

When the Church Kept Jesus from Coming

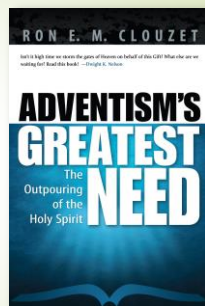
Dr Ron E M Clouzet, NSD Ministerial Secretary
Reignite the Adventist Movement
2019 NZPUC Ministers' Meetings

Greetings from the 750,000 members of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division!

- **Largest population of any division—1.6 billion**
- **The most secular population—less than 4% are Christians**
- **A thorough naturalist and spiritualist influence**
- **Very few Adventist educational institutions**



An abridged version of chapters 3-5

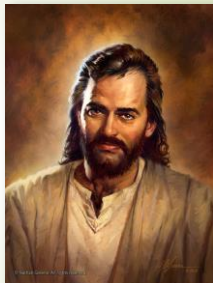


"O, When Shall I See Jesus?"

The earliest Adventists recall the autumn of 1844.



There was a time in our early history when we lost sight of Jesus.



MAY 1856 VISION:

"There was a spirit of consecration [in 1844] that there is not now. What has come over the professed peculiar people of God?"



MAY 1856 VISION:

"I saw the conformity to the world, the unwillingness to suffer for the truth's sake."

Testimonies, vol. 1, 128

**MAY 1856 VISION:**

1. Conformity to the world
= today: **secular spirit**
2. Unwillingness to sacrifice
= today: **lack of total surrender**



**Is this happening in the
NZPUC territory today?**

In November of 1856, James White wrote: **The church of Laodicea is us!**



Revival Followed. One of five had a reconversion experience!



But it did not last five months. Why?



Why the Revival Did Not Last

"Nearly all believed that **this message would end in the loud cry** of the third angel [the outpouring of the Spirit to finish the work]."



Why the Revival Did Not Last

"But as they failed to see the powerful work accomplished in a short time, many lost the effect of the message."



Why the Revival Did Not Last

"I saw that this message would not accomplish its work in a few short months."



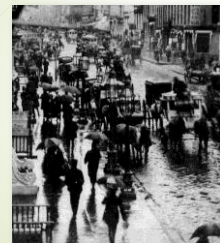
Why the Revival Did Not Last

"God had sent angels. . . **in every direction** to prepare unbelieving hearts for the truth."

Testimonies, vol.1, 186



Prayer/Layman's Revival: 1857-59



Prayer/Layman's Revival: 1857-59

- By February 1858, 10,000 conversions per week!
- It had a national and international impact!



Worldwide Impact:



Ellen White had said Jesus could have come before the war (1861). The great mistake was to stop looking to Jesus!



Somehow, the work could have been finished then, or in the 1890s. Jesus could have come, but the Church didn't cooperate with God's Spirit!



But...They wouldn't have had the whole message, you say?

**All the world needs is Jesus...
He is the Truth that leads to truth!**

John 17:3

"This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."



Ephesians 2:8, 9

"For by grace you have been saved through faith;...it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one should boast."



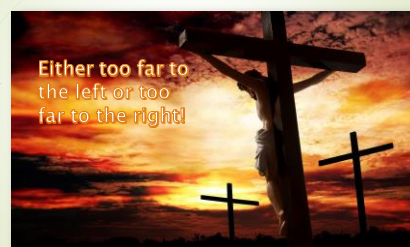
Salvation in World Religions...



Salvation in World Religions...



Christianity? Distortions



The Fullness of Truth

Justification

Sanctification

The Fullness of Truth

Justification

Sanctification

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The Fullness of Truth

Justification

Sanctification

All of God's teachings encompass concepts in tension, both of which are true.

The Scope of Salvation

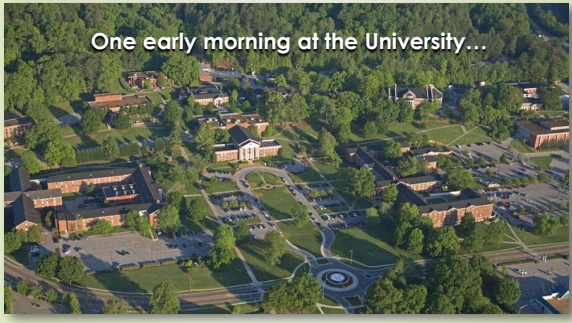
- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ■ Grace/Mercy | ■ Law/Justice |
| ■ Forgiveness | ■ Empowerment |
| ■ Justification | ■ Sanctification |
| ■ Death of Jesus | ■ Life of Jesus |
| ■ Fact accomplished in the past | ■ Process at work in the present |
| ■ Savior | ■ Lord |
| ■ Fruit of the Spirit | ■ Gifts of the Spirit |

Adventism Brought Justice and Mercy Together.
But this must be experienced!



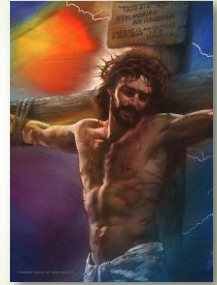
Would it make a difference if someone jumped to prove how far he'd go for love's sake, or if someone jumped after *me* while I'm drowning?

One early morning at the University...



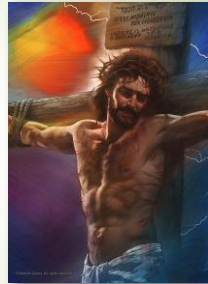
The Desire of Ages,
755, 756.

"The spotless Son of God hung upon the cross, His flesh lacerated with stripes; those hands so often reached out in blessing, nailed to the wooden bars; those feet so tireless on ministries of love, spiked to the tree;



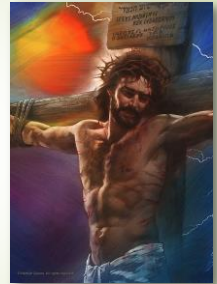
The Desire of Ages,
755, 756.

"that royal head pierced by the crown of thorns; those quivering lips shaped to the cry of woe. And all that He endured—the blood drops that flowed from His head, His hands, His feet, the agony that racked His frame,



The Desire of Ages,
755, 756.

"and the unutterable anguish that filled His soul at the hiding of His Father's face—speaks to each child of humanity, declaring, It is for thee that the Son of God consents to bear this burden of guilt;



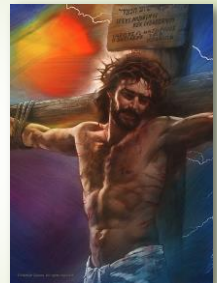
The Desire of Ages,
755, 756.

"for thee He spoils the domain of death, and opens the gates of Paradise. He who stilled the angry waves and walked the foam-capped billows, who made devils tremble and disease flee,



The Desire of Ages,
755, 756.

"who opened blind eyes and called forth the dead to life,—offers Himself upon the cross as a sacrifice, and this from love to thee. He, the Sin Bearer, endures the wrath of divine justice, and for thy sake becomes sin itself."





1888 General Conference Session,
Minneapolis, USA



Anticipating a Powerful Shift

"We are impressed that this gathering will be *the most important meeting you have ever attended....*

You should plead to God for his Spirit to descend upon you as it came upon the disciples [on] the day of Pentecost."

1888 Materials, 38, 40

A. T. Jones (1850-1923)



Christ was lifted up "as never before in our history."

E. J. Waggoner (1855-1916)



What was this Christ-centered teaching?

1. Christ, as a Man, was victor over temptation and sin.
2. Christ died a substitutionary death at the cross for us, paying for our *second* death.
3. Christ broke Satan's power the moment He resurrected.
4. Eternal life is available to those who overcome sin.

What was this Christ-centered teaching?

5. It is impossible to overcome sin in human strength.
6. Through the Spirit, Christ in us makes us overcomers.
7. Christ *in us* is possible and experienced by exposure to Him and meditation on Him, which leads to trust in Him.



Jesus, Jesus, Jesus!

"The Lord in His great mercy sent a most precious message to His people through Elders Waggoner and Jones. This message was to bring more prominently **before the world the uplifted Savior**, the sacrifice for the sins of the whole world..."



Jesus, Jesus, Jesus!

"Many had lost sight of Jesus. They needed to have their eyes directed to His divine person, His merits, and His changeless love for the human family...**This is the message that God commanded to be given to the world.**"



Jesus, Jesus, Jesus!

"It is **the third angel's message**, which is to be proclaimed with a loud voice, and **attended with the outpouring of His Spirit** in a large measure."

Testimonies to Ministers, 91, 92

This Will Usher in the Latter Rain!

"This message, understood in its true character, and proclaimed in the Spirit, will lighten the earth with its glory...[and finish the work]."

1888 Materials, 166



The reason we haven't finished the work is because we are not looking to Jesus!

In the meantime...since 1875...



Evan Roberts (1878-1951)

- Roberts: "Lord, bend me!"
- Welsh Revival: "Bend the church and save the world!"



The Welsh Revival Characteristics

- ✓ Gatherings lasted most of the night
- ✓ Much hymn singing and prayer
- ✓ Clear, open confession of sin
- ✓ Deep repentance

The Welsh Revival Results

- ✓ No more drinking; bars had to close
- ✓ Crime almost disappeared; police became unemployed
- ✓ Horses could no longer understand the coal miners because these didn't swear!

Spread of the Welsh Revival

- Scandinavia and central Europe
- Canada and US, coast to coast
- Australia, New Zealand, So. Africa
- Brazil, Mexico, Chile
- Korean Revival of 1906
- Manchurian Revival of 1908
- It stopped in 1914, due to World War I



God can turn the
world upside
down in no time!

What about His
church?

2 Chronicles 7:14

"If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."



