

not at all like human wrath—God’s wrath releases while human wrath imposes; His wrath honors free choice while human wrath violates it; God’s wrath is consequential and perfectly just while human wrath is arbitrary and vindictive.

The gospel teaches, then, that Christ loves every member of the human race, for He has bought them all with a price—and what a price! If there had been but one who would be saved, He would have given His life as a ransom for that one.

At the same time, Satan is determined to wrest from the hand of Christ every soul he can possibly influence. Unfortunately, he will successfully influence many to persistently refuse the gift God has given them in Jesus Christ. Yet, while many will be lost, Christ’s atonement was made for the whole human family. No one, high or low, rich or poor, free or bond, has been left out of the plan of redemption.<sup>5</sup> The question is, *Who will accept all that Christ has done for them?*

We may all say, if we will, “I have a Friend in heaven. He is my Savior, Jesus Christ the Lord.” This is the clear teaching of Scripture. “For therefore we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, specially of those that believe” (I Timothy 4:10). “For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time” (I Timothy 2:5-6). “For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men” (Titus 2:11, NAS). Amen.

<sup>1</sup> Encarta® World English Dictionary.

<sup>2</sup> The Great Controversy, pp. 537, 540.

<sup>3</sup> The Handbook of SDA Theology, (Bible Commentary, Volume 12), pp. 287-288.

<sup>4</sup> The Acts of the Apostles, p. 62.

<sup>5</sup> Review and Herald, September 3, 1903; Review and Herald, November 12, 1895; Review and Herald, May 19, 1896.

# LIFT HIM UP

3ABN Schedule (PST)

Monday 12:30 pm  
Tuesday 8:00 pm  
Thursday 7:00 am  
Saturday 12:30 pm

## Events Schedule

- **August 1**  
Camp Hope, Hope, BC  
Ty Gibson—☎(301)680-6450
- **August 4**  
National ASI Convention, Louisville, KY  
Ty Gibson—☎(301)680-6450
- **August 18**  
Eugene SDA Church, OR  
Ty Gibson—☎(541)683-4169
- **August 25**  
Eugene, Oregon Churches Area Wide Evangelism, Laurelwood Academy, Jasper, OR  
Ty Gibson—☎(541)688-5081
- **August 31–September 1**  
Grants Pass SDA Church, Grants Pass, OR  
Ty Gibson—☎(541)476-6313
- **September 8**  
Pleasant Hill SDA Church, OR  
Ty Gibson—☎(541)746-1750
- **September 14-22**  
Lane Events Center, Eugene, Oregon Churches Area Wide Evangelism  
Ty Gibson—☎(541)683-4169
- **September 28-30**  
Mens Summit, Flathead Lake Camp, Rollins, MT  
James Rafferty—☎(406)752-5300
- **October 19-20**  
Rest Haven SDA Church, Sidney, BC  
James Rafferty—☎(250)544-0720
- **October 26-28**  
Singles Retreat at The Shawnee Inn & Golf Resort—Shawnee on Delaware, PA  
James Rafferty—☎(908)672-5533

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*Light Bearers is a non-profit ministry based in the beautiful western-central part of 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



## “Darkness Shall Cover the Earth”

By Ty Gibson

**T**ake in this picture of our world. The present population is 6.6 billion. 1.1 billion are Catholic. 1 billion are Protestant. 1.3 billion are Muslim. 1 billion are Hindu. 350 million are Buddhist. 490 million adhere to various indigenous pagan religions. 850 million are secular/atheist/agnostic.

Do you realize what this means? The vast majority who make up the human race either possess or are reacting to some terribly distorted view of God’s character. That’s 3.4 billion of our precious fellow humans who believe that God is a Supreme Ruler who will torture them for eternity if they do not submit to His dominion. About 1.5 billion believe they are caught in a nearly endless cycle of reincarnations that involve various levels of suffering until they can somehow rise above their sins to reach a spiritual plateau called nirvana. At least .5 billion live in fear and delusion under the influence of demons pretending to be deceased relatives and gods. And many millions

of those in the non-religious category have rejected the idea of a supreme being as a reaction against the horrific picture of God presented by the world’s major religions.

Isaiah’s words are so very applicable to our present world demographics: “For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people” (Isa. 60:2, NKJV).

Those who know the Creator to be a God of infinite love—a perfect synthesis of mercy and justice for all—and who love the hurting masses of the world cannot help but wonder how we can best reach out to as many people as possible with the gospel of God’s incredible grace.

When Jesus gave the gospel commission to His disciples, public preaching was the only way to communicate to groups of people. Preaching is definitely a powerful means of making the truth known. But there is an even more effective means of proclamation we have at our disposal at this time in history. In 1450 the printing press was invented

in Germany by Johann Gutenberg. It was *the* revolutionary tool that fueled the progress of the Reformation, and it is still the single most effective means of placing the truth in people’s hands. No doubt Gutenberg was inspired by the Holy Spirit with the knowledge and skill to fabricate the first press, and thus open the door for mass communication for the first time in human history.

While I have the privilege each year of preaching to thousands of people in seminars around the world, just the one container of gospel literature Light Bearers sent out on July 5 will carry millions of sermons in printed form to the precious people of Zambia. By God’s grace, one container after another will go out as well, until the glorious fame of Jesus fills the earth. Many will begin to come to God’s people and say, “From a very far country your servants have come, because of the name of the Lord your God; for we have heard of His fame” (Joshua 9:9, NKJV).

## CONSIDER THIS . . .

Satan knows that Christ has purchased redemption for the whole world, and he is determined to wrest from the hand of Christ every soul that he can possibly influence.

Ellen G. White,  
*Review and Herald*, May 19, 1896

Our publications are now sowing the gospel seed, and are instrumental in bringing as many souls to Christ as the preached word. Whole churches have been raised up as the result of their circulation. In this work every disciple of Christ can act a part.

Ellen G. White,  
*Review and Herald*, June 10, 1880

Satan is busy in this department of his work, scattering literature which is debasing the morals and poisoning the minds of the young. Infidel publications are scattered broadcast throughout the land. Why should not every member of the church be as deeply interested in sending forth publications that will elevate the minds of the people, and bring the truth directly before them? These papers and tracts are for the light of the world, and have often been instrumental in converting souls.

Ellen G. White,  
*Review and Herald*, June 10, 1880

Let every Seventh-day Adventist ask himself, "What can I do to proclaim the third

angel's message?" Christ came to this world to give this message to His servant to give to the churches. It is to be proclaimed to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. How are we to give it? The distribution of our literature is one means by which the message is to be proclaimed. Let every believer scatter broadcast tracts and leaflets and books containing the message for this time. Colporteurs are needed who will go forth to circulate our publications everywhere.

Ellen G. White,  
*Southern Watchman*, Jan. 5, 1904

The world does not acknowledge that, at an infinite cost, Christ has purchased the human race. They do not acknowledge that by creation and by redemption He holds a just claim to every human being. But as the Redeemer of the fallen race, He has been given the deed of possession, which entitles Him to claim them as His property.

Ellen G. White,  
*SDA Bible Commentary*,  
Vol. 7A, p. 466

Christ's atonement includes the whole human family. No one, high or low, rich or poor, free or bond, has been left out of the plan of redemption.

Ellen G. White,  
*SDA Bible Commentary*,  
Vol. 7A, p. 464

# UNIVERSALISM & THE GOSPEL

BY JAMES RAFFERTY



*Universalism* is defined as "the doctrine of salvation for all people."<sup>1</sup> Most Christians know that Universalism is at variance with the biblical understanding of the gospel, yet it is hinged on a very important truth taken to an erroneous extreme. To say that the "the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men" (Titus 2:11, NAS), is biblical and a vital part of the gospel, but to then conclude that all souls will be eternally saved is a perversion of that good news. So what is the difference?

At its core, Universalism places both the unrepentant sinner and the believer in heaven. "Many regard the threatenings of the Bible as designed merely to frighten men into obedience, and not to be literally fulfilled. Thus the sinner can live in selfish pleasure, disregarding the requirements of God, and yet expect to be finally received

*In the apostolic preaching the already-won reconciliation projects itself toward every person, and seeks lodgment in the experience of those who believe.*

into His favor. Such a doctrine, presuming upon God's mercy, but ignoring His justice, pleases the carnal heart and emboldens the wicked in their iniquity. . . . Let us consider what the Bible teaches further concerning the ungodly and unrepentant, whom the Universalist places in heaven as holy, happy angels."<sup>2</sup>

The problem with Universalism is not the idea that God has brought salvation to all through Jesus Christ. This is clear gospel truth. The apostle Paul was slandered for holding to this wonderful truth, concerning which he boldly affirmed that he was "not ashamed" (Romans 1:16; 3:8, 22-24). Embracing this aspect of the gospel is the only course for those who call themselves Seventh-day Adventists, for if there is one truth that stands head and shoulders above all others, it is the truth of God's unconditional love for the whole world in Christ. Our own handbook states on salvation:

"While reconciliation involves the

experience of restored relations with God, it is first an objective event before it is subjective. According to 2 Corinthians 5:18-19, 21, reconciliation is achieved by the event of the cross. . . . In the apostolic preaching the already-won reconciliation projects itself toward every person, and seeks lodgment in the experience of those who believe. . . . What the gospel announces, therefore, is that people are to enter the new situation of reconciliation already existing 'in Christ Jesus' (Ephesians 2:13), who 'is our peace' (verse 14)."<sup>3</sup>

The real problem with Universalism is the assumption that because Christ died for all, everyone will eventually be saved—even the devil and his angels. This is clearly not what the Bible teaches (Jude 6; 2 Peter 2:4-9, NKJV).

The idea of eternal torment is revolting to the heart warmed by God's love, and it is certainly not biblical, but that does not mean we are to conclude that God will eventually place everyone

in heaven. God will never abandon one sinner without providing them every conceivable opportunity to repent; but His mercy will never save one sinner who persists in rejecting His love.

"The wrath of God is not declared against unrepentant sinners merely because of the sins they have committed, but because when called to repent, they choose to continue in resistance, repeating the sins of the past in defiance of the light given them. If the Jewish leaders had submitted to the convicting power of the Holy Spirit, they would have been pardoned; but they were determined not to yield. In the same way, the sinner, by continued resistance, places himself where the Holy Spirit cannot influence him."<sup>4</sup>

Praise God that it is persistent resistance of His grace, and not our personal sins that brings God's wrath (Romans 1:16-18). His wrath is

*continued on page 4. . .*