

UNWISE ASSUMPTIONS

Fallacies that have crept into SDA beliefs-

All of these things are clearly shown to be false in the Spirit of Prophecy writings and yet they are commonly believed by most mainline SDAs and many historicists have swallowed them also.

- 1) That Paul was a married man.
- 2) That the 'eyesalve' is the Holy Spirit and we're supposed to buy it from the Heavenly merchant-man.
- 3) That the 'hour of God's judgment is come' means God is the one being judged.

1- That Paul was a married man-

This is a classic example of being too smart for one's own good. Somewhere back many years ago someone came up with the idea that in order to be a member of the Sanhedrin one had to be a married man; and therefore Paul was a married man. Now maybe this first part has some historical validity and is mentioned in the SOP, but the latter assumption is totally false.

We must not forget how perfectly willing that august body of hypocrites were to break their own rules as exemplified to us in the farce trial and cruel death of our Lord! The fact that Paul, at that time Saul, was so eager to help them to exterminate the hated sect of the humble Nazarene was enough to cause the Sanhedrin to throw open its doors and arms to the young zealot. Rules were no restriction to them!

And yet notice how carelessly and even eagerly we have accepted this charge based on the research of some historian or theologian, in spite of clear word to the contrary in the Spirit of Prophecy, and no evidence from the Bible that such a thing was true! It is a case of wanting to flaunt knowledge that somebody else didn't have and it is a most unwise trait.

Now some may say, "Oh, it isn't such a big deal one way or another."

No error is benign. "No error is truth, or can be made truth by repetition, or by faith in it." Selected Messages Book 2 pg 56. "Error is never harmless. It never sanctifies, but always brings confusion and dissension. It is always dangerous." Counsels to Writers and Editors pg 49.

You see, if you really believe this error, what does it do to your mind when you read the apostle's counsel regarding marriage and not depriving one another and so on? It makes him less credible in one's mind as you ponder the mystery of 'what did Paul do with his wife?'

Well, no such fallacy need be entertained - Paul was a single man.

Testimonies on Sexual Behavior, Adultery, and Divorce. -PG- 251

"As in the days of Noah, one of the signs of these times is a passion for injudicious and hasty marriages. Satan is in this. If Paul could remain single, and recommend the same to others, that he and they might be wholly the Lord's, why not those who would be wholly His, and wish to make a sure thing of avoiding the cares, trials, and bitter anguish so frequent in the experiences of those who choose the married life, remain as he was? And more, if he chose to remain so, and could recommend it to others, eighteen centuries since, would not to remain as he was be a commendable course for those who are waiting for the coming of the Son of man, unless evidences were unquestionable that they were bettering their condition, and making

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heaven more sure by so doing? When so much is at stake, why not be on the sure side every time?" -RH
March 24, 1868.

2- That the 'eyesalve' is the Holy Spirit and we're supposed to buy it from the Heavenly merchant-man.

Now this is a case of over-simplification of an important spiritual symbol. The Spirit of Prophecy does not give us this slick answer.

A careful reading of Jesus' message in Revelation 3:18, shows something interesting:

"I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eye-salve, that thou mayest see."

Now you will notice that the first two items have to be bought from the merchantman; the person does not have any other access to them, but the third, the eyesalve is a bit different, of that one it says "Anoint thine eyes with eyesalve". Now it seems that the person must have access to it or else how could he anoint his eyes with it? It does not say buy it from Me and then anoint with it, it just says anoint your eyes with it. When the meanings of this symbol are explored then the reason for this differentiation is made clear. The true meanings are important to us, vitally so, and yet through the years we have learned to just rattle off a simplistic answer to the question, 'What are these things?'

"We should study closely the meaning of the gold, white raiment, and eye-salve, lest we be found in self-deception, satisfied with what we are, and the attainments we have made." Advent Review and Sabbath Herald DT- 02-04-90

Here we see that if we don't give some thought to these symbols, we could be 'self-deceived'. Now if we just think that the eyesalve is only the Holy Spirit as in the Latter Rain, what happens to our behavior? Well we pray for it and expect God to just drop it down to us. BUT, if this is not the whole story of this symbol we might be deceived and miss out on what God is trying to show us.

If a person is dying and a prescription has been made by a Doctor who knows the case and can cure it and the person mistakes the prescription - well it could be serious, couldn't it?

Notice the instructions say - 'anoint thine eyes with eyesalve'. Not I'll do it for you. Once one learns the full meaning of this symbol the problem is crystal clear. Let's look at a few quotes:

"Again and again has the voice from heaven addressed you. Will you obey this voice? Will you heed the counsel of the True Witness, to seek the gold tried in the fire, the white raiment, and the eye-salve? The gold is faith and love, the white raiment is the righteousness of Christ, the eye-salve is that spiritual discernment which will enable you to see the wiles of Satan and shun them, to detect sin and abhor it, to see truth and obey it." Advent Review and Sabbath Herald 11-18-09

"The eye-salve is that wisdom and grace which enable us to discern between evil and good, and to detect sin under any disguise." The Youth's Instructor DT- 04-22-97

So what is this wonderful stuff that can do all this for us?

Advent Review and Sabbath Herald - 11-23-97 "The eye is the sensitive conscience, the inner light, of the mind. Upon its correct view of things the spiritual healthfulness of the whole soul and being depends. The "eye-salve," the Word of God, makes the conscience smart under its application; for it convicts of sin. But the smarting is necessary that the healing may follow, and the eye be single to the glory of God."

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Second Advent Review and Sabbath Herald - 09-16-73 "This message of the True Witness has not accomplished the design of God. The people slumber on in their sins. They continue to declare themselves "rich, and having need of nothing." Many inquire, Why are all these reproofs given? Why do the testimonies continually charge us with backsliding and grievous sins? We love the truth. We are prospering. We are in no need of these testimonies of warning and reproof. But let these murmurers see their hearts, and compare their lives with the practical teachings of the Bible; let them humble their souls before God; let the grace of God illuminate the darkness, and the scales will fall from their eyes, and they will sense their true spiritual poverty and wretchedness. They will feel the necessity of buying gold, which is pure faith and love; white raiment, which is a spotless character, made pure in the blood of their dear Redeemer, and eye-salve, which is the grace of God, and will give clear discernment of spiritual things, and detect sin. These attainments are more precious than the gold of Ophir."

Advent Review and Sabbath Herald - 12-18-88 "God is working for his people, that they may not be left in darkness. He would have us anoint our eyes with eye-salve, that we may discern between the workings of the powers of darkness and the movings of the Spirit of God. We must not give our attention to unimportant things; we need to become acquainted with the Scriptures as we have never done before."

The 'eyesalve' is said to be Grace of God, discernment of spiritual things, and the 'Word of God'. It is a bigger study than we have space for here to list all the aspects of this symbol of the eyesalve, but suffice it to say that it is the study of the Holy Scriptures with the Grace of God and the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit that gives it to us. We have to 'apply it' ourselves - through diligent seeking and study in the Word and earnest prayer for the Grace of God and the Holy Spirit to be our tutor of the Word. No matter how often we may ask for it - if we remain indolent it is never going to just fall on our heads! Spiritual discernment is available to us, it is within our reach, but we must reach out for it and search the Word for clear understanding; pleading for the enlightenment of the Spirit. We must be in earnest and realize that as spiritual things are only spiritually discerned, it is a desperate need of each one of us, or we will join the multitudes all fallen into various ditches and snares and be lost.

This is why an over simplistic definition of the meaning of 'eyesalve' is a snare, especially when it leads us to think that it is something that God is just going to drop down to us when He is good and ready; No! It is vital that we get into the Word and anoint our eyes with it!

"Christian strength is obtained by serving the Lord faithfully. Young men and young women should realize that to be one with Christ is the highest honor to which they can attain. By the strictest fidelity they should strive for moral independence, and this independence they should maintain against every influence that may try to turn them from righteous principles. Stronger minds may, yes, they will, make assertions that have no foundation in truth. Let the heavenly eye-salve be applied to the eyes of your understanding, that you may distinguish between truth and error. Search the Word; and when you find a "Thus saith the Lord," take your stand." - Advent Review and Sabbath Herald 05-09-99

3- That the 'hour of God's judgment is come' means God is the one being judged.

This is such a shocking misinterpretation! In fact it borders on blasphemy. It came to us somewhere in the warm pabulum-mush of New Theology 'Peace—Peace' preaching. First we will look at why it is really false and then we'll glance at the devastation it causes in our last warning message to the world.

What is the explanation given for such a travesty? Well they say, God has allowed His government to be put on trial and His creatures are going to decide if He has a right to remain God or not. They say it is not really us who are being judged in this great Investigative Judgment, but rather God and His principles of governing the universe.

You know; if it weren't that so many are taking this thing seriously, I would not feel it worthy of an answer. It is like when a parent gives direction to a child and the child impudently questions the very right of the parent to ask obedience of him.

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First off - who does the Bible tell us is being judged? Who is supposed to 'Fear God and give glory to Him'? That's us, isn't it? That's the people of this earth that are being warned that it's accounting time. The Bible says this message goes through the earth with a loud voice - it is no whisper. It is not a 'don't worry, this doesn't really concern you' message - it's a 'shape up before it is too late!' message.

Notice the description in Revelation 20:12 "And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is [the book] of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works."

Now does that sound like God is on trial?

In the great Day of Atonement, was Israel assembled to decide whether God was to go on being God or not? No way! It was to decide if each individual would remain part of Israel or not.

Well, say some, Satan had challenged God's government and so God had given him opportunity to demonstrate whether his form of government was better than God's. Yes, that is true, so who is being judged? Is it God? Was it God's government that had to prove itself? No! God's government had already been proven - it had been running the universe just fine before Satan started out on his tangent.

Obviously it was Satan and his ideas that have to prove themselves better than God's Laws. God graciously allowed the rebellion of Lucifer to come to fruition to demonstrate once and for all to all His created subjects that Satan's claims are unfounded and his rebellion unreasonable.

Now what does this aberration of exegesis do to our thinking when we accept it? Well it sort of rocks us to sleep in a cradle of carnal security. It changes the 'Loud Cry' of warning to a mere whimper. It says don't worry, don't get alarmed - just go on with your life, this doesn't concern you. Oh, Brothers and sisters, it's time we stopped rattling off our clichés and its time we stopped allowing others to rattle them off to us and us sit there glassy-eyed and accept whatever they are pouring into our ears!

Advent Review and Sabbath Herald - 08-20-03 "The powers from beneath are working with intensity of effort. Soon will come the time when God will discern between him that serveth God and him that serveth Him not. Soon will come the time of which John writes: "I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. ...and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."

That's not God, folks- that's everyone who doesn't take heed to God's warning about the judgment! You, me, everyone of us have a heaven to win and a hell to shun, God doesn't have to prove anything to us, He's already proved it all. The results of sin are already plain enough to the universe and when Jesus suffered on Calvary, Satan's horrible cruelty was exposed forever. God on trial? Better think again brethren.

In Conclusion - I want to urge all to seek truth for ourselves, stop taking the word of the 'blind who are leading the blind'; stop being a generation of parrots; look what happened to the Jews as they clung to their clichés and mistaken ideas received from tradition of their fathers- it's time to grab the eyesalve and get busy anointing the eyes, pleading for God in the name of the Savior to send the Holy Spirit to teach you personally. We can be lost in groups, but only saved as individuals!

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