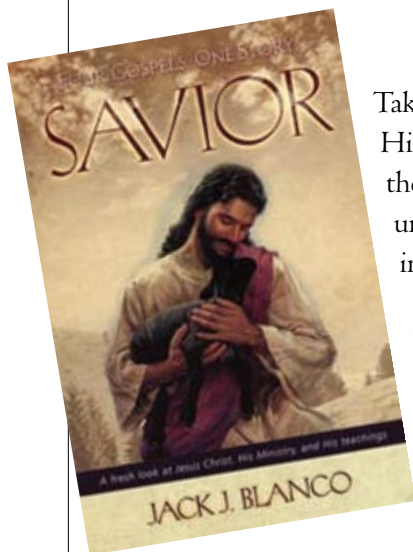


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- **January 2-3**
Cottage Grove SDA Church, OR
Ty Gibson—☎(541)942-5213
- **January 10**
Pleasant Hill SDA Church, OR
Ty Gibson—☎(541)746-1750
- **January 16-17**
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James Rafferty & Ty Gibson—☎(618)627-4651
- **February 7**
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James Rafferty—☎(541)863-3815
- **February 16-22**
Adventist International Mission School—Thailand
Ty Gibson—pfoster@aims.ac.th
- **February 20-21**
Sutherlin SDA Church, OR
James Rafferty—☎(541)459-4131

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*Light Bearers is a non-profit ministry based in beautiful Oregon State.
Our purpose is to help proclaim the gospel
of our Lord Jesus Christ through the spoken and published word.*

MISSION UPDATE

The Newsletter of Light Bearers Ministry



The Spirit of Antichrist

By James Rafferty

There has been much speculation regarding who or what antichrist is, and by what identifying marks he may be recognized. To know with certainty what he is not, one need only read the description Christ gives of Himself: "I can of mine own self do nothing . . . I seek not mine own will" (John 5:30). "I seek not Mine own glory" (John 8:50). "I am meek and lowly in heart" (Matthew 11: 29). Now we only need to take this thrice inspired description of Christ and look at its opposite. Self-sufficiency, self-will, self-glory, pride and self-esteem must then be the spirit of antichrist. And while there is a particular man who most completely embodies the leadership role of antichrist, none of us need look any further than our own heart to find the antichrist that John says is "already in the world" (1 John 4:3, NKJV). This could be the reason

why Martin Luther, who clearly identified the leader of the papacy as the antichrist of Bible prophecy, also declared, "I fear self more than the pope and all his bishops."

The thirst for riches, honor and self-esteem are obvious evidences of the work of pride in the human heart, yet these are but the shadow of the strong man that holds the house in which we now dwell, until another, even Jesus, orders our release from his tyrannical grip. As Christ said, it is not those things from without that defile a man (see Mark 7:15). The bulk of the force of this spirit of antichrist is in the fallen heart. Out of the heart comes all the evil of man's defilement (see Matthew 15:18). The human heart with its intellect, imagination, secret honors, revenges, memories of dutiful deeds, ever seeking to enlarge the dominion of self—all of this must be laid at the foot of the cross.

To deny ourselves is to turn from "anti" ("against" or "in the place of Christ") to "accepting" of Christ ("accepting" being the antonym or opposite of anti). Except a man "deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me," he "cannot be My disciple" (Luke 9:23; 14:27).

Unless this denial of self takes place every moment of every day, pride will keep us in utter blindness so that we will feel exalted due to natural abilities given to us by God and boast of our "might" and "wisdom or knowledge" as though they were our own (Daniel 4:30; 2:21-22). Yes, there is an antichrist power with a visible head predicted by prophecy that one day soon will be worshiped by the world. Yet those who worship that antichrist will first allow his spirit to have the place in their own hearts that belongs only to God.

CONSIDER THIS . . .

If you will seek the Lord and be converted every day; if you will of your own spiritual choice be free and joyous in God; if with gladsome consent of heart to His gracious call you come wearing the yoke of Christ, the yoke of obedience and service, all your murmurings will be stilled, all your difficulties will be removed, all the perplexing problems that now confront you will be solved.

Ellen White, *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 101

Those who have never experienced the contrition of an entire surrender to Christ do not in their life make manifest the softening influence of the Savior's love. They misrepresent the gentle, courteous spirit of the gospel and wound precious souls, for whom Christ died. According to the figure that our Savior uses, he who indulges a censorious spirit is guilty of greater sin than is the one he accuses, for he not only commits the same sin, but adds to it conceit and censoriousness.

Ellen White, *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 125

Christ is the only true standard of character, and he who sets himself up as a standard for others is putting himself in the place of Christ. And since the Father "hath committed all judgment unto the Son" (John 5:22),

whoever presumes to judge the motives of others is again usurping the prerogative of the Son of God. These would-be judges and critics are placing themselves on the side of antichrist, "who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshiped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God (2 Thessalonians 2:4).

Ellen White, *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 125-126

The Lord has shown me in vision, repeatedly, that it is contrary to the Bible to make any provision for our temporal wants in the time of trouble. I saw that if the saints have food laid up by them, or in the fields, in the time of trouble when sword, famine, and pestilence are in the land, it will be taken from them by violent hands, and strangers would reap their fields. Then will be the time for us to trust wholly in God, and He will sustain us. I saw that our bread and water would be sure at that time, and we should not lack, or suffer hunger. The Lord has shown me that some of His children would fear when they see the price of food rising, and they would buy food and lay it by for the time of trouble. Then in a time of need, I saw them go to their food and look at it, and it had bred worms, and was full of living creatures, and not fit for use.

Ellen White, *Maranatha*, p. 181

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