

Truth For the Final Generation

Midday Message

“The Father Himself Loves you!”

Opening Hymn: 225 NH “God is Working His Purpose Out”

Scripture Reading: John 16:25-27

Introduction:

In our last study we saw that God has promised to fight for His people once they diligently give heed to His word. Unfortunately, it has often been the case that they have not consistently done so rather they have turned to their own understanding and failed to achieve the purpose of God. There have been high points of victory throughout salvation history and God is now revealing important truth.

The Doctrine of Intercession

*Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.
Romans 8:34*

Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. Hebrew 7:25

And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God. Romans 8:27

²⁵ These things have I spoken unto you in proverbs [figurative language]: but the time cometh, when I shall no more speak unto you in proverbs [figurative language], but I shall shew you plainly of the Father. ²⁶ At that day ye shall ask in my name: and I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for you: ²⁷ For the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God. John 16:25-27

The Traditional Christian View

Most evangelical and protestant denominations view the intercession of Christ from a point of application of the results of the accomplished atonement on the cross. They view it as Christ covering faults and sins as the advocate before the father and pleading on the sinner's behalf. They do not believe that there will be a moral change of heart because but rather that they are

The Traditional Seventh Adventist View

Most Seventh Day Adventist view the intercession of Christ in the heavenly sanctuary as a courtroom scene because the biblical language gives that understanding. The Father is viewed as the Judge; The Son is viewed as the Advocate (c.f. 1 John 2:1) or Lawyer and the sinner stands accused and condemned by the broken law and the devil himself as the accuser of the brethren (c.f. Revelation 12:10).

For this reason, it is not uncommon for Adventists and opponents of the message to view this scene as Jesus Christ pleading to the Father to appease His wrath and secure pardon for the penitent sinner from an offended God. They believe that the righteousness of God is imputed to the believer (put to his account) by virtue of the cross but more recently the idea of a final generation of living saints who reach character perfection before Jesus comes has all but been lost. Additionally, the investigative judgement adds to this misunderstanding because of erroneous views of the character of God.

Intercession in The Holy Place

At His ascension in A.D. 31 Jesus took on the role of priest in the heavenly sanctuary. The sacrifice was offered, and He commenced the work of mediation that paralleled the work of God on the earth. This was the mediatorial Atonement. From AD 31 to 1844 our Lord and Savior was performing the work of intercession on behalf of His people who, as the apostle Paul said, would face a falling away and an eventual revival.

¹Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, ²That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. ³Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3

²⁸Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. ²⁹For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Acts 20:28, 29

had entered and were at the time of the rise of the three angels messages were emerging from darkness into light.

The three Angels Messages

¹⁴ And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed (restored to its rightful state [ESV]). Daniel 8:14

⁹ And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand,

¹⁰ The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: ¹¹ And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name. Revelation 14:9-11

A Solemn Message

The most fearful threatening ever addressed to mortals is contained in the third angel's message... 4SP 282.1

The warning against this sin (that is, the final rejection the gospel invitation through the work of the Holy Spirit) and the way of escape contained is this most important message for these last days.

In the Most Holy Place

After 1844 our Saviour commenced the work of the cleansing of the sanctuary and of the people in the heavenly sanctuary.

³³ And he shall make an atonement for the holy sanctuary, and he shall make an atonement for the tabernacle of the congregation, and for the altar, and he shall make an atonement for the priests, and for all the people of the congregation.

³⁰ For on that day shall the priest make an atonement for you, to cleanse you, that ye may be clean from all your sins before the Lord. Leviticus 16:33, 30

Is God for us?

³¹ What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? ³² He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

When we seem to doubt God's love and distrust His promises we dishonor Him and grieve His Holy Spirit. How would a mother feel if her children were constantly complaining of her, just as though she did not mean them well, when her whole life's effort had been to forward their interests and to give them comfort? Suppose they should doubt her love; it would break her heart. How would any parent feel to be thus treated by his children? And how can our heavenly Father regard us when we distrust His love, which has led Him to give His only-begotten Son that we might have life? The apostle writes, "He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?" Romans 8:32. And yet how many, by their actions, if not in word, are saying, "The Lord does not mean this for me. Perhaps He loves others, but He does not love me." SC 118.2

The work of Jesus Christ in the Most Holy Place of the Heavenly Sanctuary is to produce a people motivated by the agape or caritas Love of God who will CHOOSE to believe ALL God's promises! This is because they understand finally that God was never against them but always for them!

The Father is For Us

²⁵ These things have I spoken unto you in proverbs [figurative language]: but the time cometh, when I shall no more speak unto you in proverbs [figurative language];, but I shall shew you plainly of the Father. ²⁶ At that day ye shall ask in my name: and I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for you: ²⁷ For the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God. John 16:25-27

The Son of God is for Us

Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. Romans 8:34

Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. Hebrew 7:25

The Holy Spirit is for Us.

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. ²⁷ And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God. Romans 8:26.27

Therefore, Our Saviour is performing a two-fold work in the Heavenly Sanctuary. On one hand He, in His glorified humanity, is representing mankind to God by virtue of His infinite sacrifice. In other words, He is showing what mankind IS “in Him” by virtue of the infinite sacrifice. Secondly, He is representing the character of the Father to humanity revealing the great love that drove Him to make that sacrifice witnessing to the fact that God is agape or caritas.

Ellet J. Waggoner's View

... Too many people separate the Father and the Son in the work of the Gospel. Many do so unconsciously. God, the Father, as well as the Son, is our Saviour. “God so loved the world, that He gave his only-begotten son.” John 3:16. “God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself.” 2 Corinthians 5:19. “The council of peace” is “between them both.” Zechariah 6:13. Christ came to the earth only as the representative of the Father. Whoever saw Christ, saw the Father also. John 14:9. The works which Christ did, were the works of the Father, who dwelt in him. Verse, 10.

Even the words which he spoke, were the words of the Father. Verse, 24. When we hear Christ saying, “Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest,” we are listening to the gracious invitation of God the Father. When we see Christ taking the little children up in his arms, and blessing them, we are witnessing the tenderness of the Father. When we see Christ receiving sinners, mingling with them, and eating with them, forgiving their sins, and cleansing the hideous lepers with a touch, we are looking upon the condescension and compassion of the Father. Even when we see our Lord upon the cross, with the blood streaming from his side, that blood by which we are reconciled to God, we must not forget that “God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself,” so that the apostle Paul said, “the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.” Acts 20:28. WOR¹ 7.1

¹ <https://egwwritings.org/read?panels=p1613.55&index=0>

Ellen White's View

But this great sacrifice was not made in order to create in the Father's heart a love for man, not to make Him willing to save. No, no! "God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son." John 3:16. The Father loves us, not because of the great propitiation, but He provided the propitiation because He loves us. Christ was the medium through which He could pour out His infinite love upon a fallen world. "God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself." 2 Corinthians 5:19. God suffered with His Son. In the agony of Gethsemane, the death of Calvary, the heart of Infinite Love paid the price of our redemption. Steps to Christ 13.2

Appeal

There are those who have known the pardoning love of Christ and who really desire to be children of God, yet they realize that their character is imperfect, their life faulty, and they are ready to doubt whether their hearts have been renewed by the Holy Spirit. To such I would say, Do not draw back in despair. We shall often have to bow down and weep at the feet of Jesus because of our shortcomings and mistakes, but we are not to be discouraged. Even if we are overcome by the enemy, we are not cast off, not forsaken and rejected of God. No; Christ is at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. Said the beloved John, "These things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." 1 John 2:1. And do not forget the words of Christ, "The Father Himself loveth you." John 16:27. He desires to restore you to Himself, to see His own purity and holiness reflected in you. And if you will but yield yourself to Him, He that hath begun a good work in you will carry it forward to the day of Jesus Christ. Pray more fervently; believe more fully. As we come to distrust our own power, let us trust the power of our Redeemer, and we shall praise Him who is the health of our countenance. SC 64.1

The closer you come to Jesus, the more faulty you will appear in your own eyes; for your vision will be clearer, and your imperfections will be seen in broad and distinct contrast to His perfect nature. This is evidence that Satan's delusions have lost their power; that the vivifying influence of the Spirit of God is arousing you. SC 64.2

Closing Hymn: "I Believe Jesus Saves"

Yours In Our Master's Service

Elder Ryan Griffith

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