

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

### *Part Four*

Part three left us with some very serious considerations. How did Christianity get in such a mess? Why are there so many views? They cannot all be equally valid as a pastor once tried to tell me. When everyone does “that which was right in his own eyes”, [ref. Judges 17:6] we have anarchy. This is particularly pertinent for Seventh-day Adventists. How can we ignore council then go to emergent church authors using their studies? One such example is Rick Warren’s purpose driven books with study guides. The theology of those others had their beginnings in the dark ages with the compromises brought into the church from pagan religions.

It is more than a little interesting that Elijah hid in a cave after such a dynamic display of courage on Mt Carmel. [ref. 1 Kings 18] By the way, Many of these priests of Baal didn’t start out as pagan priests. They came out from the Jewish priesthood. [ref. PK chs. 10 & 11] This just goes to show us where compromise can eventually lead. However, no matter how bad things can appear, God still has His true church which are His people, the 7,000 who have not bowed their knee to Baal. [ref. Rom 11:4]

We must be transformed, renewed daily. The “outward man” must “perish” while “the inward man is renewed”. We must have “the truth” as it “is in Jesus”. The “old man” must be “crucified”. “Sin” must “be destroyed” so “we” do “not serve sin”. [ref. Rom. 6:6, 2 Cor. 4:16, Eph. 4:21-24, Col 3:9-10] Nowhere, in Scripture is there excuse for sin or any indication it will continue until the second coming of Jesus. The day of atonement in Old Testament times is an illustration for us upon whom the end of the world is coming. [ref. 1 Cor 10:11] On that day they cleansed themselves from sin. We have been in the anti-typical day of atonement since 1844. It is long overdue we permitted Jesus to remove sin from us. By the way, Ford doesn’t believe in the Adventist understanding of the atonement. He believes as do the emergent church folks. Why should we be following him and those who teach in like manner? If you’re interested Questions on Doctrine also gutted this doctrine. Elder Andreasen, in trying to defend the atonement, was sacrificed on the alter of compromise for his efforts.

Do we feel our need? Are we Laodiceans? [Ref. Rev 3:14-22] While the law does not justify us, ignoring it will remove us from any help Jesus can give us. We are to sound the alarm when we see errors being brought into the church.

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.

Then Sister White said this in 3T chapter 27 “The Laodicean Church”:

What astonishing deception and fearful blindness had, like a dark cloud, covered Israel! This blindness and apostasy had not closed about them suddenly; it had come upon them gradually as they had not heeded the word of reproof and warning which the Lord had sent to them because of their pride and their sins. And now, in this fearful crisis, in the presence of the idolatrous priests and the apostate king, they

remained neutral. If God abhors one sin above another, of which His people are guilty, it is doing nothing in case of an emergency. Indifference and neutrality in a religious crisis is regarded of God as a grievous crime and equal to the very worst type of hostility against God. {3T 280.3}

I would assume everyone understands that the testimonies were written primarily for Seventh-day Adventists. Still, when a person follows this council, you can be expected to be put out of your church. Many that have followed this council have lost their ministerial licenses. Some of these include but not limited to: Joe Crews, Ralph Larson, Russell Standish, Andreasen, Elder Livingstone, Elder Grotheer and W.D. Frazee. Presently there are progressive pastors, in the Oregon Conference, who dislike and speak out against such Pastors as Bhor, Batchelor, Wholberg, Priebe, Kenny Shelton and Larry Kirkpatrick. Even Ted Wilson has come under attack by the NAD president Dan Jackson. Yet they hold in esteem such ones as George Knight who has been busily rewriting church history and theology. Then we have those who have introduced spiritualism into the church by way of the One Project. But, when warnings are given you are handed your head to you on a platter, figuratively speaking. When you study both ancient history and recent history it doesn't take a rocket scientist to understand we are rapidly becoming immersed in apostasy.

The time is not far distant when the test will come to every soul. The mark of the beast will be urged upon us. Those who have step by step yielded to worldly demands and conformed to worldly customs will not find it a hard matter to yield to the powers that be, rather than subject themselves to derision, insult, threatened imprisonment, and death. The contest is between the commandments of God and the commandments of men. In this time the gold will be separated from the dross in the church. True godliness will be clearly distinguished from the appearance and tinsel of it. Many a star that we have admired for its brilliancy will then go out in darkness. Chaff like a cloud will be borne away on the wind, even from places where we see only floors of rich wheat. All who assume the ornaments of the sanctuary, but are not clothed with Christ's righteousness, will appear in the shame of their own nakedness. {5T 81.1}

One thing so disturbing is the blindness of some. Those being put out of their churches for the truth's sake they are encouraging, are said to be the tares being separated from the wheat still left in the building. Could it be that, in a blind effort to protect their mistaken position, they are uprooting the true wheat? But could Jesus be thus speaking of those expelling folks? In removing the true watchmen on the wall, are they removing their rudder and now are helplessly adrift on the sea of confusion?

Matt 13:29 **But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them.**

In closing this session, let us remember the definition of the church.

God has a church. It is not the great cathedral, neither is it the national establishment, neither is it the various denominations; it is the people who love God and keep His commandments. {UL 315.5}

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