

TIME TO WAKE UP!

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An understanding of righteousness by faith, the true one, I am sure will be the key to unlock the mysteries of the Word to us. Could there be a more wonderful Seminary or University than one where we could sit at the feet of Jesus, as it were, and be taught by the Holy Spirit? Five minutes of such insight would be simply invaluable. It is not impossible, but it is for the proud and self-sufficient. It is verily impossible for those who think they have the truth, and need only a bigger megaphone for shouting it out to others. We have become the sons of Ahimaaz, as a denomination, running “swiftly” and beautifully, out of breath in the process, only to arrive without tidings. We are a burdenless vehicle, unless we consider Babylon’s understanding of righteousness by faith a “burden”—it is in the sense of being a millstone soon to sink never to rise again!

It is Satan who works by strategy, and this cause, if true, is God’s. Yes, it is His. That does not deliver us from sounding the trumpet with a certain sound if we see the alarm of war, or danger approaching, however. Otherwise blood will be on our heads. It is a fearful responsibility, we can neither shift the burden to someone else to cry out when we see a sword hanging over Israel’s head. Even Balaam’s ass, when he got his eyes open, had the gumption to open his mouth as well. Then again, when you consider this problem in all its proper ramifications, going back to the inception of the plan of

redemption, and our 6000 years of history. Once God came to save us. Now it will be up to us to save God. For if we, as a people fail this time, after all the repeated failures of “Israel” for millennia, and only a handful of individuals straighten up at last out of all this apostasy; if the remnant church as a church fails at last, then the old devil will get the last laugh, and say what he did regarding Abraham’s faith—it was seriously defective, and God was “taken in”, and risked too much. There would hence be no New Jerusalem worthy of being a continuing City. In this fearful issue, God can’t force us—that’s just the point. So, in that respect the battle is not God’s at all: IT IS OURS. AND IF WE TRAGICALLY FAIL AGAIN AS A PEOPLE AS WE DID IN 1888, WHAT CAN REDEEM THE UNIVERSE? Satan will have an excuse indeed for decrying the City idea as unworkable, and poor father Abraham be doomed to perpetual tears of disappointment. “For he looked for a City”. It hasn’t come—yet. Will it?

Not if you and I are scared out of our wits by the fear of the self being crucified, and going down to the darkness to which Jesus surrendered Himself. The final issues will be as fearful as the final movements will be rapid.

We can’t plan a thing. The cause must not depend upon our human wisdom. We must be content to be and to remain “nothing”. The infinite wisdom and foresight of the One who made the sanctuary will know best how to cleanse it. Since the very existence of God is at stake in that matter (the cleansing of the sanctuary), and since we know He

is true, we need not fear. It will be done. The remnant church will go through, all wrinkles ironed out at last. That “last” may be nearer than we think.

What are the differences between Babylon’s Christ and the true One, whom we should preach?

1. Two Christs clearly distinguished in Rev. 13:8—the power behind the Beast, and the Lamb. The latter is the term Inspiration uses to designate Christ as the Crucified One, “the Lamb *slain*”. Thus the true Christ is the Christ of the Cross; the Christ of Babylon the one who spurned the Cross. Now, this latter “Christ” met with some misfortunes, it is true, and is wept for today just as the ancients wept for Tammuz. He endured some temporary discomforts, but his place in the “trinity” wasn’t affected at all. Giving up your physical life for three days when you’re sure of getting it back, and when all the time the part of you called the “Son of God” didn’t die at all, but went to Paradise, isn’t so much of a sacrifice as pouring out His soul unto death, as Jesus did. Therefore the cross of Babylon’s Christ is not a true Cross at all. The Catholic view of the Cross is different from the truth. Sister White adds that everything short of the religion of the Cross is a deception. “The precious blood of Jesus is the fountain prepared to cleanse the soul from the defilement of sin. When you determine to take Him as your friend, a new and enduring light will shine from the cross of Christ. A true sense of the sacrifice and intercession of the dear Saviour will break the heart that has become hardened in sin; and love, thankfulness, and humility will come into the soul. The surrender of the heart to Jesus

subdues the rebel into a penitent, and then the language of the obedient soul is: ‘Old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.’ This is the true religion of the Bible. Everything short of this is a deception.” (4T 625). Some have taught that the Son of God didn’t die, only the son of man. The true Christ is the One of the Cross; the false, the one opposed to the Cross.

2. It follows that the true Christ is the One who will draw man if He is lifted up as the Crucified One. (John 12:32, and 33). See also “O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?” Gal. 3:1. The false Christ is the “radiant”, winsome, lovable, kindly one who draw all men literally (except those written in the Lamb’s Book of Life) when he is lifted up, but not signifying what death he should die. In other words, the power of this “Christ” to appeal is in his winsome lovable ways to make people “happy”, “relaxed”, “integrated”, and to give them an “abundant life”, apart from the appeal of the Cross. The false Christ will have absolutely everything the true Christ has, power to heal sick, cast out demons, cleanse lepers, set people free from anxieties, worries, etc., feed thousands, smile (constantly), “radiant personality”, everything absolutely except the nail prints of the Cross.

3. It follows again, that since the false Christ will appeal apart from His Cross, (he has none), he will have no cross for his “believers” to bear. He will pamper, flatter, their ego and self in mysterious, clever ways. He will induce them to confess their

faults, their sins, their mistakes, to beat, pinch, flagellate, starve, and ignore the “old man” or self, just so long as that self is not crucified, done to death. As Jones says, “I will give my self a dressing down to-day!” When he is cornered, as he is more and more to-day, he will admit that all our troubles center in an unsundered self. He will never divulge a way to surrender the self, however, except to ignore him, “think nothing of him,” and go ahead, “looking to Baal”. Thus the “old man”, the self, will arise on newer, higher, more subtle levels.

4. The true Christ, bearing His Cross, will reveal it as an Example to us, how we must be our Cross. That Cross will be the place where self is crucified utterly, daily.

5. The false Christ will appeal to our innately selfish desire for salvation, and fear of punishment and death. Having permitted the “old man” or self to live so long, after numerous beatings, the self will remain as a “purified” essence: the desire for immortality (present in the first sin of our parents in Eden). Monks and hermits, flagellants, have “sacrificed” everything except that. Jesus, on the other hand, sacrificed everything including that. Likewise, for us, it is only through death that we can be delivered from the fear of death, which all our lifetime makes us subject to bondage. Heb. 2:14, 15. So, it follows that the true Christ will appeal instead to our senses of truth and equity, rather than to our desire to be “saved”, and fear to be “lost”. That may sound a bit advanced, but I doubt that you can deny the logic and truth of it. The difference between Babylon’s faith and true faith,

that such faith is the opposite corollary of fear. Babylon says that the evil which you fear will not harm you, therefore do not fear. The basis for the fear does not, in fact, exist. Thus it purports to “deliver” from fear.

True faith, on the other hand, recognizes the basis of the fear as existing in fact, but surrenders to the thing which the self fears so much, acquiesces to the worst, of free will and choice. In the face of believing that there is a basis for the fear, through “death” to the self, overcomes not the belief that there is a basis for the fear, but the fear itself. Such faith is in the doctrine of the Cross.

6. The false Christ is a Lawyer; the true One is a Lover. The false one “justifies” by belief in a legalistic, vicarious, substitutionary propitiation, whereby another pays our debt, and we need only avail ourselves of the provision through making the necessary legal arrangements of having the papers made out in our name, etc. This “salvation” offered by him is “free”. It saves drunkards from their drink, sometimes; prostitutes from “sin”, murderers from pulling the trigger, bank robbers from holdups, makes “worldlings” into church members; but it doesn’t save from the tyranny of self, or from that covetousness which is idolatry, except through sublimation of the covetousness into a covetousness for a reputation for preeminence in piety and the like within the “church”. On the other hand, the true Christ, through His wondrous Cross, breaks the heart, and leads the sinner to the place which Mary occupied when she washed His feet with her tears. Mary was then oblivious of reward or

security, and knew only her broken and contrite heart, her tearful repentance, her mysterious, humbling love.

7. When we turn our eyes upon the false Christ, “Turn your eyes upon Baal, Look full in his wonderful face, and the things of earth will grow strangely dim, in the light of his wonderful face,” etc., “radiance”, “relaxation”, “peace”, “contentment”, “joy” fills the heart. When we turn our eyes upon the true Christ, we can look but momentarily, for tears soon fill our sight, and we go out to Gethsemane, to weep bitterly (see “And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And Peter went out, and wept bitterly.” Luke 22:61, 62, and “Peter did not know his own danger. Self-confidence misled him. He thought himself able to withstand temptation; but in a few short hours the test came, and with cursing and swearing he denied his Lord. When the crowing of the cock reminded him of the words of Christ, surprised and shocked at what he had just done he turned and looked at his Master. At that moment Christ looked at Peter, and beneath that grieved look, in which compassion and love for him were blended, Peter understood himself. He went out and wept bitterly. That look of Christ’s broke his heart. Peter had come to the turning point, and bitterly did he repent his sin.” COL 152, 154.) See the difference?

8. Babylon’s Christ has either a wistful far-a-way look in his eyes, or a perpetual smile on his face. The true Christ (at the present time) can only give

expression to the sickening nausea He experiences due to the revolting spiritual conditions of His people.

9. The Babylonian Christ will send a wonderful latter-rain “power” of the “Holy” Spirit to his seeking people, which will (according to Jones) “amplify” the feeble, flickering light of our weak selves into a brilliant, powerful glare, changing the weak meager output of our lives into a mighty output. The true Christ, when the darkness is lifted from His Cross, and He cries again, “It is finished”, will reveal a strange, unearthly power to His people in or because of their experience of looking upon Him whom they have pierced. It will be the same kind of power which cast the seventh devil out of Mary’s heart. No one, by the way, heard her shouting “Hallelujah” in Simon’s house at Bethany.

10. The false Christ of Babylon is a wonderful, magnetic personality. The true Christ is a Person, “despised and rejected of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief,” even to-day, a man in whom human nature discerns “no beauty, that we should desire Him”.

11. Both Christs will have “all men to be saved”. One will herd everyone he can “persuade” into his fold; the Other sadly, solemnly reveals His Cross at the very entrance of the strait gate. “And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them, If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. And whosoever doth not

bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.” (Luke 14:25-35).

12. One “Christ” trains his prophets or messengers in the learning of the finest schools; the Other, sends them clad in sackcloth sometimes, moved by the deep unction of the Spirit of God rather than the training of literary institutions.

13. One “Christ” comes to bring all within the church into “unity”; the Other came not to bring peace, but a sword, and to set one against the other even in families.

14. One “Christ” will do almost anything to preserve the “balance” of lukewarmness; the Other, when He comes, will decidedly, pointedly, demand one of two extremes of temperature.

15. One “Christ” is so mild-mannered and broadminded, and gentle, that he wouldn’t harm anyone or anything; speaks well of everyone and everything; in keeping on the “positive” side, will go so far as to say “Good Lord and Good Devil” (Series B). “If this matter were rightly understood and closely guarded, God’s servants would feel a continual burden of responsibility to counterwork the efforts of the men who do not know what they are about, because they are enchanted by the delusive allurements of Satan. When God’s people are fully awake to the danger of the hour, and work fully on Christ’s side, there will be seen a sharp contrast between their course and that of those who are saying, ‘Good Lord, and good devil,’ and we shall see much firmer and more decided work done to counterwork the schemes of satanic agencies.” {SpTB02 11.2}

The Other knows a truly frightful indignation against base spiritual hypocrisy and self-worship which endangers the souls of others. He terribly exacting of His under-shepherds and watchmen on His Zion walls. There is no wrath like the wrath of the Lamb! All other wrath, even that of the dragon (Rev. 12:17) is a counterfeit and perversion.

16. One “Christ” is trusted—that is faith in him. The Other is loved—that is faith in Him!

17. One “Christ”, through his winsome personality, and gift of gab, circumvents clear reasoning and logic; the Other appeals to the reasoning, logic, perceiving side of human nature, and thus reaches the true heart.

18. One “Christ” infatuates the senses; the Other captivates the heart.

19. Both Christs cannot come until their respective peoples accept them wholeheartedly and spiritually. Thus, both will have to “come” in a spiritual sense to be glorified in their followers, before coming in glory to truly glorify them. “Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts. But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner’s fire, and like fullers’ soap: and he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness. Then shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be

pleasant unto the LORD, as in the days of old, and as in former years. And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger from his right, and fear not me, saith the LORD of hosts. For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed" (Mal. 3:1-6) must refer to that coming). So the one "Christ" will come as an angel of light, be widely hailed as "this is it"! The Other will still, at that time, be a "root out of a dry ground", undiscerned save by the honest in heart.

20. The one "Christ" will work miracles more and more, subtly appealing to them in a disguised manner as proof of his credentials; the Other's works, will be as of old, the enlightenment of the heart with heavenly wisdom and insights.

In addition, see "There never will be a time in the history of the church when God's worker can fold his hands and be at ease, saying, "All is peace and safety." Then it is that sudden destruction cometh. Everything may move forward amid apparent prosperity; but Satan is wide-awake, and is studying and counseling with his evil angels another mode of attack where he can be successful. The contest will wax more and more fierce on the part of Satan; for he is moved by a power from beneath. As the work of God's people moves forward with sanctified, resistless energy, planting the standard of Christ's righteousness in the church, moved by a power from the throne of God, the great controversy will

wax stronger and stronger, and will become more and more determined. Mind will be arrayed against mind, plans against plans, principles of heavenly origin against principles of Satan. Truth in its varied phases will be in conflict with error in its ever-varying, increasing forms, and which, if possible, will deceive the very elect." TM 407, all may be going along prosperously, but Satan insidiously intercept himself. Again, "I have been shown the perils that would thicken about the remnant in the last days. These perils have been revealed to me down to the present time. Great scenes are soon to open before us. The Lord is coming with power and great glory. And Satan knows that his usurped authority will soon be forever at an end. His last opportunity to gain control of the world is now before him, and he will make most decided efforts to accomplish the destruction of the inhabitants of the earth. Those who believe the truth must be as faithful sentinels on the watchtower, or Satan will suggest specious reasonings to them, and they will give utterance to opinions that will betray sacred, holy trusts. The enmity of Satan against good will be manifested more and more as he brings his forces into activity in his last work of rebellion; and every soul that is not fully surrendered to God, and kept by divine power, will form an alliance with Satan against heaven, and join in battle against the Ruler of the universe," pp. 464, 465, modern Israel in danger of repeating the follies of Israel when they rejected the Lord and chose them a king, who would be Satan, joining in battle against the Ruler of the Universe. Again, "While there has been so

much fear of excitement and enthusiasm in the service of God, there has been manifest an enthusiasm in another line which to many seems wholly congenial. I refer to the parties of pleasure that have been held among our people. These occasions have taken much of the time and attention of people who profess to be servants of Christ; but have these assemblies tended to the glory of His name? Was Jesus invited to preside over them? Gatherings for social intercourse may be made in the highest degree profitable and instructive when those who meet together have the love of God glowing in their hearts, when they meet to exchange thoughts in regard to the word of God, or to consider methods for advancing His work, and doing good to their fellowmen. When nothing is said or done to grieve the Holy Spirit of God, but it is regarded as a welcome guest, then God is honored, and those who meet together will be refreshed and strengthened. . . . But there has been a class of social gatherings in Battle Creek of an entirely different character, parties of pleasure that have been a disgrace to our institutions and to the church. They encourage pride of dress, pride of appearance, self-gratification, hilarity, and trifling. Satan is entertained as an honored guest, and he takes possession of those who patronize these gatherings. A view of one such company was presented to me, where were assembled those who profess to believe the truth. One was seated at the instrument of music, and such songs were poured forth as made the watching angels weep. There was mirth, there was coarse laughter, there was

abundance of enthusiasm, and a kind of inspiration; but the joy was such as Satan only is able to create," p. 82, 83, Satan entertained as an honored guest. Again, "I saw the rapidity with which this delusion was spreading. A train of cars was shown me, going with the speed of lightning. The angel bade me look carefully. I fixed my eyes upon the train. It seemed that the whole world was on board, that there could not be one left. Said the angel, "They are binding in bundles ready to burn." Then he showed me the conductor, who appeared like a stately, fair person, whom all the passengers looked up to and revered. I was perplexed and asked my attending angel who it was. He said, "It is Satan. He is the conductor in the form of an angel of light. He has taken the world captive. They are given over to strong delusions, to believe a lie, that they may be damned. This agent, the next highest in order to him, is the engineer, and other of his agents are employed in different offices as he may need them, and they are all going with lightning speed to perdition" (EW 88), Satan the conductor of the train, a "stately, fair person, professed SDA's will be on board at all. Also, "I turned to look at the company who were still bowed before the throne; they did not know that Jesus had left it. Satan appeared to be by the throne, trying to carry on the work of God. I saw them look up to the throne, and pray, "Father, give us Thy Spirit." Satan would then breathe upon them an unholy influence; in it there was light and much power, but no sweet love, joy, and peace. Satan's object was to keep them

deceived and to draw back and deceive God's children" (EW 56), how Satan answers prayer!

"Fallen angels upon earth form confederations with evil men. In this age antichrist will appear as the true Christ, and then the law of God will be fully made void in the nations of our world. Rebellion against God's holy law will be fully ripe. But the true leader of all this rebellion is Satan clothed as an angel of light. Men will be deceived and will exalt him to the place of God, and deify him. But Omnipotence will interpose, and to the apostate churches that unite in the exaltation of Satan, the sentence will go forth, 'Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her.'" TM p. 62, the Christ of Babylon clearly Satan.

"Fanaticism" papers, page 36, possible to mingle with seeking earnest of the Spirit a force and presumption not heaven born (1894). Thus way opened for Spiritualism to enter instead. Just as Baal is false Christ, so is Spiritualism false Holy Spirit, not mere peeps and mutters and the like. Idem, page 35, "what will hold God's people from . . false Christs?" "Rebellion and apostasy in air we breathe . . . How will men stand when Satan shall personate Christ and work miracles? Who . . . unmoved by his representations? . . . Satan assuming person of Christ." Idem, page 9: "A new order of things has come into the ministry . . . Believe in Christ . . . heart is not broken." Idem, page 10, "The specious devices of Satan will be brought into the special work of God at this time."

TM 366, definite statement that Satan will impersonate Christ within the SDA's! Also, "There are but two parties. Satan works with his crooked, deceiving power, and through strong delusions he catches all who do not abide in the truth, who have turned away their ears from the truth and have turned unto fables. Satan himself abode not in the truth; he is the mystery of iniquity. Through his subtlety he gives to his soul-destroying errors the appearance of truth. Herein is their power to deceive. It is because they are a counterfeit of the truth that spiritualism, theosophy, and the like deceptions gain such power over the minds of men. Herein is the masterly working of Satan. He pretends to be the savior of man, the benefactor of the human race, and thus he more readily lures his victims to destruction" (TM 365.)

"Those whom Christ commends in the judgment may have known little of theology, but they have cherished His principles. Through the influence of the divine Spirit they have been a blessing to those about them. Even among the heathen are those who have cherished the spirit of kindness; before the words of life had fallen upon their ears, they have befriended the missionaries, even ministering to them at the peril of their own lives. Among the heathen are those who worship God ignorantly, those to whom the light is never brought by human instrumentality, yet they will not perish. Though ignorant of the written law of God, they have heard His voice speaking to them in nature, and have done the things that the law required. Their works are evidence that the Holy Spirit has touched their

hearts, and they are recognized as the children of God” (DA 638).

Think on this: some old American Indians who all worshipped the “Great Spirit” were sincere, taught of Holy Spirit; others worshipped Satan. Only difference was not terminology among them, but hearts. “Fanaticism” page 14, we can follow the wrong captain for some time, and not realize it at all, or that we are departing from the faith. TM 432, 433, there will be profound mysteries in the divine leadings, possibility of getting the wrong leader. Finally, William Booth predicted for our century that we would have religion without the Holy Spirit, Christianity without the true Christ, forgiveness without repentance, salvation without regeneration, heaven without hell. He wasn’t far off!