

Seventh Day Adventism (SDA) - What They Teach

To those who would refute or have questioned our articles on SDA in the July/Aug 2001 *Diakrisis*, and for the benefit of all readers, we enclose the following teachings from the SDA Worldwide Website, (bold type ours). Let the reader discern the serious *leaven* hid in truth!:

The Gift of Prophecy: *One of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is prophecy. This gift is an identifying mark of the remnant church and was manifested in the ministry of Ellen G. White. As the Lord's messenger, her writings are a continuing and authoritative source of truth which provide for the church comfort, guidance, instruction, and correction. They also make clear that the Bible is the standard by which all teaching and experience must be tested. (Joel 2:28, 29; Acts 2:14-21; Heb.1:1-3; Rev.12:17; 19:10.)*

The Sabbath: *The beneficent Creator, after the six days of Creation, rested on the seventh day and instituted the Sabbath for all people as a memorial of Creation. The fourth commandment of God's unchangeable law requires the observance of this seventh-day Sabbath as the day of rest, worship, and ministry in harmony with the teaching and practice of Jesus, the Lord of the Sabbath. The Sabbath is a day of delightful communion with God and one another. It is a symbol of our redemption in Christ, a sign of our sanctification, a token of our allegiance, and a foretaste of our eternal future in God's kingdom. The Sabbath is God's perpetual sign of His eternal covenant between Him and His people. Joyful observance of this holy time from evening to evening, sunset to sunset, is a celebration of God's creative and redemptive acts. (Gen.2:1-3; Ex.20:8-11; Lk.4:16; Isa.56:5,6; 58:13,14; Matt.12:1-12; Ex.31:13-17; Ezek.20:12, 20; Deut.5:12-15; Heb.4:1-11; Lev.23:32; Mk.1:32.)*

Christian Behaviour: *We are called to be a godly people who think, feel, and act in harmony with the principles of heaven. For the Spirit to recreate in us the character of our Lord we involve ourselves only in those things which will produce Christlike purity, health, and joy in our lives. This means that our amusement and entertainment should meet the highest standards of Christian taste and beauty. While recognizing cultural differences, our dress is to be simple, modest, and neat, befitting those whose true beauty does not consist of outward adornment but in the imperishable ornament of a gentle and quiet spirit. It also means that because our bodies are the temples of the Holy Spirit, we are to care for them intelligently. Along with adequate exercise and rest, we are to adopt the most healthful diet possible and abstain from the unclean foods identified in the Scriptures. Since alcoholic beverages, tobacco, and the irresponsible use of drugs and narcotics are harmful to our bodies, we are to abstain from them as well. Instead, we are to engage in whatever brings our thoughts and bodies into the discipline of Christ, who desires our wholesomeness, joy, and goodness. (Rom.12:1,2; 1Jn.2:6; Eph.5:1-21; Phil.4:8; 2Cor.10:5; 6:14-7:1; 1Pet.3:1-4; 1Cor.6:19, 20; 10:31; Lev.11:1-47; 3Jn.2.)*

Christ's Ministry in the Heavenly Sanctuary: *There is a sanctuary in heaven, the true tabernacle which the Lord set up and not man. In it Christ ministers on our behalf, making available to believers the benefits of His atoning sacrifice offered once for all on the cross. He was inaugurated as our great High Priest and began His intercessory ministry at the time of His ascension. In 1844, at the end of the prophetic*

period of 2300 days, He entered the second and last phase of His atoning ministry. It is a work of investigative judgment which is part of the ultimate disposition of all sin, typified by the cleansing of the ancient Hebrew sanctuary on the Day of Atonement. In that typical service the sanctuary was cleansed with the blood of animal sacrifices, but the heavenly things are purified with the perfect sacrifice of the blood of Jesus. The investigative judgment reveals to heavenly intelligences who among the dead are asleep in Christ and therefore, in Him, are deemed worthy to have part in the first resurrection. It also makes manifest who among the living are abiding in Christ, keeping the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, and in Him, therefore, are ready for translation into His everlasting kingdom. This judgment vindicates the justice of God in saving those who believe in Jesus. It declares that those who have remained loyal to God shall receive the kingdom. The completion of this ministry of Christ will mark the close of human probation before the Second Advent. (Heb.8:1-5; 4:14-16; 9:11-28; 10:19-22; 1:3; 2:16, 17; Dan.7:9-27; 8:13, 14; 9:24-27; Num.14:34; Ezek.4:6; Lev.16; Rev.14:6,7; 20:12; 14:12; 22:12.)

The Millennium and the End of Sin: *The millennium is the thousand-year reign of Christ with His saints in heaven between the first and second resurrections. During this time the wicked dead will be judged; the earth will be utterly desolate, without living human inhabitants, but occupied by Satan and his angels. At its close Christ with His saints and the Holy City will descend from heaven to earth. The unrighteous dead will then be resurrected, and with Satan and his angels will surround the city; but fire from God will consume them and cleanse the earth. The universe will thus be freed of sin and sinners forever. (Rev.20; 1Cor.6:2, 3; Jer.4:23-26; Rev.21:1-5; Mal.4:1; Ezek.28:18,19.)*

Do you still believe that Ellen White was a prophetess?: *Yes, though she never claimed that title. She preferred to describe herself as God's messenger, or servant, but in today's language we would say that she had the spiritual gift of prophecy. Ellen White used this gift from 1844, when she was just 17, to 1915, the year of her death. We believe that the main purpose of her spiritual gift was to build up the Seventh-day Adventist Church in its early stages. However some of her books, such as *Desire of Ages*, were written for the general public, and her work on healthy living (most of which seems commonplace today) was startling in its time.*

Editors comments: Evangelicals and SDA's are increasingly seeking unity. *Recently the World Evangelical Fellowship (WEF) and the SDA church planned meetings and 'scholarly papers' to bring unity. The original Evangelical stand against the SDA movement is being rapidly eroded. However, there are still groups such as the Christian Research Network (CRN) who remain firm on the classic stand against the SDA movement as a cult*.*

For 14 years I have been working with the cults and often face to face. *This may shock some - apart from the likes of the Jim Jones' and David Koresh's death groups, the most dangerous are the SDA teachings - because they mix law with grace which is a deadly cocktail and most binding.*

This group also has a brilliant PR front to the public but the teachings remain heretical, and some blasphemous to the atonement and the finished work of the cross.

Terry Arnold & Mike Claydon * *Apostasy Alert*, 14/8/2001