



JEFFREY ROSARIO
speaker

JESUS, THE TIMELESS TRUTH TELLER

SOME HISTORIANS AND philosophers have pointed out that much of our scientific and medical literature is updated often because new discoveries and new knowledge render previously accepted knowledge

THE CHRISTIAN WORLD HAS BEEN HOLDING IN ITS HANDS THE COMPLETE ANSWER TO ITS RESTLESS AND FRUITLESS YEARNINGS

obsolete. No one in their right mind would ever be comfortable with a physician using a 50-year-old textbook as a guide for treatment of patients. As knowledge increases our perspective continues to evolve.

This is why encountering the teachings of Jesus is such a fascinating experience. All the things Christ said in the three chapters (Matthew 5-7) that we refer to as the Sermon on the Mount are especially sublime. Augustine described them as “a perfect standard of the Christian life.” In a passage so simple that it can be read in one short sitting, Jesus outlined deep spiritual and ethical truths that, even after centuries of

new knowledge about the world, have not yet become obsolete.

In a brief, yet brilliant, sweep of wisdom, Jesus lays down the essential principles of humility (Matthew 5:3), forgiveness (Matthew 6:12, 14-15), mercy (Matthew 5:7), influence (Matthew 5:13-16), interpersonal relationships (Matthew 5:21-24), authentic piety (Matthew 6:1-7), and lasting contentment (Matthew 6:25-34). These principles hold the secret to living a meaningful and complete life. There is no better source of psychological and emotional health and healing.

As psychiatrist J.T. Fisher and coauthor L.S. Hawley put it:

“If you were to take the sum total of all authoritative articles ever written by the most qualified of psychologists and psychiatrists on the subject of mental hygiene—if you were to combine them and refine them and cleave out the excess verbiage—if you were to take the whole of the meat and none of the parsley, and if you were to have these

unadulterated bits of pure scientific knowledge concisely expressed by the most capable poets, you would have an awkward and incomplete summation of the sermon on the mount. And it would suffer immeasurably through comparison. For nearly two thousand years, the Christian world has been holding in its hands the complete answer to its restless and fruitless yearnings. Here . . . [r]est the blueprints for successful human life with optimum mental health and contentment” (A Few Buttons Missing, p. 273, quoted in What If the Bible Had Never Been Written?, p.12, James Kennedy).

May God give us a higher sense of awareness for the precious treasures we have access to in the teachings of Jesus. And may we not merely speak of these truths, but actually live them out that we may demonstrate to the world around us that Christ came “that [we] might have life, and that [we] may have it more abundantly” (John 10:10)!



JAMES RAFFERTY
co-director

FAITH TO FAITH

THIS YEAR MARKED the 30th Annual Light Bearers Ministry (LBM) Convocation. Our theme was “Faith to Faith,” based on Romans 1:16-17:

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written. The just shall live by faith.”

Martin Luther once described the book of Romans as the “clearest gospel of all.” This year our focus

highlighted the gospel message of “Christ our Righteousness.” It included a heart-touching message on the cross of Calvary by Ty Gibson, a humble but clear presentation of the “Faith of Jesus” by David Asscherick, a number of powerful messages on righteousness by faith by Jeffrey Rosario and myself, as well as a series of practical health talks by Risë Rafferty.

This year’s attendance was the largest to date, including over 140 children and youth. We had an excellent group of leaders teaching children in cradle roll through young adults. Most of the attendees arrived at the beginning of the week and took in the entire Convocation.

The beautiful campground is buttressed by the Willamette River

on the south side and gardens and greenhouses on the north, with hundreds of fruit trees scattered throughout. Attendees stayed in RVs with hook-ups, trailers, tents and at local hotels.

One of the highlights this year was the baptism of eight young people whose families have been blessed by the ministry of Light Bearers. There were also two adults who decided it was time to be re-baptized. These decisions were an evidence of the Holy Spirit’s moving and His continuous work to bring souls to Jesus.

This year’s convocation was videotaped as well as audio recorded. The video is available from our Resource Center and the

THE END IS NEAR!

“The end is near! We have not a moment to lose! Light is to shine forth from God’s people in clear, distinct rays, bringing Jesus before the churches and before the world. . . . One interest will prevail, one subject will swallow up every other— Christ our righteousness.”

Ellen White
God’s Grieving Heart, pp. 33-34

PREACH CHRIST

“How little has Christ been preached! The laborers have presented theories, plenty of them, but little of Christ and His love.”

Ellen White
God’s Grieving Heart, p. 36

LIFT UP JESUS

“If the Holy Spirit dwells in us, our work will testify to the fact, we shall lift up Jesus. Not one can afford to be silent now; the burden of the work is to present Christ to the world.”

Ellen White
God’s Grieving Heart, p. 36

audio is available free of charge on our website:

<http://www.lightbearers.org/resources/>

In the last few years, the afternoon meeting schedule has been organized to include an interactive Bible study and this year was no exception. This is an opportunity for the attendees to grab a microphone (if Ty can get one to them) and ask questions or share insights with the panel of speakers. Normally we choose a subject to cover in each of these sessions but this year's theme made that unnecessary. There were plenty of questions and comments about righteousness by faith and hardly enough time to get to everyone.

It became evident day by day why the message of "Christ our Righteousness" will "swallow up all others" (*Review and Herald*, December 23, 1890). As this message gains more and more access to our members, powerful transformations will take place in God's church:

"Then the believers will be of one heart and of one mind, and the Lord will make His word powerful in the earth. New cities and villages and territories will be entered; the church will arise and shine, because her light has come, for the glory of the Lord is risen upon her. New converts will be added to the churches, and those who now claim to be converted will feel in their own hearts the transforming power of the grace of Christ. Then Satan will be aroused, and will excite the bitterest persecution against God's people. But those not of our faith, who



have not rejected light, will recognize the spirit of Christ in His true followers, and will take their stand with the people of God."

It is our prayer that every person reading these words will open their hearts fully to the love of God, that individually we will each say yes to Jesus, allowing Him to take the reins of our lives, and that together we will swell the ranks of the redeemed, lightening the earth with the glory of God. We believe

that this year's "Faith to Faith" convocation will prove to be a great personal blessing. And we pray that you will be inspired and encouraged again and again as you take up the grand theme of "Christ our Righteousness." Amen.

NOTE: quotes on opposite page are from a new booklet entitled "God's Grieving Heart" now available in our Resource Center (see page 4).

COME SEE US!

SEPTEMBER 19-20

Village Church
College Place, WA
509.525.0882
Ty Gibson

OCTOBER 1-4

ASI Portugal
Lisbon, Portugal
rdias@leadingcapital.com
Ty Gibson

OCTOBER 4

Downers Grove SDA Church
Downers Grove, IL
646.331.9061
Fred Bischoff

OCTOBER 15-18

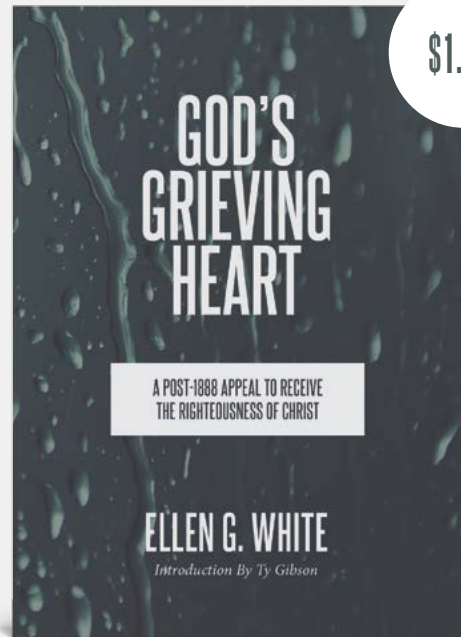
Gospel Summit
Riverside Chapel Adventist Church
Nashville, TN
612.298.8780
Fred Bischoff

OCTOBER 16-20

Kwa-Zulu Natal Free State Conference
Camp Meeting, South Africa
heino@abundant.co.za
www.knfcadventist.org.za
James Rafferty

“HE [GOD] HAS A CONTROVERSY WITH HIS PEOPLE.”

In the year 1888, God sent two young men with a “most precious message” for the leaders of the Seventh-day Adventist Church as they were gathered in General Conference Session. Astonishingly, that message was met with coldness, pride of theological opinion, and outright resistance. Two years later, as the resistance continued, Ellen White wrote one of the strongest articles of her prophetic career, opening with the startling words, God “has a controversy with His people.” This little booklet is a reprint of the entire article along with an introduction that sets the historical stage.



\$1.99


LIGHT BEARERS