

Former Seventh-day Adventist Pastor for 13 Years
Gives His Testimony of Adventism

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Personal Testimony

By Larry Wessels

Bible Text: Daniel 8:14; 2 Timothy 2:15

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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. 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 used your material here to answer these Seventh-day Adventist about Walter Martin on YouTube and it has come in very handy because that 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.

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 started college with a math major and then I dropped out of college and went into the trucking business for five or six years while our two boys, Bruce and Mike, were born. And while I was in the trucking business, it was real slow one winter and Carolyn's dad said, "Why don't you come and we'll give you some property and you can help me grow watermelons." Well, we went back there, in hindsight, foolishly, and we had only been there a little while and I got deathly sick and I went to the doctor day after day after day and finally he said, "Dale, you've got diphtheria," which is very very rare now. "You'd better go to the hospital." So Carolyn took me down to the hospital about 90 miles an hour the whole way down. We got to the hospital, they would not admit me because they did not have a contagious disease ward. So they quarantined me in a motel and sent a couple of doctors over there to see me. While I was choking, I had a high fever, I would go to sleep and I would wake up gasping for air because my airways would kind of close off, and after two days of that, I knew I was dying and suddenly I realized I was not ready to die.

Now, I had kept the laws of Adventism, I would be what you would call a good little boy for the most part, not that I was totally. But I had never been to a show. I had studied my Sabbath school lessons seven times almost every day, every week. Always went to church. I paid my tithe. I did not gamble. I had never been to a circus. I didn't drink, I didn't even drink coffee. I was a vegetarian, I didn't eat meat. I didn't play cards. I hadn't been to a bowling alley or a circus or a sporting event, a major sporting event. But despite the fact, now I had smoked once. I made a little handmade cigarette out of pencil sharpener shavings. It's probably a lot worse than tobacco but anyway, I had lost my temper a few times. I wasn't perfect obviously, but I knew I wasn't ready to die and suddenly as I was there in bed even though I had a high fever, I was desperate and I remembered a text I had memorized, 1 John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness," and as I thought about that, it must have been God's insight, suddenly I realized for the first time that it wasn't me that made my self righteous, it was God. All I had to do was confess that I was a sinner and I said, "Wow." So I did that and that was a turning point in my life. I had a peace come into my heart. I was no longer afraid to die.

Larry. It sounds like you had a supernatural experience of being born-again by the Holy Spirit.

Dale. Absolutely.

Larry. Which must happen in every case for any real Christian.

Dale. Right, but we didn't, Adventists don't use that term so that term didn't come into my mind at that time but I knew that I had been saved. And I told the Lord, I said, "Okay now, I'm ready to die if you want me to." And I made a covenant with God or maybe he made it with me, I don't know, but I said, "If you let me live, I want to take care of my

beloved Carolyn and our two dear boys. I'll do anything you want me to do if you make it clear," and I told the Lord, I said, "I'm not good at discerning your will and I'm not good at doing a lot of things but I'll do my best if you make it very clear to me what you want me to do."

Well, in three or four days, I was totally well, almost miraculously well. I was sitting at my desk one day and I just knew God was calling me to the ministry. How did I know? I just knew and at that time there was no way that I could go back to a private school and pay tuition. I was making payments on two cars and I wasn't making that much money but I knew I should go. So I was musing with the Lord one day and I pictured an old '55 Chevy, you know, at that time it was not classic, it was just one notch above a pile of junk, just good transportation, and I thought if I could sell my '62 Oldsmobile and my '64 Ranchero that was a hot, little, red, four-speed sort of pickup type car that I really enjoyed, but I wanted to sell it. Then I said maybe I could make it back to school. The next day somebody drove up to our driveway, we lived in Phoenix at the time, in a blue '55 Chevy. I had no for-sale sign in the car. I had not run an ad in the paper and this man I didn't know and he said, "I want to buy your Ranchero and I'll trade you my '55 Chevy for your equity." And in those days you could take over a loan. I don't know if you can do that anymore but anyway, so he took over my loan on my car, gave me the '55 Chevy and I said, "Okay, Lord, I'm going back."

Well, to make a long story short, I went back to college. I took theology and then as I was taking theology, I began to have a few questions. I took Greek and one day...

Larry. Did you go to a Seventh-day Adventist college?

Dale. Yes. I went to Pacific Union College in California.

Larry. Okay, so you're still in the Seventh-day Adventists?

Dale. Oh yes, I'm a committed Seventh-day Adventist at this point. I took Greek and an elder who I really respected, he was an honest scholar, one of the translations was Ephesians 2:8 and 9 and so on, and I went to him after class and I said, "Fred," or Elder V., I called him, I said, "This can't be right because Ellen White says we don't know we're saved. How can we know we're saved because we don't know we're going to be faithful and our name hasn't come up in judgment?" I said, "Is there possibly a manuscript somewhere that might have a variant reading that would read different than this?" And I'll never forget his answer which was very helpful for me. He said, "Dale, we don't study Greek in order to find manuscripts that match our theology, rather we need to match our theology to what the Bible says." And I thought, "Well, that's pretty good." That was the first time I began to realize that there might be some problems with Ellen White and the Gospel as taught in Adventism.

Well, about that same time, there was a lot of discussion about Daniel 8:14 and that's another whole subject that I can't get into here. But that was the you might say, the central pillar of the beginning Adventist movement from William Miller and so on, and I

didn't understand it. I had memorized the SDA chart on Daniel 8:14. I knew the 2,300 days, I could draw the chart, but when I read it in context I said, "Whoa, wait a minute." Daniel 8:14 has a context and the question asked in Daniel 8:13 is the summary of 8 to 12 and 13 is a question and Daniel 8:14 answers the question and it doesn't make sense.

So I went to Dr. Leslie Harding who I was taking a spirit of prophecy class and let me just say, anytime you hear spirit of prophecy, it refers to the writings of Ellen White. Anytime you hear testimonies, think of the writings of Ellen White. Those are kind of codewords. So I went to Dr. Harding one day after class and he was one of my favorite teachers because he brought a lot of Ellen White stuff in and the class was on Ellen White, and I said, "Dr. Harding, what was trampled in 457 BC that was untrampled in 1844," because it was during this time period, and suddenly he stepped back and there was a moment of total silence and he peered at me with a cold penetrating stare. His demeanor totally changed. I had never seen him like that before and I didn't know, I mean, he just continued to stare at me and pretty soon he said, "Dale, aren't you studying for the ministry?" And I said, "Yes" he said, "You shouldn't be asking questions like that." He turned around and walked away and I thought, "Wow, what have I done? Have I by my lack of ignorance shown that I'm not ready to be a pastor or have I broached a question that is off-limits?"

Well, I had told the Lord that I didn't know how to discern his will very good, so I decided I would not look for a job as being a pastor, I wouldn't write a bunch of letters out to Conference presidents to get "a call" to ministry. But Elder R., who was president of the Southern California Conference, was one of the first Conference presidents to come to PUC and I was one of the first candidates that he interviewed, and when I met with him I said, "Elder R., I don't want to go to the seminary. I worked terribly hard working my way through college and I don't want to go to the big bad city of Los Angeles." That's where he was from. The next day I received a phone call and he said, "Dale, I'm calling you to be a pastor. I'm going to send you to this seminary and you'll be pastoring in LA." And I had told the Lord I'd take the first call I got, so there we were.

Well, I went to the Andrews University seminary.

Larry. That's Seventh-day Adventist.

Dale. Seventh-day Adventist seminary, Bering Springs, Michigan, and my favorite classes were the theology of the Sabbath and eschatology, both come from Ellen White's perspective, but the class that was to have the most influence on me was one that Wilbur Alexander taught. It was one called righteousness by faith. And I was fairly young compared to the other pastors who were there and he was a different kind of teacher. Most of the teachers would give lectures and you took notes and then when the test came, you repeated back on the test what they had told you. It made it basically just good memorization. Alexander was different. He gave almost no answers and asked all kinds of questions but he'd give homework assignments. And one question he asked the class was, "When you are justified, are you righteous?" And he never gave any answers and I remember some of the older men getting very angry because he wouldn't answer the

question. Well, I studied. I did not read the Reformers at that time. We were not, to my knowledge, ever assigned stuff to read from Luther and Calvin and so on. But anyway, I decided that we were only accounted as if we were righteous and I put that on the little blue test book and I got an A, so I guess it was what he wanted.

Well, I went to pastor in California, pastored there for several years, and then I was called to be a Bible teacher at Monterey Bay Academy, which is a Seventh-day Adventist boarding high school right on a beautiful campus, 300+ acres, half a mile of private beach. A beautiful campus and that's where Carolyn and I had gone to school, so it was really like coming home. I taught Bible there for seven years and the high point was that I took my Bible doctrines class through the first eight chapters of Romans every year and every time new insights from the book of Romans, and suddenly I understood the Gospel and I was working on my Doctorate of Ministry program at Andrews summer times, and I wanted to do my research dissertation on church growth, so I asked the Conference if I could pastor a church close to Monterey Bay Academy because I had arranged a study program. So we took two busloads of kids out to give Bible studies every week. We would take them to the churches and the churches would have individuals go out to individual homes, evangelistic Bible studies, and I wanted to continue that ministry but also pastor a church.

Well, it was a growing church. We were doing real well and then three things happened to majorly influence my life. Some of these I would leave in MBA, others when I was at the church. The first was Dr. Desmond Ford who was, he was called to be one of the teachers at Pacific Union College in theology, and he wrote, he gave a lecture to the Adventist forum on the Investigative Judgment and he showed some 19 assumptions upon which it was based, or 22 assumptions, I guess it was, so it wasn't biblical, and that tape went around the world and he was immediately relieved of his job and they had a trial for him called Glacier View, and in preparation to that he wrote a 1,000 page manuscript to document his research. It was not to be published.

Go ahead.

Larry. Oh, it just sounds like he did that to prove his thesis.

Dale. Right. Anyway, it was not to be published because it was too sensitive for the laity, okay. Well, somebody, and I know who it was, I believe anyway, Elder Anderson who actually ordained me, his name was written by hand on the Xerox copy that I got, and I didn't ask for it, somebody gave it to me. So I said, okay, I've always had trouble with 1844, remembering what Dr. Harding said, you know, you shouldn't be asking, I said, well, the time has come for me to not only ask the questions but to find answers. So I studied this 1,000 page ministry and I knew that there was nothing to it. There was nothing to support this doctrine. It was merely a way for the Adventists to get out of admitting their error of 1844 and 1843.

Larry. And Desmond Ford just really put the nail to it.

Dale. Absolutely. Absolutely. Okay, so then three things happened. That was the first thing, then secondly, Dr. Raymond C., who had just retired, gave another Adventist forum, this was in San Diego, and he was on the committee that wrote the SDA Bible commentary and because he was the denomination's best Hebrew scholar, their number one Hebrew scholar, he was assigned to write on Daniel. Well, he got to Daniel 8:14 and he could not get Adventist interpretation out of Daniel 8:14 so he went to Elder Lowe, who was in charge of the committee, and then the two of them went to R. R. F., who was the General Conference president at the time and they said, "Look, we can't get Adventist theology out of Daniel 8," and that's the pillar of the Adventist church. Well, F. said, "You get the best minds of Adventism and you form a super-secret committee and you work on this problem until it's solved."

So they did. They got the best minds of Adventism and the men are listed in my work, "Cultic Doctrine," and they worked on it for five years and realized they could not biblically support it. So they didn't know what to do. If we say it's not biblical, then that blows the church up, and if we say it is, we're lying. So they finally disbanded and left no minutes as if they had never met, and they were instructed to tell the pastors to continue to teach the Investigative Judgment based on traditional assumptions.

Well, so that was the second thing. I knew it was wrong, I knew they knew it was wrong and had tried to cover it up. Then the next thing that happened was in the mail one day I got a set of either five or six long cassette tapes from Dr. Zane K., he was a medical doctor, a friend of mine. I did not ask for them and what happened was that Walter Ray who was a pastor I had known in Southern California and I think you may have his book there...

Larry. Yeah, I'm looking for it right now. Here it is.

Dale. Yeah, Walter Ray, it's a book, "White Lie." By the way, we have this on our website. Anyway, he was a really strong believer in Ellen White and he wrote a lot of books summarizing some of the quotes from Ellen White. (I'll set this down.) Anyway, and he was reading some old books on the life of Christ and suddenly he realized, "Man, that sure sounds like Ellen White." So he went and said, "Oh, that's almost like Ellen White says." So that piqued his interest. He got a copy of all the books that Ellen White had in her library and tried to find them and lo and behold, he found that Ellen White plagiarized huge amounts of material.

Larry. That's what this book is all about. He documents everything in this book called, "The White Lie," from the research you're referring to right now.

Dale. Exactly. Exactly. Now, the way she plagiarized and she had some secretaries that helped her, they would change a word here or change a word there, put in a synonym or something else that would sound the same but change it so it wouldn't be quite as evident, so it was deceptive plagiarism, if you will. Anyway, he found that she had plagiarized huge amounts in her books, even in her testimonies to individual people, sometimes even her dreams that she had were quotes from some books, and even in places where she said,

"Said the angel," and she would quote. She had an angel that supposedly spoke to her. She claimed to have 2,000 visions and so on. And often she says, "I was shown," like the angel of God had told her, and then she would quote something, and lo and behold even those, "I was shown," statements often were from some other author.

Larry. So basically the angels that Ellen White was talking to were really these other authors that had written books that were in her library.

Dale. You might say that. Now, she had written a lot of good things too and she quotes from some good authors at times.

So those are three things. I knew I couldn't trust Ellen White anymore, I knew the Adventist church, their Investigative Judgment was wrong, and I knew they knew it was wrong. So about this time, all this stuff started to leak out in the Adventist church and there was a tremendous underground. People were discussing it and I was pastor at the Watsonville Church, and people were asking me about my research and so on, and Dr. Raymond C.'s tape was out, and I had some very professional PhD type and MD elders on my church board so I felt free to give it to them and say, "Let's consider this," because I had always thought that truth was the hallmark of Adventism and I've always sought for truth. I mean, I always want to be a truth seeker.

Well, the quote hit the fan about that time. I got a call from the Conference president, he wanted to talk to me and he said, "I understand you shared all that." Anyway, to make a long story short, I told him I could not preach the Investigative Judgment. He said, "Well, you've got to do it." I said, "I can't unless you can show me how to do it." Well, he had me meet with two people, Harold West who was a ministerial secretary like over the pastors, and Dr. Z. who pastored a large Adventist church in the San Jose area. He had been at the Glacier View trial and he had read that 1,000 page manuscript too.

So we met for four hours, it was recorded. They never gave me a copy and I know it will never be released because both admitted in private that Daniel 8 probably referred to Antiochus Epiphanes. We should not use Ellen White for doctrine. And there was no problem with, you know... Two weeks later at a camp meeting, they were up in front quoting Ellen White, promoting the same Adventist and I began to lose faith in the personnel of Adventism. One day, Harold West knew I was struggling. He took me aside and it was a camp meeting, he took me for a walk and he said, "Dale, let's go for a walk. I want to talk to you." So he wanted to go for a walk where nobody could hear us and he said, "Dale, we both know the doctrine is wrong. It's not our fault. We can't do anything about it. Look at the church as your employer and do what you can with a clear conscience and don't make any waves and you'll be fine. Good retirement here." And I said, "Harold, God called me to teach the truth of the Gospel. Maybe I'm in the wrong denomination."

Well, the day came when we resigned. We had to. At the time, we had just built a new house and that was in the eighties. Our first loan was 12%, our second was 18. My wife was employed at the church. She was an evangelistic Bible worker like my grandmother.

We thought we'd probably lose our house. We didn't. The Lord provided and when I left, I had determined we would never speak against Adventism. I didn't want to be one of these, you know, people.

Larry. Sour grapes people.

Dale. Right. But then over the years, I started a church, mostly former Adventists, a lot of the people, a lot of members of the Watsonville Church came with me when I left and we started a church. It's in my book, "Truth Led Me Out."

Larry. In fact, you kept the name Adventist in the name of that church. What was the name of that church?

Dale. Yeah. Well, at first it was the Biblical Adventist Church, and then we got all kinds of flack from that.

Larry. Who was giving you the flack?

Dale. Well, the church was, the Adventist church.

Larry. Seventh-day Adventists were giving you a hard time about using that name because they didn't consider it you part of them anymore.

Dale. Right. In fact, some of our friends at Monterey Bay Academy, and we have still friends out there, were coming to our church and they got a letter from the Conference president that said, "If you continue that, you're going to lose your job." So they didn't want anybody to come to our church.

Larry. So they were threatening them with their employment.

Dale. So we changed the name to Biblical Fellowship Church. Now, two years after I left, by the way, this is a good insight, I decided I'd put the writings of Ellen White, I'd pick out all of her books and she's written a stack of books about that high, put them in the garage, and I said I will not look at these for six months. Wow. I finally was able to take the Bible for what it said and didn't have to make it explained by Ellen White. So I was just going through the books of the Bible like Corinthian's and so on, and then about two years after we were out, one of our member said, "Dale, why don't we study the Sabbath." I said, "Well, let me think about it." I said, "Okay, based upon a couple of rules. 1. We're going to do a thorough study. A real thorough study. We're going to study it from all points of view and we're going to do it together as a whole group," and we had about 40 or so people that were coming at that time, and I said, "We don't know where we're going to end up." We were far enough out of Adventism not to be bound by their paradigm of theology and yet we were still worshiping on the Sabbath and we felt no reason to change.

So we were at an ideal place to do an inductive study of the Sabbath. I made study guides and we studied Des Ford's book on the Sabbath, we studied ??, his doctorate dissertation, part of us went through that. We did several other, D. A. Carson's, "From Sabbath to the Lord's Day," we studied that. A set of cassette tapes by N. Winger that he had done on the Sabbath. And basically we looked at every text dealing with the Sabbath and the covenants and the Gospel and it was a phenomenal study.

Well, skipping ahead. People wanted me to put it in book form. It took me years to do it and then I began to see that many people were leaving Adventism, in fact, 300,000 Adventist members leave that church every year, and they are programmed to become agnostics.

Larry. Yeah, because once they realize the religion they had all their faith in is not true, then they kind of just give up on God at the same time.

Dale. Absolutely, and Ellen White said that's what's going to happen. So she says if you once believed in the testimonies and leave, you'll be lost. If you once believed in the Sabbath and leave, you'll be lost. And once you leave the Adventist church, you'll be lost.

Then I thought, you know, I'd better write "Sabbath in Christ," at first it was called "Crisis," but then I changed that to "Sabbath in Christ," so that people will feel free to worship in a Sunday church, because for Adventists, it's a tremendous fear for them to worship on Sunday.

Larry. Mark of the beast, right?

Dale. Because Ellen White says it's the mark of the beast. Anyway, that's a short introduction. I was pastoring in Sedona Christian Fellowship and one of my members wanted me to give a Bible study to some Adventists and I said, "Let them lead," at first until we got acquainted with them. They brought out the Clear Word, the 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, okay, 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.

Larry. It's interesting you mentioned the Clear Word Bible by the Seventh-day Adventist church in the sense that the Jehovah's Witnesses, because the King James Bible wasn't

doing a good enough job for proving their doctrine, they had to produce their own Bible called the New World Translation, the Greek Scriptures, and in their version, their translation, they stuck in words and things also to try to force the Bible to teach the kind of doctrines they wanted to teach.

Dale. The Clear Word is about 99% worse than, or 100% worse than the New World Translation.

Larry. That's an incredible document.

Dale. It is. It has hundreds of places where they have added, twisted and in the presentation "Truth About Adventist 'Truth,'" I'll list some of those.

Larry. Right, but to me it's amazing when you know the condemnation the Bible puts on like, Revelation 22, for instance, anyone who adds to or takes away, you get that double whammy, you might say, in the Bible and there are two places in the Bible that God just says, "You'd better not." And I'm thinking to myself how can either these Jehovah's Witnesses or hear you saying the Seventh-day Adventists have done even worse than the Jehovah's Witnesses, what can be going through their mind? Don't they understand that when they put a Bible like that out there, don't they understand they're doing it?

Dale. Okay, here's the deal. The person that wrote it was a chair of the department of religion at Southern Adventist University and he has his ThD. That means he understands not only the Greek but also the Hebrew and he wrote it. This is coming from a top Adventist scholar. It is published in the denominationally owned, Review and Publishing Association. It is sold in Adventists book centers and it was advertised in the Sabbath School Lesson Quarterly. But Adventists will say, "Well, that's not an Adventist Bible." Why? Because they know if they do, they will be called a cult so they try to distance themselves in PR but it's called "the beloved paraphrase" in Adventist circles.

Larry. Oh, okay.

Dale. What I had was actually one of the first copies of the Clear Word Bible, now they've taken off the word "Bible" and now just call it the Clear Word, but it's organized the same as the Bible, you know, with chapter and verse and everything. And there are some parts of it that are not that bad if Adventist doctrine is not in question. But every place Adventist doctrine comes in on the nature of Christ, on the Gospel, on hell, on who Christ is, you know, he's Michael the Archangel and so on. So there are a lot of errors in it.

Larry. Okay, it's interesting you brought up the PR relationship here on how they are handling that because if they were to find out the things we've been talking about with Jehovah's Witnesses, they would say, "That's a cult." But here if they do it, the same thing, well, they realize the double standard of that. So it's interesting.

Dale. So that's how I wrote "Cultic Doctrine." Then I kept getting emails. I had sold quite a few books, okay. People asked me questions, why I left the Adventist church and so on, and I finally decided rather than answering all these emails, I would write "Truth Led Me Out," all my story which I basically told here.

Larry. As we conclude this particular introduction to all of your materials and everything, I was wondering if you could just for a brief moment share with any Seventh-day Adventist who has been watching this, what would you like to say in just in a minute or so as we sign off?

Dale. I would like to say: study. A couple of things. 1. First understand for sure what the Gospel is. This is the thing that Adventists really need to understand. Most of them believe that they understand the Gospel but as soon as they say they understand the Gospel, then they'll say, "Well, but you also have to keep the Sabbath, and it's best if you're a vegetarian, and it's best if you pay a tithe," and on and on and on. So they think they understand the Gospel but then they say, "Well, you're really not saved unless you have all these other things to prove."

Larry. Keep the commandments and all that stuff.

Dale. We need to understand that we are saved by grace through Christ alone without works of any kind. I love Romans 3:21, "But now apart from law," all law, any law, "the righteousness of God," not the righteousness of the law," has been manifested and that justification comes through Jesus Christ, that he provided the redemption and the propitiation that we might be saved and know we're saved, and he has transferred us from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of light. And that word "transferred" is in the perfect tense in Greek which means that it was done and the results continue. It's a once for all event, praise the Lord.

Larry. Amen. Amen.

Dale. So if you are a Seventh-day Adventist watching, I implore you to study to know the Gospel first. Secondly, I know the Sabbath is the most important doctrine for you and I would encourage you to get "Sabbath in Christ" or watch some of our Sabbath presentations because the Sabbath is not required for new covenant believers, and I know all your arguments and they are all answered by Scripture in our programs. God bless you.

Larry. God bless you.

Dale. Call us.

Larry. Thank you, thank you so much. All right, just do what Dale says, contact the ministry and the help his there for you. All right with that, remember Jesus Christ said that he is the way, the truth and the life, no man comes to the Father except by him, John 14:6.

Dale. Amen.

Larry. God bless. Be with us again next time.

Dale. Amen.

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 Mohammed.

Free newsletters are also available.