



d'Sozo

REVERSING THE WORST EVIL

The Unified Field of Atonement

REPETITION FOR THE SAKE OF EMPHASIS

Review

- ◆ **The “Passing of the Time” in 1844 led to a recognition of the Antitypical Day of Atonement, and—in time—to the whole distinctive eschatology of the Adventist Church**
- ◆ **The root meaning of the noun “atonement” is the adjective phrase “at-one”**
- ◆ **The greatest evidence of Christ’s at-one-ness with His Father was works of kindness**
- ◆ **That’s why Jesus pointed John the Baptist to His “medical missionary” work as the sign that He was the Messiah**

Review

- ◆ John's confusion had come from not realizing that "the principle of self-abnegation" that the Holy Spirit had called him to follow, was the *universal* principle of operation for the kingdom of heaven—that even the *Messiah* would live that way!
- ◆ At-one-ment is a function of the Priest
- ◆ In His "High-Priestly Prayer," Jesus prayed that His followers might be "one" with Him and the Father "that the world may believe that You sent Me"
- ◆ It is the "glory" of Christlike character displayed in the merciful acts of His followers which proves they are "one" with Him

Review

- ◆ In fact, this display of Christlike “works” by His followers will be “greater” than what Jesus did when He was on earth
- ◆ Christ’s work is described in Isaiah 61, and our work is described in Isaiah 58, which shows how “Medical missionary work is to be bound up with the message, and sealed with the seal of God”
- ◆ And, since the seal of God is the Sabbath—
“We cannot keep this day holy unless we serve the Lord in the manner brought to view in” Isaiah 58

Looking Forward

“When our churches will fulfill the duty resting upon them, they will be living, working agencies for the Master. The manifestation of Christian love will fill the soul with a deeper, more earnest fervor to work for Him who gave His life to save the world....”

“We shall see the medical missionary work broadening and deepening at every point of its progress, because of the inflowing of hundreds and thousands of streams, until the whole earth is covered as the waters cover the sea.”

—Notebook Leaflets, book one, 18

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Looking Forward

“They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.”

—Isaiah 11:9

“For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.”

—Habakkuk 2:14

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The Worst Case Scenario

“Should all the inhabitants of this little world refuse obedience to God, He would not be left without glory. He could sweep every mortal from the face of the earth in a moment, and create a new race to people it and glorify His name. God is not dependent on man for honor.”

—Review and Herald, March 1, 1881

The Worst Case Scenario

“Before Christ’s first advent.... all heaven waited the bidding of their Commander to pour out the vials of wrath upon a rebellious world. One word from Him, one sign, and the world would have been destroyed. The worlds unfallen would have said, ‘Amen. Thou art righteous, O God, because Thou hast exterminated rebellion.’”

—*Signs of the Times*, August 27, 1902

The Worst Case Scenario

“He has worlds upon worlds that give Him divine honor, and heaven and all the universe would have been just as happy if He had left this world to perish.”

—Review and Herald, March 9, 1886

The Worst Case Scenario

“Three times Christ prayed, ‘Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me.’... What if His request had been granted, and the cup had passed from Him? The scene that was presented before me as the result of such a decision made me for a time lose all consciousness. When I awoke the scene was presented to me again and again until it had passed before me three times.

“As I have thought of that cup trembling in the hands of Christ; as I have realized that He might have refused to drink it and left the world to perish in its sin, I pledged that every energy of my life should be devoted to Christ, that I may win souls to Him.”

—General Conference Bulletin, June 6, 1909

Looking Forward

“We are to work the works of Christ.... Isaiah says, ‘Thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the Lord shall be thy rearward.’... This is the work that must be done before Christ shall come in power and great glory.... Man is the agent through whom God works for man, and yet how few have given themselves unreservedly to work the works of God. Man can accomplish nothing without Jesus, and yet it is so arranged in the plan of salvation, that its great object cannot be consummated without human co-operation.”

—Review and Herald, November 1, 1892

Looking Forward

“There are some who withhold themselves from their fellow men, and shut themselves within themselves, and the gospel of Jesus Christ is made void by their practice. Their words go as far as expressions of warmth, but the poor are not clothed, nor fed, nor warmed, nor taught, nor given personal labor.

“These indolent, slothful servants are abundant; but they say, and do not. They themselves are destitute of hope, faith, and love, and they are not helped by the gospel, because they are not doers of the word.

Looking Forward

“Some moral expressions are made, and some frozen exhibitions are shown, but the bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness do not penetrate the heart, brighten the life, and give vitality to their religious experience. They do not know what service, unselfish service, to God means. Many consider that it will sometime be their duty; but it cannot be now. They contemplate it afar off, as something we are not ready for, when it should have been brought into their life at the very beginning of their religious experience....

Looking Forward

“The moral apathy that is prevailing in the churches today, would be largely corrected, if they would consider that they are under service to God to do the very work Christ did when he was upon the earth and ‘went about doing good.’...

Looking Forward

“This work is the work the churches have left undone, and they cannot prosper until they have taken hold of this work in the cities, in highways, and in hedges.

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“This work is the work the churches have left undone, and they cannot prosper until they have taken hold of this work in the cities, in highways, and in hedges. **Then angels of God will co-operate with human instrumentalities, and a religious system will be inaugurated to relieve the necessities of suffering human beings who are in physical, mental, and moral need.**”

—*Home Missionary*, November 1, 1897

The Loud Cry

“Cry aloud, spare not; Lift up your voice like a trumpet; Tell My people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.”

—Isaiah 58:1

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Atonement

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“Then you shall cause the trumpet of the Jubilee to sound on the tenth day of the seventh month; on the Day of Atonement you shall make the trumpet to sound throughout all your land.”

—Leviticus 25:9

The Loud Cry

“The time of test is just upon us, for the loud cry of the third angel has already begun in the revelation of the righteousness of Christ, the sin-pardoning Redeemer. This is the beginning of the light of the angel whose glory shall fill the whole earth.”

—Review and Herald, November 22, 1892

Righteousness by Faith

“Faith in Jesus Christ as our personal Saviour, the One who pardons our sins and transgressions, the One who is able to keep us from sin and lead us in His footsteps, is set forth in the fifty-eighth chapter of Isaiah. Here are presented the fruits of a faith that works by love and purifies the soul from selfishness. Faith and works are here combined....

“‘Thy righteousness shall go before thee.’ What does this mean? Christ is our righteousness.”

—Review and Herald, March 17, 1910

The Message Cried Aloud

“‘Why have we fasted,’ they say, ‘and You have not seen? Why have we afflicted our souls, and You take no notice?’ In fact, in the day of your fast you find pleasure, and exploit all your laborers. Indeed you fast for strife and debate, and to strike with the fist of wickedness. You will not fast as you do this day, to make your voice heard on high. Is it a fast that I have chosen, a day for a man to afflict his soul? Is it to bow down his head like a bulrush, and to spread out sackcloth and ashes? Would you call this a fast, and an acceptable day to the LORD?”

—Isaiah 58:2–5

The Message Cried Aloud

“loose the bonds of wickedness... undo the heavy burdens... let the oppressed go free...break every yoke... share your bread with the hungry... shelter the poor who are cast out... clothe the naked... extend your soul to the hungry... satisfy the afflicted soul

The Parallels

**“And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans
write,**

The Parallels

“These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked

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The Parallels

“I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.

The Parallels

“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.”

—Revelation 3:14-21

The Parallels

“Since the time of the Minneapolis meeting, I have seen the state of the Laodicean Church as never before.”

—*Review and Herald*, August 26, 1890

Missing in Action

“I asked the meaning of the shaking I had seen and was shown that it would be caused by the straight testimony called forth by the counsel of the True Witness to the Laodiceans. This will have its effect upon the heart of the receiver, and will lead him to exalt the standard and pour forth the straight truth. Some will not bear this straight testimony. They will rise up against it, and this is what will cause a shaking among God’s people.”

—Early Writings, 270

The Straight Testimony (sort of)

“Says the true Witness, ‘Behold, I stand at the door and knock.’... ”

“The heavenly Guest is standing at your door, while you are piling up obstructions to bar His entrance. Jesus is knocking through the prosperity He gives you. He loads you with blessings to test your fidelity, that they may flow out from you to others. Will you permit your selfishness to triumph? Will you squander God’s talents, and lose your soul through idolatrous love of the blessings He has given.”

—*Review and Herald*, November 2, 1886

The Straight Testimony (sort of)

“All His gifts are to be used in blessing humanity, in relieving the suffering and the needy. We are to feed the hungry, to clothe the naked, to care for the widow and the fatherless, to minister to the distressed and downtrodden. God never meant that the widespread misery in the world should exist. He never meant that one man should have an abundance of the luxuries of life, while the children of others should cry for bread. The means over and above the actual necessities of life are entrusted to man to do good, to bless humanity.

The Straight Testimony (sort of)

“The Lord says, ‘Sell that ye have, and give alms.’ Be ‘ready to distribute, willing to communicate.’ ‘When thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind.’ ‘Loose the bands of wickedness,’ ‘undo the heavy burdens,’ ‘let the oppressed go free,’ ‘break every yoke.’ ‘Deal thy bread to the hungry,’ ‘bring the poor that are cast out to thy house.’ ‘When thou seest the naked,... cover him.’ ‘Satisfy the afflicted soul.’ ‘Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.’ These are the Lord’s commands.”

—Christ’s Object Lessons, 370

The Straight Testimony (sort of)

“The work of the people of God is to enlighten the world, in accordance with the directions given in the fifty-eighth chapter of Isaiah. Here is presented the plan of work which is to be carried on in every place where the truth takes hold of minds and hearts. In connection with the proclamation of the message is to be done the work of relieving families who are in distress. Those who take their position on the Lord’s side are to see in Seventh-day Adventists a warm-hearted, self-denying, self-sacrificing people, who cheerfully and gladly minister to the needy.”

—*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 1, 224

Keeping the Balance

“But the work of providing for all the depraved, all the drunkards, and all the prostitutes, has not and never will be given by the Lord to Seventh-day Adventists.”

—*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 1, 224

Medical Missionary work is...

- ◆ **The sign of our at-one-ment with Jesus**
- ◆ **The evidence of His Messiahship**
- ◆ **The prerequisite for the latter rain**
- ◆ **The “glory of the Lord” in the loud cry**
- ◆ **What Laodiceans don't have**



Fire Retardant

“Notwithstanding the plain evidence of the Lord’s providence in these destructive fires, some among us have not hesitated to make light of the statement that these buildings were burned because men had been swaying things in directions which the Lord could not approve.

Fire Retardant

“Men have been departing from right principles, for the promulgation of which these institutions were established. They have failed of doing the very work that God ordained should be done to prepare a people to ‘build the old waste places’ and to stand in the breach, as represented in the fifty-eighth chapter of Isaiah. In this scripture the work we are to do is clearly defined as being medical missionary work.

Fire Retardant

“This work is to be done in all places. God has a vineyard; and He desires that this vineyard shall be worked unselfishly. No parts are to be neglected. The most neglected portion needs the most wide-awake missionaries to do the work which, through Isaiah, the Holy Spirit has portrayed:

“Is not this the fast that I have chosen?...”

—Testimonies, vol. 8, 218

Fire Retardant

“The word was spoken, ‘God will cleanse and purify His temple in His displeasure.’

“In the visions of the night, I saw a sword of fire hung out over Battle Creek.

“Brethren, God is in earnest with us. I want to tell you that if after the warnings given in these burnings, the leaders of our people go right on, just as they have done in the past, exalting themselves, God will take the bodies next. Just as surely as He lives, He will speak to them in language that they cannot fail to understand.”

—Manuscript Releases, vol. 4, 367

The Unjust Steward's New Plan

“To the unfaithful steward his lord's goods had been entrusted for benevolent purposes; but he had used them for himself. So with Israel....

“The servant in the parable had made no provision for the future. The goods entrusted to him for the benefit of others he had used for himself; but he had thought only of the present. When the stewardship should be taken from him, he would have nothing to call his own. But his master's goods were still in his hands, and he determined to use them so as to secure himself against future want.

The Unjust Steward's New Plan

“To accomplish this he must work on a new plan. Instead of gathering for himself, he must impart to others....

“So with the Pharisees. The stewardship was soon to be taken from them, and they were called upon to provide for the future. Only by seeking the good of others could they benefit themselves. Only by imparting God's gifts in the present life could they provide for eternity.”

—*Christ's Object Lessons*, 369

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The Last Call to the Supper

“Doctor Kellogg is doing the very work which God has given to the church in Battle Creek—the last call to the supper He has prepared....

“Time is short, and there is a great work to be done. If you feel no interest in the work that is going forward, if you will not encourage medical missionaries to work in the churches, they will do it without your consent, for this work must and will be done. Brother _____, Brother _____, Brother _____, Brother _____, in the name of the Lord, I call upon you to take your position on the Lord’s side. Do not be found fighting against God.”

—Manuscript Releases, vol. 11, 218

The Last Call to the Supper

“The medical missionary workers are doing the long-neglected work which God gave to the church in Battle Creek—they are giving the last call to the supper which He has prepared.

“In order to be carried forward aright, the medical missionary work needs talent. It requires strong, willing hands, and wise, discriminating management. But can this be while those in responsible places—presidents of conferences and ministers—bar the way?

“The Lord says to the presidents of conferences and to other influential brethren: ‘Remove the stumbling blocks that have been placed before the people.’...

The Last Call to the Supper

“Time is short, and there is a great work to be done. If you feel no interest in the work that is going forward, if you will not encourage medical missionary work in the churches, it will be done without your consent; for it is the work of God, and it must be done.”

—Testimonies, vol. 8, 71, 75

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The Revelation of God's Character...

“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.”

—Christ's Object Lessons, 69

“The completeness of Christian character is attained when the impulse to help and bless others springs constantly from within”

—Christ's Object Lessons, 384

The Revelation of God's Character...

“As Christians we are to have a righteousness that shall be developed and seen—a righteousness that represents the character of Jesus Christ when He was in our world.”

—*Bible Commentary*, vol. 4, 1151

The Revelation of God's Character...

“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.”

—Christ's Object Lessons, 415

The Revelation of God's Character...

“Search heaven and earth, and there is no truth revealed more powerful than that which is made manifest in works of mercy to those who need our sympathy and aid. This is the truth as it is in Jesus. When those who profess the name of Christ shall practice the principles of the golden rule, the same power will attend the gospel as in apostolic times.”

—Mount of Blessing, 137

“The standard of the golden rule is the true standard of Christianity. Anything short of it is a deception.”

—General Conference Bulletin, July 1, 1900

...in Apostolic Power

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—*Mount of Blessing*, 137

...in Apostolic Power

“God’s work is ever to be a sign of His benevolence, and just as that sign is manifest in the working of our institutions, it will win the confidence of the people, and bring in resources for the advancement of His kingdom. The Lord will withdraw His blessing where selfish interests are indulged in any phase of the work; but He will put His people in possession of good throughout the whole world, if they will use it for the uplifting of humanity. The experience of apostolic days will come to us when we wholeheartedly accept God’s principle of benevolence.”

—Special Testimonies, Series B, No. 4, 10

...in Apostolic Power

“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.”

—*Great Controversy*, 464

...in Apostolic Power

“Nothing will help us more at this stage of our work than to understand and to fulfill the mission of the greatest *Medical Missionary* that ever trod the earth; nothing will help us more than to realize how sacred is this kind of work and how perfectly it corresponds with the lifework of the *Great Missionary*. The object of our mission is the same as the object of *Christ’s* mission. Why did God send His Son to the fallen world? To make known and to demonstrate to mankind His love for them....

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...in Apostolic Power

“God’s purpose in committing to men and women the mission that He committed to Christ is to disentangle His followers from all worldly policy and to give them a work identical with the work that Christ did.”

—Medical Ministry, 24

...in Apostolic Power

“In no way could the Lord be better glorified and the truth more highly honored than for unbelievers to see that the truth has wrought a great and good work upon the lives of naturally covetous and penurious men. If it could be seen that the faith of such had an influence to mold their characters, to change them from close, selfish, overreaching, money-loving men to men who love to do good, who seek opportunities to use their means to bless those who need to be blessed, who visit the widow and fatherless in their affliction, and who keep themselves unspotted from the world, it would be an evidence that their religion was genuine.”

—*Testimonies*, vol. 2, 239

Medical Missionary work is...

- ◆ **The sign of our at-one-ment with Jesus**
- ◆ **The evidence of His Messiahship**
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- ◆ **The “glory of the Lord” in the loud cry**
- ◆ **What Laodiceans don't have**
- ◆ **Fire retardant**
- ◆ **The unjust steward's new plan**
- ◆ **The last call to the supper**
- ◆ **Apostolic power to reveal God's Character**

The Basis of the Judgment

“When the Son of man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory: and before Him shall be gathered all nations: and He shall separate them one from another.’ Thus Christ on the Mount of Olives pictured to His disciples the scene of the great judgment day. And He represented its decision as turning upon one point. When the nations are gathered before Him, there will be but two classes, and their eternal destiny will be determined by what they have done or have neglected to do for Him in the person of the poor and the suffering.”

—Desire of Ages, 637

The Basis of the Judgment

“There is a work to be done by our churches that few have any idea of. ‘I was an hungered,’ Christ says, ‘and ye gave me meat; I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink; I was a stranger, and ye took me in; naked, and ye clothed me; I was sick, and ye visited me; I was in prison, and ye came unto me.’... there is a work, as yet untouched, that must be done. The mission of Christ was to heal the sick, encourage the hopeless, bind up the brokenhearted. This work of restoration is to be carried on among the needy, suffering ones of humanity.

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The Basis of the Judgment

“God calls not only for your benevolence, but your cheerful countenance, your hopeful words, the grasp of your hand. Relieve some of God’s afflicted ones. Some are sick, and hope has departed. Bring back the sunlight to them. There are souls who have lost their courage; speak to them, pray for them. There are those who need the bread of life. Read to them from the Word of God. There is a soul sickness no balm can reach, no medicine heal. Pray for these, and bring them to Jesus Christ. And in all your work, Christ will be present to make impressions upon human hearts.

The Basis of the Judgment

“This is the kind of medical missionary work to be done. Bring the sunshine of the Sun of Righteousness into the room of the sick and suffering. Teach the inmates of the poor homes how to cook.”

—Call to Medical Evangelism, 23



**Proclamation is the Explanation
of the Demonstration**

**Proclamation without Demonstration
is actually Misinformation**

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- ◆ **The basis of the judgment**

The Catalyst that Closes Probation

“If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. He who hates Me hates My Father also. If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father.”

—John 15:22-24

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- ◆ **The catalyst that closes probation**

It's Simple...

“Read Isaiah 58, ye who claim to be children of the light. Especially do you read it again and again who have felt so reluctant to inconvenience yourselves by favoring the needy. You whose hearts and houses are too narrow to make a home for the homeless, read it; you who can see orphans and widows oppressed by the iron hand of poverty and bowed down by hardhearted worldlings, read it.

“Are you afraid that an influence will be introduced into your family that will cost you more labor, read it. Your fears may be groundless, and a blessing may come, known and realized by you every day.

It's Simple...

“But if otherwise, if extra labor is called for, you can draw upon One who has promised: ‘Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily.’ The reason God’s people are not more spiritually minded and have not more faith, I have been shown, is because they are narrowed up with selfishness. The prophet is addressing Sabbathkeepers, not sinners, not unbelievers, but those who make great pretensions to godliness.

It's Simple...

“It is not the abundance of your meetings that God accepts. It is not the numerous prayers, but the rightdoing, doing the right thing and at the right time. It is to be less self-caring and more benevolent. Our souls must expand. Then God will make them like a watered garden, whose waters fail not.”

—*Testimonies*, vol. 2, 35

“It is the very essence of all right faith to do the right thing at the right time.”

—*Testimonies*, vol. 6, 24

d'Sozo

REVERSING THE WORST EVIL

1

This file was originally prepared by Dave Fiedler, but you are welcome to use, share, or adapt it. Just don't make it heretical. Seriously—don't do that. If you happen to find additional information that somehow improves this presentation, please be so kind as to email a copy to me at dfiedler@AdventistCityMissions.org.

My book on Adventist History, *Hindsight*, is also available through that address. (\$10 +s/h; free s/h on 5 or more copies). The book upon which this series of talks is based, (same title and subtitle as above) is currently available online from Remnant Publications. The HEALTH program (that's "Health Evangelism And Leadership Training for Him" and I highly recommend the class) operated by Weimar Institute has a supply, and the book is also available in at least some ABC's. If you are interested in box lots (36 copies per box), you could get in touch with me at the email above and I may (or may not) be able to help out on the pricing.

Questions and comments are always welcome, but please don't deprive yourself of sleep or food while waiting for a reply.

The notes for this file are typed out in some length so that readers can more or less re-create the full message of the presentation.

Sometimes there are notes intended to be read *before* the text on the slide, though usually the notes come *after* the text. How can you know? Just look for **CLICK** in the notes. If you see the bright red word, it means that the notes to that point apply *before* some element of the page which, in the original presentation format, would appear when the speaker "clicked" his remote control. It's not totally consistent, but if you're smart enough to be reading this, you're smart enough to figure it out. Any slide with no **CLICK** in it means that you read the slide first, then read the notes, and move on.



The Unified Field of Atonement

REPETITION FOR THE SAKE OF EMPHASIS

Review

- ◆ **The “Passing of the Time” in 1844 led to a recognition of the Antitypical Day of Atonement, and—in time—to the whole distinctive eschatology of the Adventist Church**
- ◆ **The root meaning of the noun “atonement” is the adjective phrase “at-one”**
- ◆ **The greatest evidence of Christ’s at-one-ness with His Father was works of kindness**
- ◆ **That’s why Jesus pointed John the Baptist to His “medical missionary” work as the sign that He was the Messiah**

CLICK for each item

Review

- ◆ John's confusion had come from not realizing that "the principle of self-abnegation" that the Holy Spirit had called him to follow, was the *universal* principle of operation for the kingdom of heaven—that even the *Messiah* would live that way!
- ◆ At-one-ment is a function of the Priest
- ◆ In His "High-Priestly Prayer," Jesus prayed that His followers might be "one" with Him and the Father "that the world may believe that You sent Me"
- ◆ It is the "glory" of Christlike character displayed in the merciful acts of His followers which proves they are "one" with Him

CLICK for each item

Review

- ◆ In fact, this display of Christlike “works” by His followers will be “greater” than what Jesus did when He was on earth
- ◆ Christ’s work is described in Isaiah 61, and our work is described in Isaiah 58, which shows how “Medical missionary work is to be bound up with the message, and sealed with the seal of God”
- ◆ And, since the seal of God is the Sabbath—
“We cannot keep this day holy unless we serve the Lord in the manner brought to view in” Isaiah 58

CLICK for each item

I shared these ideas with a good friend a while ago, and his initial response was, “You’re not planning on the Lord coming any time soon, are you?”

I admit that it sounds like a stretch to get Adventists out doing deeds of kindness all over the world. “Medical missionary work” sounds kind of quaint in our high tech culture. If that’s what it takes to finish the Lord’s work, it doesn’t really look like it’s going to happen “any time soon.”

But the whole Isaiah 58 scenario has one good thing going for it: God says it is going to happen.

Looking Forward

“When our churches will fulfill the duty resting upon them, they will be living, working agencies for the Master. The manifestation of Christian love will fill the soul with a deeper, more earnest fervor to work for Him who gave His life to save the world....

“We shall see the medical missionary work broadening and deepening at every point of its progress, because of the inflowing of hundreds and thousands of streams, until the whole earth is covered as the waters cover the sea.”

—Notebook Leaflets, book one, 18

OK, this is a nice idea, but how is it supposed to actually happen?

Notice a couple details that might be helpful:

Looking Forward

“When our churches will fulfill the duty resting upon them, they will be living, working agencies for the Master. **The manifestation of Christian love will fill the soul with a deeper, more earnest fervor to work for Him who gave His life to save the world....**

“We shall see the medical missionary work broadening and deepening at every point of its progress, because of the inflowing of hundreds and thousands of streams, until the whole earth is covered as the waters cover the sea.”

—*Notebook Leaflets*, book one, 18

In other words, there is a sort of chain-reaction influence. One person manifests Christian love, and it inspires the next guy over to “a deeper, more earnest fervor.”

Did you know that’s what mission stories are for? The classic Sabbath School mission story was started at Madison College in about 1905—not to inspire bigger offerings—it was to inspire more missionaries!

So be a mission story, yourself! (David Gates)

Looking Forward

“When our churches will fulfill the duty resting upon them, they will be living, working agencies for the Master. The manifestation of Christian love will fill the soul with a deeper, more earnest fervor to work for Him who gave His life to save the world....

“We shall see the medical missionary work broadening and deepening at every point of its progress, because of the inflowing of hundreds and thousands of streams, **until the whole earth is covered as the waters cover the sea.**”

—*Notebook Leaflets*, book one, 18

And another detail—does this phrase ring any bells?

Yes, it’s Biblical. And I rather suspect Ellen White used it quite deliberately. Notice the original context...

Looking Forward

“They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.”

—Isaiah 11:9

“For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.”

—Habakkuk 2:14

We looked at the “glory of the Lord” in our last meeting.

What is it? His character.

And how is it going to become common knowledge worldwide? People like you and me are going to be doing the same works that Jesus did, using the same method Jesus used.

Why? Because “Christ’s method alone will give true success in reaching the people.”

But now, back to our statement...

Looking Forward

“When our churches will fulfill the duty resting upon them, they will be living, working agencies for the Master. The manifestation of Christian love will fill the soul with a deeper, more earnest fervor to work for Him who gave His life to save the world....

“We shall see the medical missionary work broadening and deepening at every point of its progress, because of the inflowing of hundreds and thousands of streams, until the whole earth is covered as the waters cover the sea.”

—Notebook Leaflets, book one, 18

Well, this is a nice quotation, but—still—what if it just never happens? I don't mean that disrespectfully; it's a serious question. How many Old Testament verses are there that promise the triumph of Jerusalem and the conversion of the gentiles? We just looked at two of them, didn't we?

We pass over all that pretty easily now, and say that those prophecies will be fulfilled by Spiritual Israel (meaning “us”). But remember—the Jews' failure led to their rejection, and there isn't any reason to assume there is a new third option that allows us to fail and still succeed. So let's at least be honest and admit the magnitude of what we're talking about.

Continue notes on next page:

The Worst Case Scenario

“Should all the inhabitants of this little world refuse obedience to God, He would not be left without glory. He could sweep every mortal from the face of the earth in a moment, and create a new race to people it and glorify His name. God is not dependent on man for honor.”

—Review and Herald, March 1, 1881

The Worst Case Scenario

“Before Christ’s first advent... all heaven waited the bidding of their Commander to pour out the vials of wrath upon a rebellious world. One word from Him, one sign, and the world would have been destroyed. The worlds unfallen would have said, ‘Amen. Thou art righteous, O God, because Thou hast exterminated rebellion.’”

—Signs of the Times, August 27, 1902

The Worst Case Scenario

“He has worlds upon worlds that give Him divine honor, and heaven and all the universe would have been just as happy if He had left this world to perish.”

—Review and Herald, March 9, 1886

Now, we ought to be careful how we interpret these statements. I don't believe they imply a callous, who-cares-about-them attitude. But sin is bad enough that—once the evil of it is understood—the rest of the universe doesn't have a problem getting rid of it.

So the question always comes up—“Dave, do you really think that could happen?”

And my answer is, “Sure, the option exists.” But I don't think it will happen. I think the “the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.”

Still, we're fools if it doesn't worry us!

The Worst Case Scenario

“Three times Christ prayed, ‘Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me.’... What if His request had been granted, and the cup had passed from Him? The scene that was presented before me as the result of such a decision made me for a time lose all consciousness. When I aroused the scene was presented to me again and again until it had passed before me three times.

“As I have thought of that cup trembling in the hands of Christ; as I have realized that He might have refused to drink it and left the world to perish in its sin, I pledged that every energy of my life should be devoted to Christ, that I may win souls to Him.”

—General Conference Bulletin, June 6, 1909

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I think that’s an intelligent decision! I recommend it! In fact, anyone who *doesn’t* “pledge every energy of their lives” to the Lord’s work is just not thinking clearly!

But, back to the question of a few minutes ago....

Does the “glory of the Lord” really need to cover the earth like the waters cover the sea? Or can we get by without it?

Do Adventists really need to represent the character of God in practical “works of righteousness” like Isaiah 58 says? Or can we get by without it?

Looking Forward

“We are to work the works of Christ.... Isaiah says, ‘Thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the Lord shall be thy rearward.’... This is the work that must be done before Christ shall come in power and great glory.... Man is the agent through whom God works for man, and yet how few have given themselves unreservedly to work the works of God. Man can accomplish nothing without Jesus, and yet it is so arranged in the plan of salvation, that its great object cannot be consummated without human co-operation.”

—Review and Herald, November 1, 1892

Why does it need human co-operation?

I have a whole package of reasons to answer that question, but we don't have time to go over them now. If you're interested—and it would be really encouraging if every Seventh-day Adventists were—you might enjoy listening to a talk of mine on AudioVerse called “The Long Campaign.” I recommend it highly.

But if you strip out all the fascinating details, the issue here boils down to one simple fact—some things require action and demonstration; not just words and theory.

Looking Forward

“There are some who withhold themselves from their fellow men, and shut themselves within themselves, and the gospel of Jesus Christ is made void by their practice. Their words go as far as expressions of warmth, but the poor are not clothed, nor fed, nor warmed, nor taught, nor given personal labor.

“These indolent, slothful servants are abundant; but they say, and do not. They themselves are destitute of hope, faith, and love, and they are not helped by the gospel, because they are not doers of the word.

Looking Forward

“Some moral expressions are made, and some frozen exhibitions are shown, but the bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness do not penetrate the heart, brighten the life, and give vitality to their religious experience. They do not know what service, unselfish service, to God means. Many consider that it will sometime be their duty; but it cannot be now. They contemplate it afar off, as something we are not ready for, when it should have been brought into their life at the very beginning of their religious experience....

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Do we have any recent converts here?

Who is the last person to be baptized?

Whoever you are, take note: “Unselfish service” is to be brought into your life at the very beginning of your religious experience. The good news for you recent converts is that you still have the chance to get it right. Those of us who have been church members for decades already... well, some of us have some lessons to learn.

But let's go on...

Looking Forward

“The moral apathy that is prevailing in the churches today, would be largely corrected, if they would consider that they are under service to God to do the very work Christ did when he was upon the earth and ‘went about doing good.’...

What kind of work?

Looking Forward

“This work is the work the churches have left undone, and they cannot prosper until they have taken hold of this work in the cities, in highways, and in hedges.

Maybe I'm just too excitable, or maybe a little panicky or something... but that whole “cannot prosper until” thing makes me nervous.

Looking Forward

“This work is the work the churches have left undone, and they cannot prosper until they have taken hold of this work in the cities, in highways, and in hedges. Then angels of God will co-operate with human instrumentalities, and a religious system will be inaugurated to relieve the necessities of suffering human beings who are in physical, mental, and moral need.”

—Home Missionary, November 1, 1897

Now let me point out that it is a lot easier for me to put up quotations like this than it is for me to do this work that no one ever trained me to do.

It's not easy, and there are a bunch of people out there who need our help. A “religious system... to relieve... suffering human beings” sounds like a really, really great idea.

But it rests with us—you, me, individual Seventh-day Adventists—to decide whether or not this is going to happen in our own lives.

Continue notes on next page:

The Loud Cry

“Cry aloud, spare not; Lift up your voice like a trumpet; Tell My people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.”

—Isaiah 58:1

23

You may have wondered if Isaiah 58 really has anything to do with the Loud Cry and Atonement.

That’s a fair question. By way of a quick answer, let’s look at the first verse of the chapter.

CLICK for verse

It’s a familiar verse, but is there anything here that says it’s related to the Loud Cry?

How about the first two words?

CLICK for highlighting

The Loud Cry

“Cry aloud, spare not; Lift up your voice like a trumpet; Tell My people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.”

—Isaiah 58:1

That may not be the most profound of theological proofs, but it speaks to me.

And what about Atonement?

Take a look at this verse:

Atonement

“Cry aloud, spare not; Lift up your voice like a trumpet; Tell My people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.”

—Isaiah 58:1

“Then you shall cause the trumpet of the Jubilee to sound on the tenth day of the seventh month; on the Day of Atonement you shall make the trumpet to sound throughout all your land.”

—Leviticus 25:9

OK, so I admit that these verses could be simply coincidental... but I don't believe they are.

Why not? Because the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy both tie Christlike works of sacrificial kindness to just about every aspect of last day events.

That's the whole “Unified Field” thing.

For instance, there's this familiar statement about the beginning of the Loud Cry:

The Loud Cry

“The time of test is just upon us, for the loud cry of the third angel has already begun in the revelation of the righteousness of Christ, the sin-pardoning Redeemer. This is the beginning of the light of the angel whose glory shall fill the whole earth.”

—Review and Herald, November 22, 1892

We commonly associate this with 1888, Jones, Waggoner, Minneapolis, and “Righteousness by Faith.” And I wouldn’t argue with that at all... as long as we include this statement:

Righteousness by Faith

“Faith in Jesus Christ as our personal Saviour, the One who pardons our sins and transgressions, the One who is able to keep us from sin and lead us in His footsteps, is set forth in the fifty-eighth chapter of Isaiah. Here are presented the fruits of a faith that works by love and purifies the soul from selfishness. Faith and works are here combined....

“‘Thy righteousness shall go before thee.’ What does this mean? Christ is our righteousness.”

—Review and Herald, March 17, 1910

If Isaiah 58 is the picture of faith in Christ, then I suspect that we cannot fully claim Christ as our righteousness and yet fail to bear the fruit of faith as “set forth in the fifty-eighth chapter of Isaiah.”

Sort of like the statement we looked at in our last meeting:
“We cannot keep [the Sabbath] holy unless we serve the Lord in the manner brought to view in” Isaiah 58.

And if I can toss in a plug, AudioVerse has a series of three short talks that I gave on the subject of 1888. If you need more evidence of a connection between 1888 and Isaiah 58, go check them out.

Continue notes on next page:

The Message Cried Aloud

“‘Why have we fasted,’ they say, ‘and You have not seen? Why have we afflicted our souls, and You take no notice?’ In fact, in the day of your fast you find pleasure, and exploit all your laborers. Indeed you fast for strife and debate, and to strike with the fist of wickedness. You will not fast as you do this day, to make your voice heard on high. Is it a fast that I have chosen, a day for a man to afflict his soul? Is it to bow down his head like a bulrush, and to spread out sackcloth and ashes? Would you call this a fast, and an acceptable day to the LORD?”

—Isaiah 58:2-5

There is no railing accusation here, no thundering threat of retribution. God simply tells His children—the people who are seeking Him every day, the ones who delight to know His ways—He tells them, “This approach isn’t working. It never will work.”

Why won’t it work? Because it is completely foreign to the methods and the character of Jesus. It’s separate from Him. It is utterly opposed to the work of at-one-ment.

Then there comes a divine prescription: “Here,” Jesus says, “try this approach. Try loving the people, not in word, not in theory, but in actual helpful service.”

The Message Cried Aloud

“loose the bonds of wickedness... undo the heavy burdens... let the oppressed go free...break every yoke... share your bread with the hungry... shelter the poor who are cast out... clothe the naked... extend your soul to the hungry... satisfy the afflicted soul

So, let me ask... Does that sound at all familiar?

A church that don't know they have a problem... a stunningly negative divine diagnosis... a prescription for treatment of their condition... and finally a conditional promise of success, honor, and glory.

Ever hear anything like that?

I'm going to go out on a limb here, and say that I don't think it's coincidental that there is an exact parallel between Isaiah 58 and the message to the church of Laodicea.

In the big picture, I'd say they're pretty much one and the same. Look at the parallels!

The Parallels

**“And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans
write,**

Here's the church...

The Parallels

“These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked

Here's the diagnosis...

And, while we're at it, notice what this diagnosis is based on...

The Parallels

“These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: **I know your works**, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked

Jesus doesn't say, "I know your theology." Nor does He say "I know your diet, musical tastes, dress, or television viewing habits." Those things are not what Jesus is talking about. He says "I know your works."

What kind of "works" do you suppose He might have in mind?

Continue notes on next page:

The Parallels

“These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. Because you say, ‘**I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing**’—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked

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...are really talking about a genuine psychological effect that actually comes from something like, say, living in the wealthiest country on earth.

Just a thought...

OK, back to the parallels. We saw the church, then the diagnosis, now here's the prescription...

The Parallels

“I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.

And here are the promises....

The Parallels

“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.”

—Revelation 3:14-21

So... isn't that moderately interesting? We can find a direct literary parallel between Isaiah 58 and the last half of Revelation 3.

At the risk of sounding disrespectful of scholasticism, I simply note that that is the sort of thing someone could turn into a pretty good M.Div. Thesis paper.

And then I could read it, weigh all the arguments and counter arguments, consider the historical exegesis of the passages, even conclude that I essentially agree with the author's main points... and stay just as lukewarm and nauseating to Jesus as I had been all along.

The Parallels

“Since the time of the Minneapolis meeting, I have seen the state of the Laodicean Church as never before.”

—Review and Herald, August 26, 1890

But if there is a link between Isaiah 58 and Righteousness by Faith, and a link between Isaiah 58 and the Laodicean message, then that means we should probably be able to find a link between Righteousness by Faith and the Laodicean message.

Something a lot like this, I would think:

CLICK

But no matter how you describe our situation, there's something missing, folks! If you're talking 1888, Jones, Waggoner, etc. you're left wondering what happened to the Loud Cry. It had started by late 1892; so where is it now? Or what happened to it?

Missing in Action

“I asked the meaning of the shaking I had seen and was shown that it would be caused by the straight testimony called forth by the counsel of the True Witness to the Laodiceans. This will have its effect upon the heart of the receiver, and will lead him to exalt the standard and pour forth the straight truth. Some will not bear this straight testimony. They will rise up against it, and this is what will cause a shaking among God’s people.”

—Early Writings, 270

39

Laodicea isn't quite so glaring, perhaps, but there's something missing there, too. What's missing? Impact.

Some of my conservative brethren bemoan the disappearance of the “Message to Laodicea” from the Adventist preaching schedule. And they have a point. Seriously, when was the last time you heard a sermon on Revelation 3?

But worse than not preaching it, is the impotence of the subject when it is presented! Have you ever seen it do this?

CLICK

So... what is this “straight testimony”?

The Straight Testimony (sort of)

“Says the true Witness, ‘Behold, I stand at the door and knock.’...

“The heavenly Guest is standing at your door, while you are piling up obstructions to bar His entrance. Jesus is knocking through the prosperity He gives you. He loads you with blessings to test your fidelity, that they may flow out from you to others. Will you permit your selfishness to triumph? Will you squander God’s talents, and lose your soul through idolatrous love of the blessings He has given.”

—Review and Herald, November 2, 1886

Over the years, there have been quite a few self-proclaimed “straight testimony” ministries. They have tended to emphasize different issues that they felt were being neglected by the Church as a whole.

Personally, I’d say some of them have done some good; others... well, maybe not so much.

Anyway, here’s my thought on what the “straight testimony” really is—but only sort of.

CLICK

Notice the references to the “True Witness” and the “heavenly Guest... standing at your door.” That’s right out of the message to Laodicea. This is “straight testimony” stuff,... but not as straight as the next one.

The Straight Testimony (sort of)

“All His gifts are to be used in blessing humanity, in relieving the suffering and the needy. We are to feed the hungry, to clothe the naked, to care for the widow and the fatherless, to minister to the distressed and downtrodden. God never meant that the widespread misery in the world should exist. He never meant that one man should have an abundance of the luxuries of life, while the children of others should cry for bread. The means over and above the actual necessities of life are entrusted to man to do good, to bless humanity.

So, I have to ask myself...

What are my “actual necessities of life”?

The Straight Testimony (sort of)

**“The Lord says, ‘Sell that ye have, and give alms.’
Be ‘ready to distribute, willing to communicate.’
‘When thou makest a feast, call the poor, the
maimed, the lame, the blind.’ ‘Loose the bands of
wickedness,’ ‘undo the heavy burdens,’ ‘let the
oppressed go free,’ ‘break every yoke.’ ‘Deal thy
bread to the hungry,’ ‘bring the poor that are cast out
to thy house.’ ‘When thou seest the naked,... cover
him.’ ‘Satisfy the afflicted soul.’ ‘Go ye into all the
world, and preach the gospel to every creature.’
These are the Lord’s commands.”**

—Christ’s Object Lessons, 370

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That’s quite a list....

And, recently, I’ve been thinking that it’s a list that I need to be taking very seriously.

I’m thinking that I should even be taking it... literally.

And that’s why I say this is sort of the Straight Testimony....

Words, by themselves, will never be the Straight Testimony. All this fine talk, is fine talk—but when God’s people put it together with practical application... then it becomes the Straight Testimony.

The Straight Testimony (sort of)

“The work of the people of God is to enlighten the world, in accordance with the directions given in the fifty-eighth chapter of Isaiah. Here is presented the plan of work which is to be carried on in every place where the truth takes hold of minds and hearts. In connection with the proclamation of the message is to be done the work of relieving families who are in distress. Those who take their position on the Lord’s side are to see in Seventh-day Adventists a warm-hearted, self-denying, self-sacrificing people, who cheerfully and gladly minister to the needy.”

—Manuscript Releases, vol. 1, 224

This isn’t some disconnected, pointless, warm-fuzzy social gospel approach. This isn’t something we should let the Salvation Army take care of for us. This isn’t a replacement for Bible truth. This is what needs to be done “in every place where the truth takes hold of minds and hearts.”

This kind of work is to be done “in connection with the proclamation of the message.”

And there are intelligent limits placed on this work—it’s not supposed to absorb all our time and money. That’s what happened in the late 1890s when Dr. Kellogg distorted the medical missionary work.

Notice Ellen White’s next sentence...

Keeping the Balance

“But the work of providing for all the depraved, all the drunkards, and all the prostitutes, has not and never will be given by the Lord to Seventh-day Adventists.”

—Manuscript Releases, vol. 1, 224

The key word here is “all.” Of course there will be some depraved, some drunkards, some prostitutes who accept the truth. And, yes, there will even be some time and some money spent on some people who never respond.

After all, how many lepers came back to thank Jesus?

The point is, there needs to be a balance. Kellogg went overboard in one direction and then flipped the traces theologically. So we disfellowshipped him (sad, but necessary) and proceeded to throw the baby out with the bath water (sad, and completely unnecessary).

[For historical details on that, go to AudioVerse and check out “Kellogg vs. The Ministry”]

Medical Missionary work is...

- ◆ The sign of our at-one-ment with Jesus
- ◆ The evidence of His Messiahship
- ◆ The prerequisite for the latter rain
- ◆ The “glory of the Lord” in the loud cry
- ◆ What Laodiceans don't have

45

So let's do a little recap: The practical “good works” of Isaiah 58 are:

CLICK the sign of our at-one-ment with Jesus,

CLICK the evidence of His Messiahship,

CLICK the prerequisite for the Latter Rain,

CLICK the “glory of the Lord” in the Loud Cry, and

CLICK what the Laodiceans don't have.

Anything else? Well, yes. We might also add “Fire Retardant”...



46

You may recall that there were two disastrous fires in Battle Creek in 1902.

CLICK

The Sanitarium burned down in February, and...

CLICK

the Review and Herald burned down in December.

Ellen White explicitly said that “The Lord signified His displeasure by permitting the principal buildings of these institutions to be destroyed by fire.” She spoke of a number of specific issues and problems which brought these “judgments” upon Battle Creek. I’m certain each concern she mentioned was a valid one, but there is an interesting statement in which she speaks more generally of the cause...

Fire Retardant

“Notwithstanding the plain evidence of the Lord’s providence in these destructive fires, some among us have not hesitated to make light of the statement that these buildings were burned because men had been swaying things in directions which the Lord could not approve.

Fire Retardant

“Men have been departing from right principles, for the promulgation of which these institutions were established. They have failed of doing the very work that God ordained should be done to prepare a people to ‘build the old waste places’ and to stand in the breach, as represented in the fifty-eighth chapter of Isaiah. In this scripture the work we are to do is clearly defined as being medical missionary work.

Fire Retardant

“This work is to be done in all places. God has a vineyard; and He desires that this vineyard shall be worked unselfishly. No parts are to be neglected. The most neglected portion needs the most wide-awake missionaries to do the work which, through Isaiah, the Holy Spirit has portrayed:

“Is not this the fast that I have chosen?...”

—Testimonies, vol. 8, 218

Etc., etc.

As I said, this seems to be a more general concern, rather than the specific sort of things like printing infidel books and grasping for high wages.

But because it's a more general concern... does that make it less important, or more important? I'm not sure I know the answer to that. I'd probably say any concern that forfeits the Lord's blessing is important enough.

But there's one statement that puts a pretty strong exclamation point on the seriousness of this.

Fire Retardant

“The word was spoken, ‘God will cleanse and purify His temple in His displeasure.’

“In the visions of the night, I saw a sword of fire hung out over Battle Creek.

“Brethren, God is in earnest with us. I want to tell you that if after the warnings given in these burnings, the leaders of our people go right on, just as they have done in the past, exalting themselves, God will take the bodies next. Just as surely as He lives, He will speak to them in language that they cannot fail to understand.”

—Manuscript Releases, vol. 4, 367

Like I said, any concern that forfeits the Lord’s blessing is important enough.

Well, let’s move on to another idea...

The Unjust Steward's New Plan

“To the unfaithful steward his lord's goods had been entrusted for benevolent purposes; but he had used them for himself. So with Israel....

“The servant in the parable had made no provision for the future. The goods entrusted to him for the benefit of others he had used for himself; but he had thought only of the present. When the stewardship should be taken from him, he would have nothing to call his own. But his master's goods were still in his hands, and he determined to use them so as to secure himself against future want.

The Unjust Steward's New Plan

“To accomplish this he must work on a new plan. Instead of gathering for himself, he must impart to others....

“So with the Pharisees. The stewardship was soon to be taken from them, and they were called upon to provide for the future. Only by seeking the good of others could they benefit themselves. Only by imparting God's gifts in the present life could they provide for eternity.”

—Christ's Object Lessons, 369

So we update our list...

Medical Missionary work is...

- ◆ **The sign of our at-one-ment with Jesus**
- ◆ **The evidence of His Messiahship**
- ◆ **The prerequisite for the latter rain**
- ◆ **The “glory of the Lord” in the loud cry**
- ◆ **What Laodiceans don't have**
- ◆ **Fire retardant**
- ◆ **The unjust steward's new plan**

... and move on to...

The Last Call to the Supper

“Doctor Kellogg is doing the very work which God has given to the church in Battle Creek—the last call to the supper He has prepared....

“Time is short, and there is a great work to be done. If you feel no interest in the work that is going forward, if you will not encourage medical missionaries to work in the churches, they will do it without your consent, for this work must and will be done. Brother _____, Brother _____, Brother _____, Brother _____, in the name of the Lord, I call upon you to take your position on the Lord’s side. Do not be found fighting against God.”

—Manuscript Releases, vol. 11, 218

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This shouldn't be a surprise. After all, the Loud Cry is the final warning given to mankind. What do you suppose the “Last Call to the Supper” is?

CLICK

This was a private letter to the president of the Michigan Conference, and the fact that the Medical Missionary work Kellogg and his associates were doing was important enough to warrant an abandonment of the normal chain of command is another link to 1888. Check out the aforementioned “1888” sermons on AudioVerse.

Here's a similar passage, edited for publication...

The Last Call to the Supper

“The medical missionary workers are doing the long-neglected work which God gave to the church in Battle Creek—they are giving the last call to the supper which He has prepared.

“In order to be carried forward aright, the medical missionary work needs talent. It requires strong, willing hands, and wise, discriminating management. But can this be while those in responsible places—presidents of conferences and ministers—bar the way?

“The Lord says to the presidents of conferences and to other influential brethren: ‘Remove the stumbling blocks that have been placed before the people.’...

The Last Call to the Supper

“Time is short, and there is a great work to be done. If you feel no interest in the work that is going forward, if you will not encourage medical missionary work in the churches, it will be done without your consent; for it is the work of God, and it must be done.”

—Testimonies, vol. 8, 71, 75

OK, so now we can add one more to our list...

Medical Missionary work is...

- ◆ **The sign of our at-one-ment with Jesus**
- ◆ **The evidence of His Messiahship**
- ◆ **The prerequisite for the latter rain**
- ◆ **The “glory of the Lord” in the loud cry**
- ◆ **What Laodiceans don't have**
- ◆ **Fire retardant**
- ◆ **The unjust steward's new plan**
- ◆ **The last call to the supper**

... and move on to...

The Revelation of God's Character...

“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.”

—Christ's Object Lessons, 69

“The completeness of Christian character is attained when the impulse to help and bless others springs constantly from within”

—Christ's Object Lessons, 384

I think these two quotations are now officially my favorite matched set of thoughts from Ellen White.

And the thought is so common! At the risk of overkill, let's look at a few examples:

The Revelation of God's Character...

“As Christians we are to have a righteousness that shall be developed and seen—a righteousness that represents the character of Jesus Christ when He was in our world.”

—Bible Commentary, vol. 4, 1151

The Revelation of God's Character...

“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.”

—Christ's Object Lessons, 415

This is a combined “revelation” and “proclamation.” Just like back in third grade—or didn't they have a “show & tell” time in your school?

This may not sound like rocket science, but it's got power!

Check this out...

The Revelation of God's Character...

“Search heaven and earth, and there is no truth revealed more powerful than that which is made manifest in works of mercy to those who need our sympathy and aid. This is the truth as it is in Jesus. When those who profess the name of Christ shall practice the principles of the golden rule, the same power will attend the gospel as in apostolic times.”

—Mount of Blessing, 137

“The standard of the golden rule is the true standard of Christianity. Anything short of it is a deception.”

—General Conference Bulletin, July 1, 1900

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And to hear Ellen White talk about it, the dividing line between this kind of power and complete failure isn't broad, fuzzy, and gray. It's sharp as the proverbial two-edged sword! Look at this little comment:

CLICK and READ second quotation.

But our main focus right now is this idea...

CLICK for highlighting

...in Apostolic Power

“Search heaven and earth, and there is no truth revealed more powerful than that which is made manifest in works of mercy to those who need our sympathy and aid. This is the truth as it is in Jesus. When those who profess the name of Christ shall practice the principles of the golden rule, **the same power will attend the gospel as in apostolic times.**

—*Mount of Blessing*, 137

That clause caught my attention, so I did a little hunting to see if the connection between “works of mercy” and “apostolic power” is solid.

Yeah, it is.

...in Apostolic Power

“God’s work is ever to be a sign of His benevolence, and just as that sign is manifest in the working of our institutions, it will win the confidence of the people, and bring in resources for the advancement of His kingdom. The Lord will withdraw His blessing where selfish interests are indulged in any phase of the work; but He will put His people in possession of good throughout the whole world, if they will use it for the uplifting of humanity. The experience of apostolic days will come to us when we wholeheartedly accept God’s principle of benevolence.”

—Special Testimonies, Series B, No. 4, 10

This “apostolic” element reminds me of another familiar quotation that I have often wondered about.

It’s one of those “good-things-will-come-at-the-end-of-time” type statements that has always left me wondering why it hadn’t happened already. And, for that matter, what would it take to ever make it happen?

Maybe you remember the statement...

...in Apostolic Power

“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.”

—Great Controversy, 464

I understand this now more than I used to. “Revival” isn’t as nebulous as it used to be. And I have a better idea of what I can do to actually make this happen.

Turns out, it’s neither mysterious nor complicated.

It’s just that this “revival” is linked to a “reformation” so totally foreign to my natural thought that I need a lot of help.

Which, of course, is a problem God knew about long ago. Not surprisingly, He’s got that base covered already...

...in Apostolic Power

“Nothing will help us more at this stage of our work than to understand and to fulfill the mission of the greatest Medical Missionary that ever trod the earth; nothing will help us more than to realize how sacred is this kind of work and how perfectly it corresponds with the lifework of the Great Missionary. The object of our mission is the same as the object of Christ’s mission. Why did God send His Son to the fallen world? To make known and to demonstrate to mankind His love for them....

Notice these two clauses...

...in Apostolic Power

“Nothing will help us more at this stage of our work than to understand and to fulfill the mission of the greatest Medical Missionary that ever trod the earth; nothing will help us more than to realize how sacred is this kind of work and how perfectly it corresponds with the lifework of the Great Missionary. The object of our mission is the same as the object of Christ’s mission. Why did God send His Son to the fallen world? To make known and to demonstrate to mankind His love for them....”

Don't you love superlatives? These are so much more solid than if she had said "Such-and-such will be a big help."

And notice this...

CLICK for highlighting

...in Apostolic Power

“Nothing will help us more at this stage of our work than to understand and to fulfill the mission of the greatest Medical Missionary that ever trod the earth; nothing will help us more than to realize how sacred is this kind of work and how perfectly it corresponds with the lifework of the Great Missionary. **The object of our mission is the same as the object of Christ’s mission.** Why did God send His Son to the fallen world? To make known and to demonstrate to mankind His love for them....

And, since the object of our mission is the same as the object of Jesus’ mission...

Then this makes sense as well...

...in Apostolic Power

“God’s purpose in committing to men and women the mission that He committed to Christ is to disentangle His followers from all worldly policy and to give them a work identical with the work that Christ did.”

—Medical Ministry, 24

Worldly policy is a trap! Disentangle yourself!

You don’t need; you don’t want it. Remember, “Christ’s method alone will give true success in reaching the people.” And our work is identical to His.

Have you noticed how often the Bible says that, when Jesus got done healing a whole crowd of sick people, they “glorified God”? That was Jesus’ work, which means it’s also our work. Simple, really.

So what will do the most to glorify God? We should be looking for it, don’t you think?

...in Apostolic Power

“In no way could the Lord be better glorified and the truth more highly honored than for unbelievers to see that the truth has wrought a great and good work upon the lives of naturally covetous and penurious men. If it could be seen that the faith of such had an influence to mold their characters, to change them from close, selfish, overreaching, money-loving men to men who love to do good, who seek opportunities to use their means to bless those who need to be blessed, who visit the widow and fatherless in their affliction, and who keep themselves unspotted from the world, it would be an evidence that their religion was genuine.”

—Testimonies, vol. 2, 239

And so, now we can add to our list...

Medical Missionary work is...

- ◆ **The sign of our at-one-ment with Jesus**
- ◆ **The evidence of His Messiahship**
- ◆ **The prerequisite for the latter rain**
- ◆ **The “glory of the Lord” in the loud cry**
- ◆ **What Laodiceans don't have**
- ◆ **Fire retardant**
- ◆ **The unjust steward's new plan**
- ◆ **The last call to the supper**
- ◆ **Apostolic power to reveal God's Character**

CLICK for each item.

And proceed to...

The Basis of the Judgment

“When the Son of man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory: and before Him shall be gathered all nations: and He shall separate them one from another.’ Thus Christ on the Mount of Olives pictured to His disciples the scene of the great judgment day. And He represented its decision as turning upon one point. When the nations are gathered before Him, there will be but two classes, and their eternal destiny will be determined by what they have done or have neglected to do for Him in the person of the poor and the suffering.”

—Desire of Ages, 637

Really?

Yeah, really.

CLICK

The Basis of the Judgment

“There is a work to be done by our churches that few have any idea of. ‘I was an hungered,’ Christ says, ‘and ye gave me meat; I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink; I was a stranger, and ye took me in; naked, and ye clothed me; I was sick, and ye visited me; I was in prison, and ye came unto me.’... there is a work, as yet untouched, that must be done. The mission of Christ was to heal the sick, encourage the hopeless, bind up the brokenhearted. This work of restoration is to be carried on among the needy, suffering ones of humanity.

OK, a quick parenthetical insertion right here:

Notice these ideas...

CLICK for highlighting

The Basis of the Judgment

“There is a work to be done by our churches that few have any idea of. ‘I was an hungered,’ Christ says, ‘and ye gave me meat; I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink; I was a stranger, and ye took me in; naked, and ye clothed me; I was sick, and ye visited me; I was in prison, and ye came unto me.’... there is a work, as yet untouched, that must be done. The mission of Christ was to heal the sick, encourage the hopeless, bind up the brokenhearted. This work of restoration is to be carried on among the needy, suffering ones of humanity.

You know, the idea of “a work... that must be done” when “few have any idea” what it’s all about is kind of discouraging.

Sometimes it’s almost enough to make you want to give up. So just remember Jesus... when the messengers from John came and asked if He was really the Messiah. That had to hurt.

Or when Peter and company all denied Him and fled. Not a lot of comprehension there. Not a lot of support and encouragement. So don’t be surprised if you’re sort of in the minority when you take up this work.

OK, end parenthesis; on with the statement.

The Basis of the Judgment

“God calls not only for your benevolence, but your cheerful countenance, your hopeful words, the grasp of your hand. Relieve some of God’s afflicted ones. Some are sick, and hope has departed. Bring back the sunlight to them. There are souls who have lost their courage; speak to them, pray for them. There are those who need the bread of life. Read to them from the Word of God. There is a soul sickness no balm can reach, no medicine heal. Pray for these, and bring them to Jesus Christ. And in all your work, Christ will be present to make impressions upon human hearts.

The Basis of the Judgment

“This is the kind of medical missionary work to be done. Bring the sunshine of the Sun of Righteousness into the room of the sick and suffering. Teach the inmates of the poor homes how to cook.”

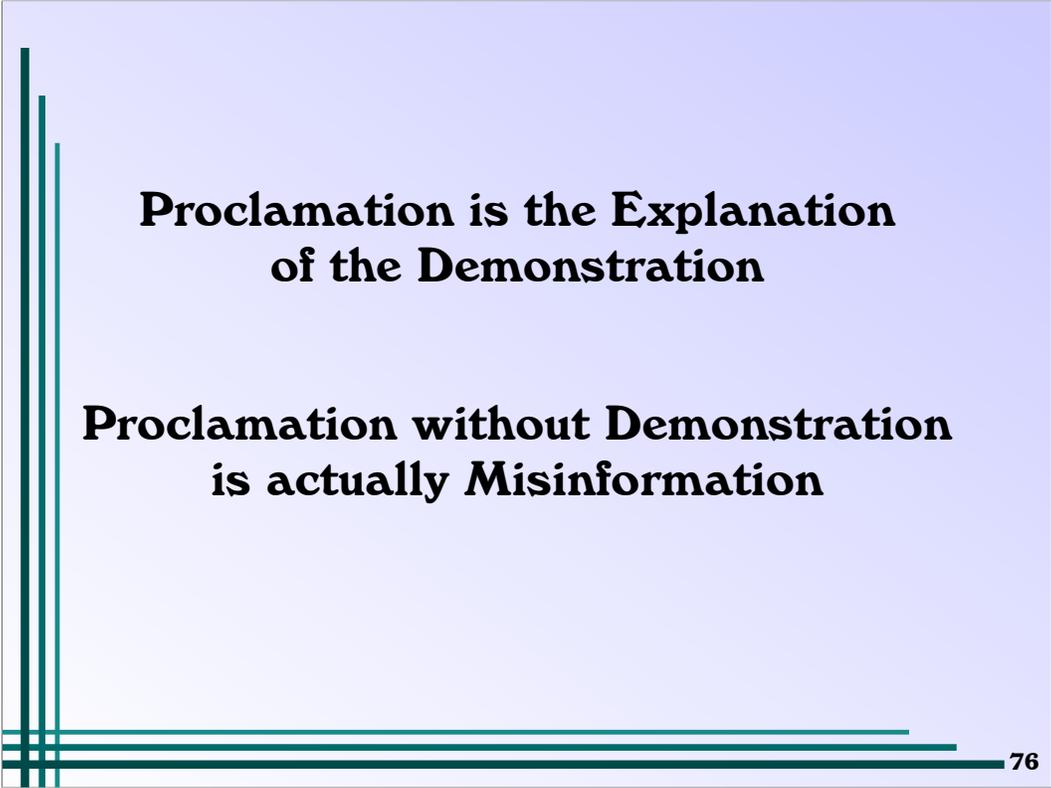
—Call to Medical Evangelism, 23

How to **cook**? She’s kidding, right?

What happened to Daniel Two, the Second Coming, State of the Dead, and the Sabbath?!

Don’t worry, they’re all still there. It’s just that all this practical stuff needs to be “in connection with the proclamation of the message.”

Why? Because....



**Proclamation is the Explanation
of the Demonstration**

**Proclamation without Demonstration
is actually Misinformation**

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And...

CLICK for second item

That's what I believe. You can decide for yourself what you believe.

OK, so where are we now?

Medical Missionary work is...

- ◆ **The sign of our at-one-ment with Jesus**
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- ◆ **What Laodiceans don't have**
- ◆ **Fire retardant**
- ◆ **The unjust steward's new plan**
- ◆ **The last call to the supper**
- ◆ **Apostolic power to reveal God's Character**
- ◆ **The basis of the judgment**

So then, if we're on the right track with this, the Christlike good works depicted in Isaiah 58 are...

READ LIST

...and... for our next item, let's go back to the fifteenth chapter of the gospel of John...

The Catalyst that Closes Probation

“If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. He who hates Me hates My Father also. If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father.”

—John 15:22–24

Here is a clear portrayal of Jesus' combined ministry of preaching and practical work.

But notice...

CLICK for highlighting

The Catalyst that Closes Probation

“If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. He who hates Me hates My Father also. If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father.”

—John 15:22–24

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Until men had been given the opportunity to see and accept—or reject—the One who came to them with all the gifts of heaven... Jesus said they had no sin!

Now, I freely confess that I’m not sure how far to take that “no sin” wording. That’s a puzzle to me.

What’s easy to understand is the section about “Now they have no excuse.”

God will not close probation while anyone has an excuse for sin. And that excuse is eliminated when that person “sees”—not just “hears about”—the works which validate both Christ and His followers.

So we add to our list...

Medical Missionary work is...

- ◆ **The sign of our at-one-ment with Jesus**
- ◆ **The evidence of His Messiahship**
- ◆ **The prerequisite for the latter rain**
- ◆ **The “glory of the Lord” in the loud cry**
- ◆ **What Laodiceans don't have**
- ◆ **Fire retardant**
- ◆ **The unjust steward's new plan**
- ◆ **The last call to the supper**
- ◆ **Apostolic power to reveal God's Character**
- ◆ **The basis of the judgment**
- ◆ **The catalyst that closes probation**

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And there you have it. That's what I think the Anti-typical Day of Atonement is all about.

It's a lot, isn't it? Kind of exciting; Kind of sobering.

Maybe it's too much. So let me go back to one of the earliest Spirit of Prophecy statements on Isaiah 58, and see if we can simplify it down just a bit.

But let me warn you, even back in the early days, Ellen White was pretty strong on this. It's not a peace and safety sort of comment...

It's Simple...

“Read Isaiah 58, ye who claim to be children of the light. Especially do you read it again and again who have felt so reluctant to inconvenience yourselves by favoring the needy. You whose hearts and houses are too narrow to make a home for the homeless, read it; you who can see orphans and widows oppressed by the iron hand of poverty and bowed down by hardhearted worldlings, read it.

“Are you afraid that an influence will be introduced into your family that will cost you more labor, read it. Your fears may be groundless, and a blessing may come, known and realized by you every day.

It's Simple...

“But if otherwise, if extra labor is called for, you can draw upon One who has promised: ‘Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily.’ The reason God’s people are not more spiritually minded and have not more faith, I have been shown, is because they are narrowed up with selfishness. The prophet is addressing Sabbathkeepers, not sinners, not unbelievers, but those who make great pretensions to godliness.

It's Simple...

“It is not the abundance of your meetings that God accepts. It is not the numerous prayers, but the rightdoing, doing the right thing and at the right time. It is to be less self-caring and more benevolent. Our souls must expand. Then God will make them like a watered garden, whose waters fail not.”

—*Testimonies*, vol. 2, 35

“It is the very essence of all right faith to do the right thing at the right time.”

—*Testimonies*, vol. 6, 24

I like that phrase... “doing the right thing and at the right time.” It sounds like a rough draft of a classic one-liner that Ellen White wrote several years later:

CLICK

That linking of “rightdoing” with “faith” suggests one more item that may just belong on our Unified Field list. Maybe the sign of at-one-ment with Jesus—the good works of Isaiah 58, and all the rest—maybe that’s simply the “Rightdoing” that’s made possible when I have “Faith” that God will take care of me better than I can myself.

Maybe it’s simply “Righteousness by Faith.”



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