



TY GIBSON
co-director

COSMIC ATONEMENT

GOD IS UP to something bigger than our eternal salvation. Certainly, from our individual standpoint it is hard to imagine anything bigger. To be saved from sin and given the assurance of eternal life is a truly marvelous thing. But notice the

“CHRIST CAME TO THE WORLD TO CONVINCe MEN, BY EVIDENCE THAT COULD NOT BE CONTROVERTED, THAT ‘GOD IS LOVE.’”

progression of Paul’s message in Ephesians 1.

In the first seven verses he paints an inviting picture of God’s saving grace toward each of us. God has “blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ. He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved. In Him we

have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.”

Astounding, right?

But then Paul says this:

“. . . having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him.”

Paul has moved our understanding of God’s plan beyond the earth and the human race to its cosmic impact. Not only does God save us by His grace, that grace has the larger effect of bringing about a oneness, a harmony, a unity of “all things . . . in heaven and which are on earth.” The revelation of God’s love in His treatment of sinners creates eternal security for the whole universe. By their revolt against God, Lucifer and one third of the angels brought painful discord to

the heavenly society (Revelation 12:7-9). By the revelation of God’s character in Christ, heavenly beings see the truth about God in contrast to the deceptive misrepresentations of His character that Satan employed to launch his rebellion. But through Christ the angels and the inhabitants of other worlds are stabilized in their loyalty to God for all eternity, insuring the impossibility of a second rebellion.

Ellen White wraps clarifying language around this aspect of Christ’s achievement:

“Christ came to the world to convince men, by evidence that could not be controverted, that ‘God is love.’ This fact, so long disputed by Satan, is forever put at rest with unfallen worlds and with heavenly intelligences” (*Signs of the Times*, March 7, 1895).

“The angels ascribe honor and glory to Christ, for even they are not secure except by looking to the sufferings of the Son of God. It is through the efficacy of the cross that the angels of heaven are guarded



FRED BISCHOFF
adventist pioneer library

MISSION CRITICAL

IT STRUCK ME like never before. It was the first two talks at Light Bearers Convocation this past July. The first by Ty, was titled, “One Subject Will Prevail,” adapted from this quote from 1890: “One interest will prevail, one subject will swallow up every other—Christ our righteousness” (*Review and Herald*, December 23, 1890). What a glorious and positive prediction! But Ty’s presentation focused on another part of the article that was anything but positive. He even apologized for it because the article started with the words, “The Lord has seen our backslidings, and He has a controversy with His people.”

Ouch! With that, Ty painfully laid out our history.

But this is *Mission Update*. Does Light Bearers’ mission include shining a light on the failures of the past? That brings us to the second talk, by David, titled, “The Righteousness of God.” I will summarize it in three sentences: God made a covenant with the human race. He was faithful to that covenant (thus His righteousness), and humans were unfaithful, especially the descendants of Abraham. When Daniel came on the scene and encountered a vision (Daniel 8) that seemed inconsistent

with God’s righteousness, he was led to pray an amazing prayer (Daniel 9). And this is what struck me. Daniel confessed the unfaithfulness of his own people, the Jews of his day, just like Ty had confessed the unfaithfulness of his people, the Seventh-day Adventists. Wow! What connections!

But is that really a part of Light Bearers’ mission, even of your mission, and mine? I have realized for some time that Daniel was born and raised during king Josiah’s revival and reformation. Psalm 1:2 describes what Daniel was like—“His delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he

FALLING SHORT

“With faith founded on the sure word of prophecy, Daniel pleaded . . . for the honor of God to be preserved. In his petition he identified himself fully with those who had fallen short of the divine purpose, confessing their sins as his own.”

Ellen White
Prophets and Kings, pp. 554-555

CLEARER DISCERNMENT

“The nearer we come to Jesus, and the more clearly we discern the purity of His character, the more clearly shall we see the exceeding sinfulness of sin, and the less shall we feel like exalting ourselves. . . . At every advance step in our Christian experience our repentance will deepen.”

Ellen White
Acts of the Apostles, p. 561

EVERY. LAST. ONE.

“We have sinned against Him, and are undeserving of His favor; yet He Himself has put into our lips that most wonderful of pleas, ‘Do not abhor us, for Thy name’s sake; do not disgrace the throne of Thy glory; remember, break not Thy covenant with us.’ Jeremiah 14:21.”

Ellen White
Christ’s Object Lessons, p. 148

meditate day and night.” I believe Daniel exactly knew the law in Leviticus 26. When God’s people were unfaithful, He said, “I will scatter you among the heathen” (verse 33). Daniel was in a group

DOES LIGHT BEARERS’ MISSION INCLUDE SHINING A LIGHT ON THE FAILURES OF THE PAST?

scattered to Babylon. He knew what verse 38 said, “Ye shall perish among the heathen.” And many of them had. But he also knew what the prophet he had grown up under had prophesied. “After seventy years be accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, in causing you to return to this place” (Jeremiah 29:10; see also 2 Chronicles 36:21).

But the vision Daniel had received spoke of 2300 years. How did that fit with 70? And so Daniel must have remembered what Leviticus 26:40-42 said: “If they shall confess their iniquity, and the iniquity of their fathers, with their trespass which they trespassed against me, and that also they have walked

contrary unto me; and that I also have walked contrary unto them, and have brought them into the land of their enemies; if then their uncircumcised hearts be humbled, and they then accept of the punishment of their iniquity: then will I remember my covenant . . .”

Light Bearers has been led by God to focus much on Daniel and Revelation. Through the years we have learned how to show Christ as the center of those books. In Jesus’ own words, they “testify of Me” (John 5:39). But Adventism’s *Advent* mission has been impacted by the unfaithfulness of modern, spiritual Israel. God has told us repeatedly that we have caused a delay in the task committed to us. And the conviction is increasing that Light Bearers’ mission includes helping to encourage many Daniels today to do exactly what Daniel did—confess their unfaithfulness and God’s faithfulness as we face a delay in “the speedy fulfillment” of the prophecies for our time (Daniel 9:19; *Prophets and Kings*, p. 554.)

And so Light Bearers reprinted the 22-paragraph article Ty quoted

from, “Be Zealous and Repent” in a small booklet titled, “God’s Grieving Heart.” That’s from the second sentence, which says the results of our unfaithfulness “grieve His heart of love.” Does this remind you of another message from Jesus? The one in the last part of Revelation 3? The article goes on to say, “The road to paradise is not one of self-exaltation, but of repentance, confession, humiliation, of faith and obedience. The message to the Laodicean Church is appropriate to the church at this time. . . .”

So our *Mission Update* for this month contains this reminder that part of our mission is to call God’s people to repentance, by exalting God’s goodness. Only then can we know fully how to call end-time Babylon to repentance, because *they will witness it in us*. You can expect more from Light Bearers and the Adventist Pioneer Library, shining a light on God’s faithfulness, and our unfaithfulness on this “road to paradise.” For now, read “God’s Grieving Heart.”

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... COSMIC ATONEMENT (continued from page 1)

from apostasy. Without the cross they would be no more secure against evil than were the angels before the fall of Satan” (*Signs of the Times*, December 30, 1889).

In Jesus we find both salvation for humanity and eternal security for the entire populated universe.

THE ADVENTIST MESSAGE, PRESENTED IN CHRIST

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