiding His people, and that He will continue to be with them, even to the end." {Mar 203.4}

Perhaps the next paragraph will give us further insight.

We cannot now step off the foundation that God has established. We cannot now enter into any new organization; for this would mean apostasy from the truth." {Mar 203.5}

Who has stepped "off the foundation that God has established."? We must remember that here we have a conditional prophecy. God does have a church, a people, but only those who remain true to him. They are His true church. Remember she said; "We cannot now enter into any new organization; for this would mean apostasy from the truth." Basically, in 1957 with the entrance of QOD, a new organization started. To follow its progression read the article "Little Known Facts".

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The church, soon to enter upon her most severe conflict, will be the object most dear to God upon earth. The confederacy of evil will be stirred with power from beneath, and Satan will cast all the reproach possible upon the chosen ones whom he cannot deceive and delude with his satanic inventions and falsehoods. But exalted "to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and remission of sins," will Christ, our representative and head, close His heart, or withdraw His hand, or falsify His promise? No; never, never. {Mar 203.6}

We are seeing more and more true followers being removed or removing themselves from their conference churches. They are coming together as God's people in the proliferation of independent congregations as have never before been experienced. These unions are emphasizing those testing truths given to us after 1844. There is a revitalization of truths such as the sanctuary, the three angels messages, and righteousness by faith. Along with this is a reconnecting of the truth of Christ's fallen human nature such as we have to live with. Jesus gives us courage to know we can also live a life free of sin too because of His example.

The new theology adherents of Calvinists brought division that intruded from the evangelical conferences of the 1950's, placing errors into print with Questions on Doctrines. This had set in motion the separation we are witnessing today. Too many times we see congregations no longer promoting Adventist truths. Instead, promotion of Calvinistic and Emergent church doctrines have indeed led to the next step. Behaviors and worship styles are seen matching the culture in which we live. What is to determine who God's remnant people are? Are you beginning to see how removing yourselves from error is of the utmost importance? Behavior follows in the footsteps of false theology.

2 Tim 3:5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

Bill Eichner