**Laodicean or Remnant?**

April 25, 2018

The title of this sermon is in a question form, “Laodicean or Remnant?” Before we begin, let us first invite the presence of God’s Spirit.

To become a Seventh-day Adventist is a choice that we all individually make; the alternative of course, is to cast our lot with the churches of Babylon or to be of the world. But God has given us, who profess to be Seventh-day Adventists, another choice in this final generation, and that is to be a majority, nominal, wretched, miserable poor, blind and naked, Laodicean Seventh-day Adventist, or a minority, Divinely connected, studying to show oneself approved unto God, noble Berean remnant Seventh-day Adventist. God never forces the will and one thing is certain, we all will choose which path we will be on.

Here is a danger most Adventists make. They reach a point where they believe they have all the light they need to know. They will tend to trust that what they have been taught is solid truth and contains no errors. This has been the case since the 16th century began. When the reformers die, the formed denomination closes their doors to any new light. It happened with the Lutherans, it happened with the Methodists, the Presbyterians, the Baptists and others.

Could the same have happened to Adventists? Listen to this quote from SOP. *“The Reformation did not, as many suppose, end with Luther****. IT IS TO BE CONTINUED TO THE CLOSE OF THIS WORLD'S HISTORY****. Luther had a great work to do in reflecting upon others the light which God permitted to shine upon him; yet he was not to receive all the light which was to be given to the world. From that time to this new light has been continually shining upon God's word, new truths have been constantly unfolding. God is light, and he is ever imparting light to his followers.”*

So we can understand from this quote that God’s unfolding light did not stop with Ellen White’s death in 1915. She said the reformation will continue until the close of this world’s history. That also means that God will continue to unfold new light as well. But here is the kicker. Satan will counterfeit any new light with several variations designed to confuse. Who is going to understand what is the true light? The answer would be the modern day noble Beran, for he or she will dig deep into available resources and God will make clear the only truth we then need to know.

Now listen carefully to this very important SOP statement: *“It is not enough that we believe a portion of truth, we must grasp truth after truth, and by both precept and example* ***we must teach the truth as it is in Jesus.*** *… If we abide in Christ we must ever be searching after truth as for hidden treasures, in order that our apprehensions of truth may be quick and comprehensive. We shall not then be putting on the garments of resistance, and be prepared to be prejudiced against the very things which we need in our time.* ***Christ is continually unfolding old truths in a new light.***(Let me stop right here because I need to read this last sentence again.) ***Christ is continually unfolding old truths in a new light.***(Could it be that the truths He taught our pioneers, which today is claimed to be error, are the old truths that He has brought back to this final generation of Adventists, so as to prepare a true remnant for the final crisis? Going on with the same quote,) ***The only way in which we will be prepared to have a more perfect apprehension*** (quick to understand) ***of truth, is by keeping the heart tender and subdued by the SPIRIT OF CHRIST.******We cannot afford to cultivate hardness of heart; for******if we are students in the school of Christ, we shall be continually growing in knowledge.”***  {ST, October 29, 1894 par. 2}

There will come a day that every one of us will have our probation to close. Whether it is by sickness unto death, an accidental death, being murdered or martyred, or if still living during and through the little time of trouble, probation will then end for the whole world. The question is when our probation ends, will we be found righteous and holy, or will we be found unjust and filthy. I would like to suggest that those who believe they are among the remnant, who were wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked and died in that condition, will be found unjust and filthy and will be no more in a saved condition then was Judas. A true remnant will be an overcomer and would have been righteous and holy.

How can we be sure that we are not among the **“…wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:”** Laodiceans? Jesus said in Matthew 15:8 **“This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.”** Therefore every Laodicean has heart disease. How does Jesus see a Laodicean? Lukewarm and it makes Him sick to His stomach, according to Rev. 3:16.

Let us then understand, according to the 1828 Noah Webster’s dictionary, what these disease symptoms mean. First we have wretched. What does that condition mean? Remember, this is not how we see ourselves, nor is it how others see us, rather it is how God sees us.

**Wretched** would be something we are deeply afflicted with. But afflicted with what? Could it be that we are in error on something we perceive to be as truth? After all we believe what we have been taught by those we trusted.

**Miserable** would mean worthless. That could apply also to our understanding of what we profess to believe.

**Poor** is a condition of having extreme want. Yet as the scripture says we see ourselves rich and increased with goods. But we are not talking about one’s material prosperity, rather it is a character deficiency. Maybe we have been too quick to reject what God would have us to know in favor of what the crowd embraces. We have not searched for the hidden treasure.

**Blind** - not having the faculty of discernment; destitute of intellectual light. Maybe even rejecting the seer, the one who has received the heavenly light.

**Naked** - exposed; having no means of defense or protection against an enemy’s attack. Let’s face it. Our little finite minds are no match against the gigantic intellect of deceiving souls like us, especiall as he has been gaining in his skills for more than six thousand years, since his rebellion started in heaven. He certainly isn’t going to attack SDA’s on the Sabbath, no, he has put centuries of effort into developing an intoxicating doctrinal deception designed to trip up Adventists and making them the sickening Laodiceans that they are.

Is the case of Laodiceans hopeless? Not at all, for Jesus says in Rev. 3:18 **“I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire,**” that gold tried in the fire is faith, love and truth often developed under affliction, “…**gold tried in the fire,** **that thou mayest be rich;”** not in this world’s goods but spiritually rich, **“…and white raiment,”** that is the robe of Christ’s righteousness, **“…that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear;**” the nakedness is a flawed character exhibiting self-righteousness, especially in spiritual matters **“…and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.”** Laodiceans are spiritually blind and they need the Holy Spirit which does the convicting, and the convincing and the converting. They must be sure however that it is the correct Spirit and not a counterfeit. The eyesalve is true spiritual discernment obtained through the Word of God by the agency of the Spirit of Christ.

What does Jesus say next? Rev. 3:19 **“As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.”** He loves and died for all Laodiceans. Now be sure you understand that a Laodicean is not a remnant. A Laodicean cannot be saved in their Laodicean condition. When we are chastened by God, it is never punishment. He says He does so because He loves us and is calling for our repentance. He wants Laodiceans to be among His remnant. He goes on to say in Rev 3:20 **“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock:”** What door is He knocking on? The door of the heart? Whose heart? My heart. Say it, Jesus is knocking on my heart. Then He says, **“…if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.”** Listen carefully, just as long as there is the tiniest vestige of self in the heart, there is **NO** room at the INN for Jesus. He said “If you open, He will come IN.” When you open, self must leave. When self is gone, the promise of Jesus will be fulfilled that He stated in Revelation 3:21 **“To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.”**

Revelation 3:21 describes a Remnant believer for he or she is an overcomer. Let’s explore further the characteristics of a remnant believer. Revelation 12:17 **“And the dragon** (that’s Satan) **was wroth** (that’s extreme anger) **with the woman,** (that’s God’s church) **and went to make war with the remnant of her seed,** (that’s God’s church in this last generation) **which keep the commandments of God,** (that means all ten including the seventh day Sabbath) **and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.** (That of course is the Spirit of Prophecy)**”**

So, number 1 the remnant are commandment keepers and pay heed to the counsels of Jesus. What else? They exhibit ALL the fruit of the Spirit as listed in Galatians 5:22, 23 **“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”** Their love is ever demonstrated because they are filled with Jesus’ love and because of that fact they ever abound with joy. No matter the trial or temptation they are longsuffering for Jesus is their hope. They are gentle and good for they love every person that Jesus died for and they long for the salvation of each. They have unshakable faith and they exhibit a meekness that is obvious to those who know them. They have no pride problem. They are temperant individuals for they know that their bodies are not their own and they have been **bought with a price**, therefore they **glorify God** in their bodies. 1 Corinthians 6:20. They obey the 8 laws of health for they are good tenants of God’s property. They are excellent stewards of God’s blessings.

**“And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.”** Revelation 14:5. Guile is deceit and a Remnant would rather die than bear a false witness. Remnant believers are blessed for Revelation 22:14 says, **“Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.”**

You may say that I see myself as a Laodicean. How can I become a remnant? I read this quote from Acts of the Apostles page 482 paragraph 3. *“God wishes us to have the mastery over ourselves. But He cannot help us without our consent and co-operation. The divine Spirit works through the powers and faculties given to man. Of ourselves, we are not able to bring the purposes and desires and inclinations into harmony with the will of God; but if we are "willing to be made willing," the Saviour will accomplish this for us,* **"Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ."** 2 Corinthians 10:5.

I close with two scriptures, Philippians 4:8 **“Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.”**

2 Peter 1:5-7 **“And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.”**

Let us pray?