

THE GREAT DECEPTION

Pillars of our Faith

Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. Jude 1:3

“The enemy of souls has sought to bring in the supposition that a great reformation was to take place among Seventh-day Adventists, and that this reformation would consist in giving up the doctrines which stand as the pillars of our faith, and engaging in a process of reorganization. Was this reformation to take place, what would result? The principles of truth that God in His wisdom has given to the remnant church, would be discarded. Our religion would be changed. The fundamental principles that have sustained the work for the last fifty years would be accounted as error. A new organization would be established. Books of a new order would be written. A system of intellectual philosophy would be introduced. The founders of this system would go into the cities, and do a wonderful work. The Sabbath of course, would be lightly regarded, as also the God who created it. Nothing would be allowed to stand in the way of the new movement. Letter 242, 1903 par. 13 (1 SM 204.2)

Analysis of the above tells us that the enemy seeks to bring in a great reformation. The reformation would consist in:

A. The giving up of doctrines which stand as the

pillars of our faith

B. Engaging in a process of reorganization

The result would be:

1. Principles of truth would be discarded
2. Our religion would be changed
3. Fundamental principles would be counted as error
4. A new one organization would be established
5. Books of a new order would be written
6. Intellectual philosophy would be introduced
7. The Sabbath would be lightly regarded
8. Nothing would be allowed to stand in the way of the new movement
9. What are the doctrines which stand as the pillars of our faith? SDAs believe many doctrines which are held in common with most Protestant bodies, e.g. baptism by immersion, the Lord's supper, the creation account of Genesis 1 etc., but they are some distinct fundamental doctrines which differ starkly from these bodies and are counted as error. Following is a list of some such doctrines.
10. The Sanctuary and the pre-advent judgement or the investigative judgement
11. The atonement – the high priestly work of Christ in the heavenly sanctuary
12. The incarnation – the Bible teaching that Christ came in the sinful nature of humanity after the fall
13. The Sabbath – as the seventh day
14. The state of the dead – the non-immortality of the human soul
15. The Spirit of Prophecy as manifested through E.G. White

16. The Three Angels Messages of Revelation 14

Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein. Jeremiah 6:16

Landmarks or pillars

“Let the truths that are the foundation of our faith be kept before the people. Some will depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. They talk science, and the enemy comes in and gives them an abundance of science; but it is not the science of salvation. It is not the science of humility, of consecration, or of the sanctification of the spirit. We are now to understand what the pillars of our faith are, -- the truths that have made us as a people what we are, leading us on step by step.”

Review and Herald, May 25, 1905)

In Minneapolis God gave precious gems of truth to His people in new settings. This light from heaven by some was rejected with all the stubbornness the Jews manifested in rejecting Christ, and there was much talk about standing by the old landmarks. But there was evidence they knew not what the old landmarks were. There was evidence and there was reasoning from the word that commended itself to the conscience; but the minds of men were fixed, sealed against the entrance of light, because they had decided it was a dangerous error removing the “old landmarks” when it was not moving a peg of the old landmarks, but they had perverted

ideas of what constituted the old landmarks.

Counsel to Writers and Editors (CW) 30.1

“The passing of the time in 1844 was a period of great events, opening to our astonished eyes the cleansing of the sanctuary transpiring in heaven, and having decided relation to God’s people upon the earth, [also] the first and second angels’ messages and the third, unfurling the banner on which was inscribed, “The commandments of God and the faith of Jesus [including Righteousness by Faith].” One of the landmarks under this message was the temple of God, seen by His truth-loving people in heaven, and the ark containing the law of God. The light of the Sabbath of the fourth commandment flashed its strong rays in the pathway of the transgressors of God’s law. The nonimmortality of the wicked is an old landmark. I can call to mind nothing more that can come under the head of the old landmarks. All this cry about changing the old landmarks is all imaginary.” CW 30.2

We are God’s commandment-keeping people. For the past fifty years every phase of heresy has been brought to bear upon us, to becloud our minds regarding the teaching of the Word—especially concerning the ministration of Christ in the heavenly sanctuary, and the message of Heaven for these last days, as given by the angels of the fourteenth chapter of Revelation. 1 SM 208.2

Yours in the Service of God

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