

End-Time Soul Winners



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Evangelism and Adventism

The Often Missing Piece in Character Development

Proper Evangelism

God calls upon the workers in this mission to elevate the standard, and to show their regard for his requirements by honoring the Sabbath.... From this place the publications are sent out, and the laborers go forth to proclaim the commandments of God; and it is of the greatest importance that a right influence be exerted by this church, both by precept and example. The standard must not be placed so low that those who accept the truth shall transgress God's commandments while professing to obey them. Better, far better, would it be to leave them in darkness until they could receive the truth in its purity. (3SM 259.5)

Proper Evangelism

- ❖ Many have been discouraged from doing evangelism in the church because it has been done in an improper way
- ❖ Perhaps we are focused on making sure our church has its theology correct and we will engage in evangelism later
- ❖ Clearly more work needs to be done in educating churches to do evangelism properly

Where Does Evangelism Fit in Last Generation Theology?

- ❖ Evangelism, rightly done, is the final and vital piece to Last Generation Theology
- ❖ Revelation 14:6, 7 - gospel preached to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people
- ❖ Matthew 24:14 - gospel preached for a **witness**
- ❖ Revelation 18:1-5 - earth **illuminated** with glory of God's character

Where Does Evangelism Fit in Last Generation Theology?

Before the fall of Jerusalem, Paul, writing by the Holy Spirit, declared that the gospel was preached to “every creature which is under heaven.” Colossians 1:23. So now, before the coming of the Son of man, the everlasting gospel is to be preached “to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people.” Revelation 14:6, 14. God “hath appointed a day, in the which He will judge the world.” Acts 17:31.

(DA 633.3)

Where Does Evangelism Fit in Last Generation Theology?

Christ tells us when that day shall be ushered in. He does not say that all the world will be converted, but that “this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.” **By giving the gospel to the world it is in our power to hasten our Lord’s return.** We are not only to look for but to hasten the coming of the day of God. 2 Peter 3:12, margin. Had the church of Christ done her appointed work as the Lord ordained, the whole world would before this have been warned, and the Lord Jesus would have come to our earth in power and great glory. (DA 633.3)

Adventists and Evangelism

- ❖ How many Seventh-day Adventists do you know that are truly excited about evangelism?
- ❖ How many Seventh-day Adventists do you know that are actively engaged in evangelism?
- ❖ How many people have you heard say that soul-winning and evangelism are not their gift?

Adventists and Evangelism

- ❖ We are good at little cliches such as:
- ❖ “I am a silent witness”
- ❖ “Preach the gospel. Use words when necessary.”
- ❖ And if we are honest with ourselves, our silent witness of “preaching” the gospel without words is so ineffective that many do not even know that we are Christians.

Adventists and Evangelism

- ❖ I have heard some say, “I’m not into evangelism now, but when the loud cry goes forth, then I will become active in soul-winning and evangelism.”
- ❖ That’s like saying, “I’ll surrender my life to Jesus when the Sunday Law is passed.”

Christ and Adventism

“Christ was a Seventh-day Adventist, to all intents and purposes.” *Medical Ministry*, p. 49

Christ's Method Alone

The world needs today what it needed nineteen hundred years ago—a revelation of Christ. A great work of reform is demanded, and it is only through the grace of Christ that the work of restoration, physical, mental, and spiritual, can be accomplished. (MH 143.2)

Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, "Follow Me." (MH 143.3)

Adventists and Evangelism

“Those who do not submit to the influence of the Holy Spirit soon lose the blessings received when they acknowledged the truth as from heaven. They fall into a cold, spiritless formality; they lose their interest in perishing souls: **they have ‘left their first love.’**” *Review and Herald*, July 16, 1895

Adventists and Evangelism

The sanctification of the soul by the working of the Holy Spirit is the implanting of Christ's nature in humanity. Gospel religion is Christ in the life—a living, active principle. It is the grace of Christ revealed in character and wrought out in good works. The principles of the gospel cannot be disconnected from any department of practical life. Every line of Christian experience and labor is to be a representation of the life of Christ. (COL 384.1)

Adventists and Evangelism

Love is the basis of godliness. Whatever the profession, no man has pure love to God unless he has unselfish love for his brother. But we can never come into possession of this spirit by trying to love others. What is needed is the love of Christ in the heart. When self is merged in Christ, love springs forth spontaneously.

The **completeness of Christian character is attained** when the impulse to help and bless others springs constantly from within—when the sunshine of heaven fills the heart and is revealed in the countenance. (COL 384.2)

Pentecost and the Early Church

- ❖ Acts 2:47 - “And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.”
- ❖ A Spirit-filled church will have genuine soul-winning and evangelism



“The wheat develops ‘first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear.’ The object of the husbandman in the sowing of the seed and the culture of the growing plant is the production of grain. He desires bread for the hungry, and seed for future harvests. So the divine Husbandman looks for a harvest as the reward of His labor and sacrifice. Christ is seeking to reproduce Himself in the hearts of men; and He does this through those who believe in Him. The object of the Christian life is fruit bearing—the reproduction of Christ’s character in the believer, that it may be reproduced in others.” (COL 67.1)

“There can be no growth or fruitfulness in the life that is centered in self. If you have accepted Christ as a personal Saviour, you are to forget yourself, and try to help others. Talk of the love of Christ, tell of His goodness. Do every duty that presents itself. Carry the burden of souls upon your heart, and by every means in your power seek to save the lost. As you receive the Spirit of Christ—the Spirit of unselfish love and labor for others—you will grow and bring forth fruit. The graces of the Spirit will ripen in your character. Your faith will increase, your convictions deepen, your love be made perfect. More and more you will reflect the likeness of Christ in all that is pure, noble, and lovely.” (COL 67.3)

“‘The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance.’ Galatians 5:22, 23. This fruit can never perish, but will produce after its kind a **harvest** unto eternal life.” (COL 68.1)

“‘When the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come.’ Christ is waiting with longing desire for the manifestation of Himself in His church. When the character of Christ shall be perfectly reproduced in His people, then He will come to claim them as His own.” (COL 69.1)

“It is the privilege of every Christian not only to look for but to hasten the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, (2 Peter 3:12, margin). Were all who profess His name bearing fruit to His glory, how quickly the whole world would be sown with the seed of the gospel. Quickly the last great harvest would be ripened, and Christ would come to gather the precious grain.” (COL 69.2)

Harvest is Ready

- ❖ John 4:35
- ❖ Fields are white already to harvest
- ❖ What are we waiting for?
- ❖ Why are we not working to reach the harvest of the world?



Notwithstanding the widespread declension of faith and piety, there are true followers of Christ in these churches. Before the final visitation of God's judgments upon the earth there will be among the people of the Lord such a revival of primitive godliness as has not been witnessed since apostolic times. The Spirit and power of God will be poured out upon His children. At that time many will separate themselves from those churches in which the love of this world has supplanted love for God and His word. Many, both of ministers and people, will gladly accept those great truths which God has caused to be proclaimed at this time to prepare a people for the Lord's second coming. (GC 464)

The great work of the gospel is not to close with less manifestation of the power of God than marked its opening. The prophecies which were fulfilled in the outpouring of the former rain at the opening of the gospel are again to be fulfilled in the latter rain at its close. Here are “the times of refreshing” to which the apostle Peter looked forward when he said: “Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; and He shall send Jesus.” Acts 3:19, 20. (GC 611.3)

Servants of God, with their **faces lighted up** and shining with holy consecration, **will hasten from place to place to proclaim the message from heaven.** By thousands of voices, all over the earth, the warning will be given. Miracles will be wrought, the sick will be healed, and signs and wonders will follow the believers. Satan also works, with lying wonders, even bringing down fire from heaven in the sight of men. Revelation 13:13. Thus the inhabitants of the earth will be brought to take their stand. (GC 612.1)

Concluding Thoughts

- ❖ God will vindicate Himself and return to this earth when He has a generation who are a reproduction of His character and who are actively engaged in bearing fruit to others
- ❖ It is not enough to know the truth and to refrain from sinning
- ❖ The **completeness of Christian character is attained** when the impulse to help and bless others springs constantly from within (COL 384)

Concluding Thoughts

Those who wait for the Bridegroom's coming are to say to the people, "Behold your God." The last rays of merciful light, the last message of mercy to be given to the world, is a revelation of His character of love. The children of God are to manifest His glory. In their own life and character they are to reveal what the grace of God has done for them. (COL 415.5)

Loud Cry/ Sunday Law

- ❖ When the law of God is finally made void by legislation.—The Signs of the Times, June 12, 1893. (LDE 198.5)



Earth's Final Warning

- ❖ We will be able to proclaim the final fall of Babylon when we fully have the character of Jesus



Earth's Final Warning

- ❖ Then God will allow the National Sunday Law and the final events of Earth's history



The Three Angels' Messages and the 144,000

- ❖ God uses the three angels' messages to produce the 144,000 of Revelation 14:12
- ❖ The 144,000 are a reproduction of Christ's character



The Three Angels' Messages and the 144,000

❖ The 144,000 are able to give the Loud Cry with power because they are like Jesus



The 144,000 and the Vindication of God

- ❖ Ezekiel 36:20-23
- ❖ “I shall be sanctified in you”
- ❖ *Qadash* - to be sanctified, purified, dedicated, consecrated
- ❖ God Vindicates Himself Through the 144,000



Vindication of God

The Saviour came to glorify the Father by the demonstration of His love; so the Spirit was to glorify Christ by revealing His grace to the world. The very image of God is to be reproduced in humanity. **The honor of God**, the honor of Christ, is involved in the **perfection** of the character of His people. (DA 671.3)