

Cult Doctrine of Seventh-day Adventism: 1844
Probation & Satan As A Final Sin Bearer

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Cult Doctrine – Seventh-day: 1844

By Larry Wessels

Bible Text: John 10:14, 2 Timothy 2:19

Preached on: Sunday, March 16, 2014

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Larry Wessels. Greetings and welcome to our program. I'm Larry Wessels, Director of Christian Answers. I want to thank you for being with us today. Well, we have a very special guest in the studio and someone who I am greatly happy to have here with us, Dale Ratzlaff. Dale, great to have you here, brother.

Dale Ratzlaff. Good to be here.

Larry. Dale, you were a fourth-generation Seventh-day Adventist.

Dale. That's right.

Larry. And so obviously anyone that has watched our shows and we have over 500 of them now on the internet on YouTube, anyone that has watched our shows or pays attention to our CAnswersTV YouTube channel, knows that we get experts on a lot of subjects speaking on things that they specialize in. So I think it's pretty obvious at this point that since you are a fourth generation Seventh-day Adventist, that your expertise is in that religion so what we'd like to know is, I'm getting ready to have you start speaking about this, and also you're a prolific author, you have a ministry of your own, a website, magazine, we're going to get into all of that but before we get into that, I'd just like to mention to our viewers that we have newsletters of our ministry right here free to anyone that wants to get a copy of these magazines, or not really magazines but newsletters, and

if you need any other help, we have three websites as you can see on your screen, and you are free to call or email us for any assistance you might need.

With that said, Dale, I'd like you to tell our viewers and this is the main purpose for this, a lot of viewers may not know who you are, may not know what you've done and all these things, and that's the whole purpose of this. Please, inform us as to who you are.

Dale. All right, I'll do my best. I come from a very strong Adventist family. My grandfather was one of the vice presidents of the General Conference. My grandmother was a denominationally employed evangelistic Bible worker. My grandfather, I should say my grandmother's brother was the vice president of the General Conference. My grandfather was a pastor. My uncle was a pastor. My mother and father both were missionaries in Panama and raised up a little Adventist church in the Panamanian jungle. So we have strong Adventist roots. I was married to Carolyn M. who was a fourth-generation or fifth-generation Seventh-day Adventist. It was interesting, we knew each other in the third and fourth grades, and then we met again in high school and became boyfriend and girlfriend and got married after one year of college. I was pastoring in Sedona Christian Fellowship, one of my members wanted me to give a Bible study to some Adventists and I said let them lead at first, I was getting acquainted with them. They brought out the Clear Word Adventist Bible and it just so happened it was on Daniel 8:14 which I knew, I had studied that thoroughly, and I read that Clear Word Bible and they had added a whole bunch of Ellen White stuff right in the text in the quotes from an angel in Daniel 8.

Larry. They just added to the word of God.

Dale. They just added to the word of God and something rose up in me, the Holy Spirit or something, and I said this must stop because this is an outright lie. I knew, I mean I had studied that subject well and I knew that was an outright lie, so that's when I wrote "Cultic Doctrine," and I did it in six months, 700 footnotes, and it's an in-depth study of the whole beginnings of the Adventist church, the Shut Door which most Adventists don't know about, and Investigative Judgment, and that Ellen White is a false prophet.

So that's how I wrote "Cultic Doctrine," and then I kept getting emails. I had sold quite a few books, okay, people who asked me questions, why I left the Adventist church and so on, and I finally decided rather than answering all these emails, I'd write, "Truth Led Me Out," all my story which I basically told here. Then people were, evangelicals were saying, "Can you give me a little summary of the problems of Adventism?" and that's why I wrote, "Truth about Adventist "Truth,"" and that lists the 10 main problems of the Seventh-day Adventist church, you might call them the 10 major differences between Adventism and evangelical Christianity, and it's just a summary. It's 88 pages long. It's an easy read but it's documented well enough so you can do more study to do it.

Larry. You know, I've got a book here in my hand called "Sabbath in Christ." Could you tell the people at home about this book?

Dale. Sure, "Sabbath in Christ" is the result of a group study that took us seven months in a church that I pastored shortly after I left the SDA church, and it's a thorough study of the topic of the Sabbath, the covenants in the Gospel, and many theologians have endorsed it. It's our number one bestseller. We have received thousands of emails and letters from people who have been blessed by that book. It's been revised three times and I think it's in its fifth printing and it will help you answer all the questions you have regarding the topic of the Sabbath.

Larry. Well, praise God for that. Okay now, here's a very special book, it's a book that you haven't written.

Dale. No.

Larry. It's called "My Cup Overflows," by Carolyn Ratzlaff. So what can you tell us here?

Dale. Well, this is interesting. Carolyn has been my girlfriend since the third or fourth grade, okay, and in high school and so on, and she wanted to write her experience of leaving the Adventist church but she wanted to include a lot about our own personal journey in Adventism. And an interesting thing in this book was that when we were having our fiftieth wedding anniversary, my wife was going through, Carolyn was going through some things that my mother had left after she died, she died in '06, and she found a little card there that was a Valentines card and it said, it showed a blindfolded girl chasing a boy and it said, "Even though I can't see you, I can seize you." And Carolyn said, "Why in the world did your mom keep that?" She turned it over and on the back it said Carolyn M. She wrote that to me in the third grade and I was in the fourth grade.

So she picks up there and shares our life together in school and high school and so on, and a lot of people have said that's an easy reading book and they really enjoyed it. It's not an ebook, the rest of them are ebooks too on Amazon and Barnes and Noble. That had too many pictures in it so all the pictures of our journey together are there.

Larry. And speaking of publications and things, you've got a very special publication here called the Proclamation Magazine. Now this particular one I'm looking at has new Adventists president affirms the Adventist Gospel. So basically what can you tell us about the Proclamation Magazine overall, its history, how often do you publish it, circulation, and things like that? Then you had mentioned to me before we started filming that this was a very good issue, so you can tell us.

Dale. It's a good issue for a couple of things. "Did Adventist leaders lie to Walter Martin?" You see, most evangelicals will say, "Well, Adventists aren't cults because of what Walter Martin said."

Larry. Right. Right.

Dale. They don't know that the Adventists just deceived him.

Larry. You know, just from my own ministry, I actually on YouTube I have done a lot of shows on Seventh-day Adventists in the past and so I've dealt with a lot of Seventh-day Adventists and I get that Walter Martin argument, and because I've been getting your Proclamation Magazine all these years and when I saw this one, I saved it and I made copies of this and I use your material here to answer these Seventh-day Adventist about Walter Martin on YouTube and it has come in very handy because then they are speechless. They have nothing they can say because of the well documented material you have here. Now for someone watching, can they contact your ministry to get a subscription?

Dale. Yes, it's sent free to about 30,000 homes four times a year, 32 page, full-color.

Larry. Wow.

Dale. It has a fascinating history. I'll not give that right now.

Larry. Yes. Yes. I got you. Okay, then you also with your ministry have a website. Can you tell us a little bit about your website?

Dale. We have four websites I'd like to mention. My website is called lifeassuranceministries.com.

Larry. You'll see it on your screens. They are seeing that on the screen.

Dale. The second one is lifeassuranceministries.org. Now my .com deals with the books and many different articles and I even have books they can download on my website. lifeassuranceministries.org deals with Proclamation.

Larry. Oh, okay, the Proclamation Magazine.

Dale. Right, and they can sign up for free and get it. Then there is formeradventist.com. That is a former Adventist forum and that's run by Richard and Colleen T. who are now the, you might say the president and the editors of Proclamation. I was but I'm getting up in years and I wanted to hand it over to somebody who's got more energy and a longer life than I have.

Anyway, the fourth one is truthorfables.com and that is a website that was developed by someone else. It is huge. He was a former Adventist pastor and it has a huge amount of material on Ellen White and Adventist issues. You could spend hours and hours and hours there going through it and searching it. So our nonprofit corporation owns that now. So all those websites are phenomenal research for anybody that wants to know the truth about Seventh-day Adventists.

Larry. So often when I'm getting emails and phone calls off the Seventh-day Adventist programs we've already put up on YouTube and on public access TV and everything, the

people, a lot of them are coming out and they want to know more and they just have ravenous appetites. You know, I've got a bunch of tracts and things I give them, I give them Xerox copies of some of your stuff and all that, but these four websites you mentioned, it sounds like just the ticket for a lot of these people that want to really dig in and spent a lot of serious study time to really get to the bottom of this issue.

Dale. Yeah, Proclamation has been going since 2000 and so there is a wealth of information there and they can download. lifeassuranceministries.org, you can go back and download a full-color one in a PDF file you can print out on your printer and so it's all available free.

The Main Cultic Doctrine of Seventh-day Adventism
The 1844 Investigative Judgment
From William Miller
To Ellen G. White

with guest
Dale Ratzlaff, former SDA

with host
Larry Wessels, Director – Christian Answers of Austin, TX

Beware of False Prophets, Matthew 7:15

Larry Wessels. Greetings and welcome once again to our program. I'm Larry Wessels, your host and I am Director of Christian Answers of Austin, TX, Christian Debater. Well, we're doing another very special show on the topic of Seventh-day Adventism and joining me in studio, my very special guest, Dale Ratzlaff. Great to have you here, brother.

Dale Ratzlaff. Glad to be here.

Larry. Yes, and as I've noticed from the previous shows we've already filmed, there seems to be pillars that kind of hold up Seventh-day Adventism to be what it is. It's sort of like a three-legged chair, there's different, you know, you take away any one of those legs on a three-legged stool, that stool's gonna fall. But there's maybe one leg of those three that's stronger than the other ones. It might be called like a central pillar that would hold up in this case the Seventh-day Adventist Church but if that pillar were to fall and crumble, well, then the whole structure would fall. So you're our inhouse expert on this subject, having fourth generation Seventh-day Adventist. Please for a moment explain to the people at home what are those three pillars, but then why is the one we're going to be focusing on today the central pillar of those three.

Dale. Okay, the three pillars upon which unique Adventism stands are, 1. Ellen White as a source of truth. You take all her writings out and the whole thing crumbles. 2. Is the

importance and the necessity of Sabbath observance for salvation, especially in the end times. 3. Is the Cleansing of the Heavenly Sanctuary and The Investigative Judgment. Now that last one that I mentioned is called the central pillar of the Advent movement. Actually the Sabbath is the most important to most Adventists but the whole doctrine of the Cleansing of the Heavenly Sanctuary, that is, it has tentacles throughout all of the doctrines of Adventism and that is a necessary ingredient, and all the conference presidents, general conference presidents have stated that they're not gonna change that because they know if they do, the whole church will crumble.

Larry. Now because you've said it's the central pillar, you actually took the time and we've already mentioned this in our opening promo but I'll just show it again to the folks at home, your book "Cultic Doctrine of Seventh-day Adventism: An Evangelical Wake-up Call," so we're gonna focus on the research material and you've got quite extensive research material in here and we're gonna discuss why this pillar is so important to Seventh-day Adventists, and I also understand that this pillar maybe has a lot of cracks in it.

Dale. It does. And let me just say that I left the Seventh-day Adventist Church over this doctrine. I was a firm believer in the Sabbath, I still held Ellen White quite high but not as high as the Adventist Church does when I left, but when I studied into the depth of this doctrine, I realized I could not promise to teach this, I could not stay in the Church because it not only is unbiblical but it is contrary to the gospel and it's actually heretical. And I'm going to read some things here but before we get started to the actual Cleansing of the Heavenly Sanctuary, and I would like to give just a little brief background which also I gave in one of my other lectures that has been taped here. But this one unique doctrine of the heavenly sanctuary and The Investigative Judgment, no other church holds it. Now that should be a red flag in itself. Throughout the whole Christian history, no other church has come up with this doctrine, okay?

And just a little review of how it came. William Miller, a Baptist who was not a trained theologian, he had no hermeneutical background and he was using Cruden's Concordance and the proof-text method came up with 15 lines of prophecy to prove that Christ was coming in 1843. He did not come and it was changed to 1844. And when they did make the change, it was electrified, they knew it was going to be October 22, 1844. Well, we all know that Christ didn't come that day so the next day, October 23, Hiram Edson and a friend who had slept in a barn that night and this particular date was known as the Great Disappointment, okay, and the next morning they were walking through a cornfield and Edson recalls that he just stopped there and he said, "You know, I just feel like I saw up in heaven and instead of Christ coming to earth, he went from the holy to the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary to start a work of judgment." Now Edson has no history as of being a prophet before or after this event and Crosser, M. L. Crosser who wrote this out for the Day Star Extra, a little magazine, he actually renounced it about a month later but he was the one that wrote out this thing.

Well, Ellen White got ahold of this Day Star Extra and she said, "I feel fully authorized by God to recommend this copy of the Day Star Extra to every saint." Now if you read

and it's cultic doctrine, if you read what that original statement said that no atonement was made at the cross, no atonement, okay?

Larry. Oh.

Dale. And there's a lot of heresy there. Anyway, this new teaching soon developed into the Shut Door teaching from the parable of the bridegroom. Remember the parable of the bridegroom in Matthew, it says later the other virgins came saying, "Lord, Lord, open to us." But he answered, "Truly, I don't know you. The door is shut." And Ellen White took this and said the door of mercy was shut.

Now most Adventists do not know that Ellen White taught the Shut Door theology. The Shut Door was taught between 1844 and 1851 and it's interesting that Ellen White's book "Early Writings," which have supposedly all of the writings of Ellen White it in early, and in the preface it says that not any, no changes were made and any changes that were made, an individual word or something, the meaning wasn't changed and it was all done under the author's eye.

Now I'd like to read that first vision, just part of it, okay, and I'll kind of explain what she's talking about. "Others rashly denied the light behind them," that is, they no longer believed in the October 22 teaching, "said that it was not God that had led them out so far. The light behind them went out leaving their feet in perfect darkness. They stumbled and got their eyes off the mark and lost sight of Jesus and fell off the path into the dark and wicked world below." Now notice this sentence and this was left out of the early writings in the book, "It was just as impossible for them to get on the path again and go to the city of God as all the wicked world which God had rejected. They fell all away along the path one after another until they heard the voice of God like many waters which gave the day and the hour of Jesus' coming." So this doctrine has very, a very jaded history of lies and cover-up and false doctrine and reinterpretation to false doctrine, okay?

Now for a while after the disappointment, Ellen White says, "I in common with the Advent body believe that the door of mercy was forever closed to the world." And finally they gave up the Shut Door about 1851 so their children could be saved. And also they had a particular person who wanted to join them and started to worship with them who was not a "44 Adventist," and I don't know why he would want to join them but he did anyway.

Now we come to what is known as The Investigative Judgment. After they gave up the Shut Door, there was a period of time where they kind of, you might say, rearranged their theology still building on the "vision" from Hiram Edson that he had in the cornfield about God going from, or Christ going from one area of the sanctuary to another area. And I'm going to read the summary of this. This is my summary. Every sentence is footnoted and in the book you can see these are all the footnotes and this is just the material, and in "Cultic Doctrine" you'll find the footnotes. There's about 700 footnotes in that book. It's well researched and the reason it's well researched is because this was a thing that I had to decide for before I left Adventism. My conference president said you

must promise to teach this doctrine and I said, "Okay, if you will show me how to get it from Scripture." And I met with many many people, chairman of the department of Loma Linda school of religion pastors, nobody could do it. They all recognized it was false but they couldn't say so because it would hinder their...

Larry. Position.

Dale. Position, right. Okay, so here I'm gonna read it, I'm gonna read it right straight through and listen carefully, okay? Then I'm gonna go back and evaluate it when we get done.

"The Seventh-day Adventist doctrine of the cleansing of the heavenly sanctuary and the investigative judgment teaches that at the ascension Christ entered the outer apartment of the heavenly sanctuary. From that time until 1844," and that would be October 22, 1844, "he performed a ministry of intercession and forgiveness analogous to the earthly sanctuary's outer apartment. In 1844, Christ entered into the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary for the first time," notice that, "to begin a work of investigative judgment. This judgment deals only with those who have professed to believe in God. The wicked according to SDA theology will be judged and then executed at the end of the thousand years of Revelation 20. This investigative judgment reaches clear back to the cases of the dead, clear back to Adam, and reviews the life records of every person who has professed faith in God. Every deed is closely examined. Each succeeding generation is investigated and judged. At some time, none know when, the cases of the dead are completed and then God moves to the cases of the living. SDAs believe that they will not know when their name comes up in judgment therefore it is extremely important that they engage in no frivolous activity or sin. Every sin must be confessed," now listen, "sins which have been forgotten and unconfessed will stand against them in the time of judgment."

Larry. Wow, they better not, they better have good memories.

Dale. I'll go on. "Their characters must demonstrate perfect obedience to the 10 Commandment law, especially the Sabbath or the fourth commandment. Some names in the list of professed believers will be accepted and others will be rejected. When every person confessing faith in God has come up in review, Jesus then pleads his blood before the Father on behalf of those who are found worthy and blots out the record of their sins from the books of heaven. Then not knowing if or when the work of judgment has been completed, the righteous still in their human state before the Second Coming of Christ, will have to live in the sight of a holy God without an intercessor. This, then, completes the atonement. Jesus takes the sins of God's people and transfers them to Satan who is represented by the day of atonement's scapegoat in Leviticus 16. Satan then bears the sins of the righteous, sins that he's caused them to commit, and he will suffer for the sins of the righteous in the lake of fire and then be blotted from existence. The investigative judgment is conducted before all the intelligences of the universe." They believe that there's other planets out there with human-like people on them that are watching us, okay?

Larry. Okay.

Dale. "This, then, vindicates the character of God before all the unfallen beings. Everyone then will know the immutability of the law of God and the righteous character of God."

Now that's a little heavy and I encourage you to read it, get the book "Cultic Doctrine" because that will explain in much more detail. And you know, some evangelicals might not want to read every word of that because unless you're dealing with Adventist ministries....

Larry. This is really written for Adventists to read?

Dale. Yes.

Larry. Okay. That's why you go into such incredible detail. When I was reading the book, I was going like, "Wow, he's going really deep." Most evangelicals, as you were saying, you know, wouldn't know half this stuff to put it in a book but because of your background, you're able to put it in there. Go ahead.

Dale. And God opened the door for that. I mean, he did it. Okay.

Now I'd like to evaluate this, okay? There may be some, now I'm gonna have, I think, 15 different points. This is the first one. There may be some Adventists who will say, "That's not the central pillar of Adventism. Jesus is the center pillar or the Sabbath." However, Ellen White said it is and it is. The Scripture which above all others has been both the foundation and central pillar of the Advent faith was the declaration unto 2,300 days and then shall the sanctuary be cleansed. Okay, that's the text that this whole doctrine was built on.

A recent book on the subject of the sanctuary by Dr. Roy Adams, an Adventist theologian, is subtitled "Understanding the heart of Adventist theology." Okay, and it's on the sanctuary. The adult Sabbath school lessons, 2001, several years ago, is entitled "Pillars of our faith." Now what do you think they are? It includes chapters on the Sabbath, the heavenly sanctuary, the hour of God's judgment, the remnant, and Ellen White. The last two presidents of the general conference have both expressed publicly that the Adventist Church will never change its historical doctrines, especially the doctrine of the heavenly sanctuary.

Now it's of interest to note what Dr. Angel, and it's spelled like angel but I think it's Angel Rodriguez of the Adventist Biblical Research committee said, now what did he say this at? The "Cultic Doctrine" after it was done, I had an Adventist dentist who said this ought to go out to a lot of people, so he paid for me to send this to all the pastors in a couple of conferences and it created such a stir that from the seminary they had to go out and they had this special meeting to deal with the challenge to this doctrine. By the way,

many who were there are no longer Adventist pastors. But at that point I had a tape of that meeting and this is what he said. This is Dr. Angel Rodriguez who at the time was, I think he was chairman of the Adventist Bible Biblical Research committee, okay, and he was a professor at Andrews University. He said that if the sanctuary doctrine is not biblical, there is no reason for the existence of the Adventist Church.

Larry. That makes it sound like it's a very central pillar of the church.

Dale. It sounds like that, right. Okay, so that's the first point. It is the central pillar. Now it may not be the most important pillar in some people's thinking but it's a central pillar of their theology.

2. And Desford pointed this out and it's in here. I quoted from Desford on it, it's built on 22 linking assumptions, and when you have an assumption, the chances of it being right if there are many assumptions that all have to be right for it to be right, is inversely proportional to the number of...

Larry. In other words, there's a low probability...

Dale. A very low probability. Okay, 14 of the 22 assumptions are actually contrary to fact and the other eight can't be proved.

Larry. That sounds like zero probability there.

Dale. The third point, it completely ignores the context of Daniel 8:14. As the late Dr. Raymond Cottrell, Adventism's top Hebrew scholar stated, to get Adventist theology out of Daniel 8:14 one either has to completely ignore the context or one has to make Christ the wicked little horn in the prophecy. There are no other options. And the secret committee, the top secret committee that met for five years realized this, disbanded, and left no minutes and told the Adventist pastors to continue to teach this based on traditional assumptions, okay?

Now 4. This teaching denies Christ's finished atonement at the cross. In fact, the original form of this teaching that Ellen White endorsed stated that no atonement was made at the cross and if one believes as almost all Christians do, I would say all born again Christians...

Larry. There you go. The real ones.

Dale. ...the atonement was finished at the cross and then the foundation and central pillar of Adventism is dead wrong at the very beginning. Hebrews 10:14, "For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified." "Has perfected" is in the perfect tense. Now in Greek the perfect tense means this, I think it's the same as English, it was done in the past but the results continue. So we could say that we live in the ongoing state of perfection because we believe in Jesus Christ. Wow, that's the good news of the gospel contrary to this statement.

Larry. That's right.

Dale. The investigative judgment doctrine supported by Ellen White states that no atonement was made at the cross thus undermining the gospel and the all-sufficient work of Christ but Scripture states that Christ is the one sacrifice that is perfected for all time, those of us who believe in Christ. So let me ask you, who is right? Adventism's doctrine, central doctrine and Ellen White or the writer of Hebrews?

Larry. I'll take the Bible every time.

Dale. You've got to decide and if you're Adventist watching this presentation, you've got to decide. You can't sit on the fence. One of them is right and one of them is wrong.

Now this doctrine teaches that only those who have believed in God come up in the investigative judgment. Did you notice that? Only those who profess to be believers in God come into this judgment but what does John 5:24 say? "Truly, truly," Jesus says, "I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who has sent Me has," present tense, continues, "eternal life, and does not come into judgment." Praise God.

Larry. Amen.

Dale. "And has passed out of death into life." Again, noting the Greek verb, "has passed" is in the perfect tense again. So if we believe in Jesus Christ as Jesus said in John, we have passed out of death into life and there's no going back.

Larry. That's right.

Dale. There's no accepted these people and rejected those. If you believe in Christ, you don't come into judgment, you've passed from death into life.

Larry. That's right.

Dale. Now both can't be right. You've got to decide.

6. This doctrine teaches that Christ did not go into the most holy place and sit at the Father's right hand until October 22, 1844. Now it contradicts many passages, clear passages that teach otherwise such as Hebrews 6:19-20. It says this, "This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek."

Now within the veil. Every time "within the veil" is used, it always refers to the most holy place in the Old Testament. Every time "before the veil" is used it refers to the veil just on the other side of the holy place, okay? And if you say "without the veil," it means outside the holy place. But Ellen White says "within the veil" here means the curtain

between the court and the outer sanctuary. That's contradicting all of Scripture. So "within the veil" definitely means within the most holy place and he entered there at the ascension. It's in the aorist tense, as you know, that means a point of time and that point of time is at the ascension, and that's when Christ entered the most holy place, sat down at the Father's right hand. He sat down because his work was done, okay?

Now it's of interest to note that the fundamental belief of Christ as it's spelled out in their fundamental beliefs says nothing about Christ entering the most holy place or entering the presence of the Father at the ascension, and it does not mention him sitting at the Father's right hand. Why? Because it needs to line up with this theology.

Larry. Exactly.

Dale. Now it's interesting, number 7, this doctrine teaches that sins are not really forgiven at the time of repentance and faith. Repentant believers are placed on probation to see if they will be found worthy of Christ's final atonement. They believe in two atonements. His final atonement is just before the Second Coming, okay? And did you know that Ellen White uses the word "probation" over a thousand times? We're put on probation, no real assurance if you're on probation. And it's not used once in Scripture. And who else uses probation? Joseph Smith.

Larry. It's also analogous to the Roman Catholic doctrine of purgatory, although theirs is after that but, still, purgatory is like a probationary time of you work off your own sins over eons of time and then eventually you can maybe if enough people pray and do Masses for you and light candles, you can get out of there and go to heaven.

Dale. Yeah, Joseph Smith said this, he says, "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling in the days of your probation." Ellen White says this, "Now is the hour of probation with fear and trembling, work out their own salvation." I might just say that there's an awful lot of similarities between Joseph Smith and Ellen White and there's a book that is, I don't know if it will ever be published, but there's work out there to prove it.

Larry. Well, I can tell you right now my viewers here watching this video, that our ministry on our YouTube channel, CANSWERS TV, I actually did a video called "Rise of the Cults. Where did all these American sects come from?" And I actually traced this historical roots of these groups like Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormonism, Seventh-day Adventism, you know, and things of that nature in this video. So we've got it on YouTube right now and so what you're saying is proven by the documented facts. But I'll leave it to the viewers to go check that video out.

Dale. Ellen White says, "Now is the hour of probation." 1 John 2:12 states, "I am writing you, little children, because your sins have been forgiven." You guess what I'm going to say next. It's in the perfect tense.

Larry. Have been.

Dale. Have been forgiven, which describes an ongoing activity. So we live in the state of being totally forgiven.

Larry. Exactly.

Dale. Isn't that cool?

Larry. And, in fact, when you are a born again Christian, you have the Spirit of God in you, he's already testifying, according to Romans 8:1-17, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, all these other places where the Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are the sons and children of God.

Dale. And it's mature sons, it's not little children.

Larry. Right.

Dale. The Greek word is mature son.

Larry. So we know as spiritual believers this to be true. But now if someone doesn't have that Spirit, then they might buy into something like this.

Dale. Okay, again a point of testing. Ellen White and this doctrinal pillar states that we are on probation to see if we qualify for salvation. John states that we live in the ongoing state of forgiveness. Who is correct? You need to make a decision, okay? Are you going to believe the Bible or are you going to believe this Adventist doctrine? You begin to see why I wouldn't teach it.

8. This doctrine teaches that at the final punishment, the sins of the righteous will be placed on Satan therefore Christ really did not suffer the full penalty for our sins. His death served mostly to transfer our sin to the heavenly sanctuary and then transfer them again to Satan who becomes the final sin bearer, and this transfer motif is the underlying motif of Adventist sanctuary theology. And there's all kinds, don't go back to the Old Testament and say when the sinner...

Larry. Scapegoat.

Dale. ...placed his hand on the sheep, you know, he was moving his sin to the sheep and then it went into the sanctuary and then and on. They use, you know, the scapegoat as Satan and so they place the sins on Satan at the end when I believe it refers to Christ who carried our sins away.

Larry. Of course. Christ was the sin bearer.

Dale. Yeah, exactly.

Larry. You can't, you can't take Christ who bore all our sins on the cross and shed his blood for our atonement and then just give the devil credit for some of that by transferring those sins to him as the new sin bearer.

Dale. Right.

Larry. It doesn't, it's unbiblical.

Dale. You see, it comes down to the idea of justification. That means two things, it means that we are totally acquitted of all sin and we are counted righteous. So Jesus dies for our sin and then he carries them away. And so both of those are just two aspects of the atonement of Christ.

Okay, now so it's not just transfer, okay? However, 1 Peter 2:24, I don't think I read this, "He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness, for by His wounds we are healed." So who is your sin bearer? Is it Jesus or is it the devil? One or the other.

Larry. That's amazing because most people watching this are probably totally unaware of any of what you're discussing. That's the value of what you're bringing out.

Dale. Now if you ask an Adventist is the devil your sin bearer? "Oh, no, no, no. Christ is the sin bearer. He transfers it to the devil at the end."

Larry. So why do they say that in light of what you've just read us from Ellen G. White?

Dale. Because they don't want to admit it.

Larry. Oh, okay.

Dale. Okay, 9. This doctrine makes works righteousness necessary for receiving Christ's righteousness yet Scripture is clear that we are saved by grace through faith without works.

10. This doctrine teaches that God's people will have to live in the sight of a holy God without an intercessor. And I have talked to hundreds of people who have lived in fear. In fact, many people that we minister to, thousands, have left the Adventist Church and have given up on salvation because they knew they could never be good enough and they thought they'd have to live in the sight of a God without an intercessor and they thought, "I might as well go out and live in sin because I'm only going to burn for a little while." And somehow God finds them again. You know, they read your things or our books or listen to something and then God finds them.

10. This doctrine teaches that God's people will have to live in the sight of a holy God without an intercessor. You know, this doctrine has created fear in thousands of Adventists. I have known people who have left the Church, they thought they could never

be good enough, have gone out and lived a life of sin and thinking they would only have to burn for a little while because they don't believe in hell, and somehow God met them out there. They read our books, they probably watched your video or something and came back to faith in Christ.

Larry. Praise the Lord.

Dale. But Hebrews 7:25 states. Remember we have to live in the sight of God without an intercessor, but what does Hebrews 7:25 say? "Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him since He always lives to make intercession for them."

Larry. Always making intercession.

Dale. Wow. Who is right? You've got to decide is Ellen White right in this Adventist doctrine, or is it heresy? Are you going to go with the Bible, you know?

11. This doctrine teaches that one must obey the Sabbath perfectly and I encourage you to read or watch the Sabbath presentation. No Adventist has ever done this. Not only do Adventists not teach or not practice the biblical rules for Sabbath keeping, Ellen White gives tons of additional rules. You can't keep the Sabbath and those who promote the Sabbath, all they're doing is promoting condemnation. They think they keep the Sabbath by going to church on Saturday but that's not keeping the Sabbath.

Larry. That's true.

Dale. There's got to be some behavior and who's going to assign that?

Larry. And there's all those rules and regulations associated with it, most of them just have nebulous rules and they just sort of make them up on their own.

Dale. Right. Yup. Yup.

Okay, 12. This doctrine teaches that the 10 Commandments are the foundation of God's government when the Bible teaches that the 10 Commandments are the very words of the old Sinai covenant given only to Israel that has been superseded by the law of Christ which produces a righteousness that is above and beyond that of the old law. In fact, if you read or watch the Sabbath video, the new covenant righteousness is not even associated with the law. As Romans 3:21 states, "But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been manifested."

13. This doctrine teaches that forgotten unconfessed sins will stand against one in the judgment. Wow. Many people who we have interviewed who have come out of Adventism say that they would, every night they would sit back and kneel by their bed or pray and say, "Now let's see, now what, let's see," think of all the sins they had done. I'm not saying you shouldn't do that but it can become a...

Larry. Tremendous burden.

Dale. A burden, an unchristian burden to try to every little thing, you've got to remember it because if you forget it, then it'll come against you in the investigative judgment.

Larry. And even in the Old Testament there's the Old Testament laws that talk about sins that they didn't know they were committing.

Dale. Right.

Larry. And things of that nature, but here she's just kind of taking something like that and sticking it in here when you can't find it at all in the New Testament.

Dale. And I would just say read Romans 5:6-10 and this is cool. This doctrine, this is [unintelligible], teaches that sins will stand against one in the judgment. This undermines Scripture and the gospel. Romans 5 states that God justifies helpless, ungodly sinners who are enemies of God if they place their faith in Christ and his work, okay?

14. This doctrine teaches that we could be judged by our behavior at any moment, creating unnecessary anxiety. And here's a quote from Ellen White, "Satan could find nothing in the Son of God that would enable him to gain the victory. He had kept His Father's commandments and there was no sin in Him that Satan could use to his advantage." Now listen carefully, "This is the condition in which those must be found who shall stand in the time of trouble."

Larry. Holy mackerel.

Dale. You see, remember I said stand in the sight of God without an intercessor?

Larry. Yeah.

Dale. And after the close of probation they're gonna reach perfection.

Larry. Yeah.

Dale. And it's reaching the perfection that justifies God before the universe, okay?

Larry. Talk about self-righteousness here. To achieve that same level as Christ? Is that what you were just saying?

Dale. That's what you're saying, yes.

Larry. That's amazing.

Dale. When the character of Christ is perfectly reproduced in his people, then he will come to claim his own.

Larry. She's raising sinful man up to the level of Christ for the conditions of salvation. Total heresy.

Dale. Now Colossians 1:12 and you've got to get this one, okay? "Giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light." Now this one is of aorist tense. Aorist means a point of time. When were we qualified?

Larry. The moment we believed.

Dale. The moment we believed. So you get that?

Larry. Amen.

Dale. Ellen White says we can't be qualified until we live perfectly like Jesus Christ and the Bible says the moment we accept Jesus Christ, we are – let me read it again – "Giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us," at a point in time when we accepted Christ, "to share in the inheritance of the saints." We're called right now.

Larry. Amen.

Dale. We don't have to do anything else, just believe and keep on believing.

Larry. And that's it. It's as simple as that. It's so simple but it's totally missed by Ellen G. White.

Dale. The good news of the gospel is that if we have responded in faith to God's gracious offer of salvation, we are now qualified for heaven.

15. This doctrine teaches that the investigative judgment and the cleansing of the heavenly sanctuary is the very thing that vindicates the character of God before the onlooking universe, thus taking away the value of the finished atonement at the cross. It contradicts Romans 3:24-26 which are some of the very finest verses on the gospel and it reads, "being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith." Now notice this, "This was to demonstrate His righteousness because in the forbearance of God He passed over sins previously committed for the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus."

Can you see the difference here? Ellen White says it's the Adventist and the investigative judgment and their perfection that's going to justify God before the universe when Christ did it at the cross.

Larry. That's right.

Dale. And so they're, in a sense, usurping the atonement that Christ made at the cross.

Larry. It's light and dark. It's darkness against the light. I'm almost seeing the cunning of the devil in the doctrine she's teaching compared to the glorious news that you keep telling us from Romans.

Dale. Absolutely. In fact, if you read "Cultic Doctrine," you'll read some of the early statements and one chapter is entitled "Right is wrong and wrong is right."

Larry. Right, right. I remember that.

Dale. And it's unbelievable that the Adventist Church, scholars in the Adventist Church and committed Christians could say that her works are an ongoing and authoritative source of truth. It's impossible.

Larry. It's almost like when you were reading that last point there, it's almost like I could hear the devil talking because it was so opposed to the truth of the gospel.

Dale. Alright, my study leads me to conclude that the Spirit of God had nothing to do with the formation and development of this doctrine. It is not true gospel. It is a false gospel. It has the imprint of another spirit. This means, to me, that the foundation and central pillar of the Adventist faith, the very heart of Adventist theology is unbiblical and undermines the finished work of Christ. Remember what Paul wrote to the Galatian church, he said, "I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ for a different gospel; which is really not another, only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel contrary to that which we have preached to you, he is to be accursed. As we have said before, so we say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed." And that's about the strongest language that Paul could use.

Larry. Anathema.

Dale. Anathema.

Larry. Which means basically...

Dale. Go to hell.

Larry. Damned, yeah, that's correct. That's correct.

Dale. It's of interest that Ellen White claims that she had over 2,000 visions and she often says, "I asked my accompanying angel..."

Larry. Accompanying angel?

Dale. Yeah. She uses that phrase a number of times and she uses this phrase "said the angel" according to my research 382 times. So she's taking what this angel supposedly told her.

Larry. It goes right back to Galatians and...

Dale. Exactly. You've got the point. Okay. However her angel was caught in a number of lies and if you want to know what they are, you've got to read the book.

Larry. That's it.

Dale. Okay.

Larry. "Cultic Doctrine." And like I said, many times as we've been doing our different shows on Seventh-day Adventism, I see the patterns of the different religions, the different cults, they have similarities between them with angels being a part of that and the false doctrine that these cult leaders are giving with their, as you said, the accompanying angel.

Dale. Those who are living by the Spirit should have nothing to do with such a false doctrine. It undermines the saving work of Christ which is so great. It's openly renounced as error.

Larry. That's right.

Dale. Well, those of you who are Adventist who are watching this presentation, I really would like you to read that book "Cultic Doctrine." You have enough evidence to know, enough evidence to know for sure that the whole doctrine of the investigative judgment is error. Now most Adventists will say, "Well, I don't understand the investigative judgment," and it's not taught every week anymore, maybe even every month, it could be years they don't talk about it, but it's still the heart of Adventist theology and it has tentacles into every other branch of Adventist theology. And you know your leaders say that they will never ever drop this because they know they can't because if they do, the whole Adventist movement will crumble.

Again, the three pillars: the Sabbath, the authority of Ellen White, and the cleansing of the heavenly sanctuary in the investigative judgment. You must decide are you going to take the simple new covenant gospel of faith in Jesus Christ and know for sure that you're forgiven, that you're qualified right now to be a son of God, fully qualified to be a saint in heaven, or are you going to believe this cultic investigative judgment doctrine that is a damnable lie of Satan? You need to decide and I pray that you will.

Larry. Alright, thank you, Dale. I appreciate that. Once again for our viewing audience, get your hands on this book "Cultic Doctrine" of Seventh-day Adventism. It'll really clear

up a lot of questions you've had about this particular idea that Ellen G. White came up with. It'll be a tremendous help for you if you happen to be in that particular religion or have relatives that are into it and you'd like to help get them out of that and come to the freedom that's in Jesus Christ.

Dale. Amen.

Larry. It'll get away from the slavery that's in this legalism. Like when Dale was reading some of that stuff, I could just hear the devil talking. It was amazing to me the way it came across. But anyway, just remember that you can get into the kingdom today and you don't have to do all this stuff like Dale was just reading through from Ellen G. White and all that stuff. You just have to fall on your knees, cry out to God sort of like the publican did, you have the self-righteous Pharisee over here looking up to heaven, "Thank You, God, that I'm not like this guy." You know, but yet the other guy was totally smashed by his sin and his unworthiness and he cried out to God, "Have mercy on me, Lord, a sinner!" He realized what he was. He knew he was never gonna get up to the level of Christ and he cried out and Jesus said the one on his face, the one that couldn't even look up to heaven, he came away justified. Not the other self-righteous religionist.

So you've got to remember that. You need to cry out to Jesus Christ that he has mercy on you that you would be saved. And if he doesn't answer you today, beg him again tomorrow and the next day and the next day and the next day until finally you're born again by the power of the Holy Spirit and you can see all this stuff clearly and understand the truth that it is in Jesus Christ and his saving death on the cross for us. And then after that, for all the rest of eternity you'll thank Jesus Christ for the rest of eternity basically for what he's done for you.

Alright, with that said I want to thank you for being with us. Dale, I want you to know what a great honor and privilege it's been for you to be here with us.

Dale. It's good to be here. I appreciate your ministry.

Larry. Oh, well, I appreciate yours too as I've been for years. And so if you need help or other information, don't forget to get your hands on this book and the other books that Dale has written. If you need any free information, email us. The websites for Dale's ministry are on the screen right now. As you're looking at me, you can get on there and get much more information about those things and just keep in mind that Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life; no man comes to the Father except by Me." That's John 14:6. He didn't say no one comes to the Father except by Ellen G. White and her investigative judgment. He said no man comes to the Father except by me. So he is the way, the truth and the life.

Alright, with that said thank you for being with us. Join us again next time for Christian Answers Presents. God bless you all.

Announcer. Check out our websites: biblequery.org – this site answers 7,700 Bible questions; historycart.com – this site reveals early church history and doctrine proving Roman Catholicism is not historically or doctrinally viable; muslimhope.com – this site is a classic refutation of Islam, a counterfeit religion created by Mohammad. Free newsletters are also available.