

False Doctrine of Seventh-day Adventism

Current Statistics (from “Adventist.org” Website)

Seventh-day Adventist World Church Statistics 2021 Summary of Statistics as of December 31, 2021:

- Churches 95,297
- Companies 72,975
- Church Memberships 21,912,161
- Total Accessions 1,069,234

Seventh-day Adventism is a massive false religious movement that has captivated millions. Today's Seventh-day Adventist Church had its beginning in the mid-1800s, with William Miller (1782-1849), a farmer and Baptist preacher who lived in upstate New York. Best known for their Saturday Sabbath, Seventh-day Adventists affirm the same beliefs as most Protestant Christian denominations but also have several unique doctrines. Their teachings do not abide in the doctrine of Christ (2 John 9; Matthew 7:24-27).

The following are some examples of their errors.

A False Gospel

Contrary to the gospel of God, Adventists teach that the law is still binding on Christians today.

Adventists do differ from other Christians in that they celebrate the Bible sabbath from sundown Friday until sundown Saturday. They believe that the law of God is still binding on Christians today and that those who love Jesus will keep His commandments. (Hillcrest Seventh-day Adventist Church bulletin, fourth page, 2600 Kenwood Road, Bakersfield, CA.)

Indeed, those who love Jesus will keep His commandments, and here are some of His commandments (i.e. all of the following Scriptures).

“For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them.” (Galatians 3:10)

The Adventists are under this curse, because they believe and teach “that the law of God is still binding on Christians today.” Ellen G. White put it this way, “The work of proclaiming the gospel, God has commanded to his church. They are to teach the perpetuity and binding force of the holy commandments delivered at Sinai. (SW - The Watchman, August 7, 1906, The Perfect Standard.

Paul wrote, “For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.” (Romans 10:4; see also Acts 15:28-29)

“Abraham believed God and it was accounted to him for righteousness” (Romans 4:3). This is how a person is justified and found righteous before God, and this is how a person lives a righteous life, by faith (Galatians 3:11). It is not by keeping the law of God, because “if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain” (Galatians 2:21).

Teaching "that the law of God is still binding on Christians today “is another gospel, which is really not another, but is a perversion of the gospel of Christ.” (Galatians 1:6-7). The church in Galatia was troubled by this same false gospel (e.g. Galatians 3:1-3), except for them the focus was circumcision. For the Adventists, the focus is the Sabbath, as one Adventist put it “So, dear friend, how do we show that we worship God as the Creator? We keep the seventh-day Sabbath holy.” (*The Counterfeit Mark*, by L. E. Tucker, SEARCH for Truth S Series, A Quiet Hour Publication, Box 3000, Redlands, CA 92373, copyright 1996, p. 18). “When a man keeps the seventh day he shows that he is a servant of God.” (ibid., p. 24).

Seventh-day Adventists pervert this Sabbath observance and actually believe that Sunday observance is the mark of the beast. In this they also err (for details of this, see below, **A False Mark**). Just as circumcision was given before the law (Genesis 17:1-14), so was the Sabbath established before the law (Genesis 2:2-3). And, just as circumcision is nothing (Galatians 6:15), so weekly Sabbath observance is nothing, as Paul wrote, “One person esteems one day above another; another esteems every day alike. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind. He who observes the day, observes it to the Lord; and he who does not observe the day, to the Lord he does not observe it.” (Romans 14:5-6)

As Paul describes here, it is perfectly acceptable to esteem every day alike. If a person esteems every day alike, there is no observance of the Sabbath, because those who keep the Sabbath esteem it as holy, set apart from the other days of the week (Exodus 20:8). Under the new covenant (Galatians 4:21-31; Hebrews 8:7-13), it is perfectly acceptable to **"not observe the day,"** because those who walk by faith have entered His rest (Hebrews 4:4, 9-10). Their "Sabbath" is every day as they walk by faith with God, and are no longer under the bondage of the law (Galatians 4:3, 9, 24-25, 5:1).

Faulty Health

Adventists advocate a vegetarian diet. American vegetarianism was almost a casualty of the preoccupation with the Civil War. During that time the fledgling Seventh-day Adventist Church kept the ideas alive. Ellen White (1827-1915), one of the denomination's founders, began to advocate a vegetarian diet in 1863. (from the magazine, *Vibrant Life, Going Meatless*, p. 6, copyright 1992).

The vegetarian diet is no suggestion, it is considered a matter of righteous living. This is evident in a sermon by Ellen White entitled *Faithfulness in Health Reform* where she preached,

“Those who have received instruction regarding the **evils of the use of flesh-meats**, tea, and coffee, and rich and unhealthful food preparations, and who are determined to make a covenant with God by sacrifice, will not continue to indulge their appetite for food that they know to be unhealthful. God demands that the appetite be cleansed, and that self-denial be practised in

regard to those things which are not good. This is a work that will have to be done before his people can stand before him a perfected people.” The Review and Herald, February 24, 1910 par. 4} [SERMON AT THE GENERAL CONFERENCE, WASHINGTON, D. C., MAY 31, 1909.]

“If we could be benefited by indulging the desire for flesh-meats, I would not make this appeal to you; but I know we can not. Flesh foods are injurious to the physical well-being, and we should learn to do without them. Those who are in a position where it is possible to secure a vegetarian diet, but who choose to follow their own preferences in this matter, eating and drinking as they please, will gradually grow careless of the instruction the Lord has given regarding other phases of the present truth, and will lose their perception of what is truth; they will surely reap as they have sown.” [ibid., p. 12.]

Following White's folly, Adventists make this statement: “We advocate a wholesome manner of living and reject the use of substances such as tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs that harm the body and consume earth's resources; and we promote a simple vegetarian diet.” (*Official Statements*, Caring for Creation -- A Statement on the Environment.)

Richard L. Neil, an Adventist from Loma Linda University writes, “Perhaps **what most distinguishes Adventists from our neighbors is our diet**. Numerous studies show the Adventist diet to be tasty, sensible, and above all, healthy! **For years Adventists have followed a diet** that the American Heart Association now touts as best for good heart health. Some scientists believe that up to 50 percent of certain cancers can be prevented by the kind of prudent **diet adopted by this church** more than a century ago.”

Clearly, Adventists have a certain diet as a part of their religion. According to 1 Timothy 4:1-3, to advocate “to abstain from foods” is in keeping with those who have departed from the faith and follow after doctrines of demons. The Word of God gives clear understand on this issue: “For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving.” (1 Timothy 4:4). Adventists reject 1 Timothy 4:4 because they teach, “We are to adopt the most healthful diet possible and abstain from the unclean foods identified in the Scriptures. (*Fundamental Beliefs*, #21).

1 Timothy 4:4 declares all food (meat) clean and Jesus Himself declared all food clean in Mark 7:18-19. The only food Scripture declares unclean is the animals under the old covenant law (e.g. Leviticus 11), but Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes (Romans 10:4). Therefore, here again in the Adventist false doctrine concerning health, they advocate the false gospel of righteousness (right living) through the law (Galatians 1:8-9).

God controls how long we live and how healthy we are. If we take heed to His word, we will be as happy, healthy, and live as long as He pleases (Psalm 115:3; also note Romans 8:36).

An “Unconscious Dead”

Hillcrest Seventh-day Adventist church bulletin also notes "How Are Adventists Different?" One of the issues they state is that they believe the Bible teaches that the state of man in death is unconscious, as Jesus said of Lazarus, "They (sic) are asleep."

Likewise, Ellen G. White states, “What say the Scriptures? Man is not conscious in death.” (*Lion On The Loose*, by Ellen G. White, copyright 1989 by Pacific Press Publishing Association, p. 41). This "unconscious state" is a Fundamental Belief of the Adventist church (" . . . death is an unconscious state for all people, " *Fundamental Beliefs*, #25.

They are fundamentally wrong. Please note Luke 16:19-30. Both Abraham and the rich man are very much conscience, yet both of their bodies are in the grave (Genesis 25:7-9; Luke 16:22).

No Eternal Hell

Adventists reject the Biblical truth of an eternal hell of torment. In their rejection of a Biblical hell, Adventists blaspheme the God of the Bible.

Revelation 20:10 says, “And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.” Ellen G. White, who now knows otherwise, taught that it is heresy to teach eternal torment. She said, “Evil has been wrought by the heresy of eternal torment. The religion of the Bible, full of love and goodness, is darkened by superstition and clothed with terror. Satan has painted the character of God in false colors.” (*Lion On The Loose*, p. 37, see also page 77). Not only does she call the Biblical doctrine of Hell heresy, but she attributes this teaching of Christ (e.g. Matthew 5:22, 29-30; 10:28; 18:9; etc.) to the Devil!

Moreover, Adventists, in their rejection of hell, obliterate the most serious warning of the gospel: “For the wages of sin is death.” (Romans 6:23). This death includes the second death (i.e. hell, Revelation 21:8). But, Adventists reject the gospel of God and state the opposite of the Word of God. As the Adventist L. E. Tucker writes,

Much False Prophecy

Under "Fundamental Beliefs" Adventists teach,

Here is a glimpse of what they believe about end times. “The millennium is the thousand-year reign of Christ with His saints in heaven between the first and second resurrections. During this time the wicked dead will be judged; the earth will be utterly desolate, without living human inhabitants, but occupied by Satan and his angels. At its close Christ with His saints and the Holy City will descend from heaven to earth. The unrighteous dead will then be resurrected, and with Satan and his angels will surround the city; but fire from God will consume them and cleanse the earth. The universe will thus be freed of sin and sinners forever.” (Rev. 20; 1 Cor. 6:2, 3; Jer. 4:23-26; Rev. 21:1-5; Mal. 4:1; Eze. 28:18, 19.) [adventist.org/beliefs/index.]

The **first sentence is erroneous**, because Christ and the saints will be on earth, not heaven as the Adventists state (Revelation 19:11-20:9, this is *not* to say Christ and the saints will not have access to heaven). The **second sentence is false**, because Scripture never says the wicked dead will be judged during this thousand years, or the earth will be utterly desolate without human inhabitants (Proverbs 30:5-6). In fact, the Word indicates the opposite. In other words, the earth *will* be inhabited (Matthew 25:31; Revelation 19:11-21; 20:7-9), and, contrary to Adventists' folly, Satan will *not* be on the earth, but rather in prison in the abyss (Revelation 20:1-3, 7). **The third sentence is a lie** because Christ comes with His saints to the earth at the beginning of the thousand years, not at the end as they state, and the Holy City does not descend until *after* Satan's final rebellion and *after* the unrighteous dead are resurrected (Revelation 20:7-21:1). **The fourth sentence is a lie** because the unrighteous dead are *not* resurrected until *after* Satan causes the final rebellion against the camp of the saints (Revelation 20:7-13). Finally, the **fifth sentence is a lie** because the universe will *never* "be freed of sin and sinners" in the way the Adventists believe.

A False Mark

More false prophecy can be found in their perversion and over emphasis on the Sabbath. Seventh-day Adventists teach that the mark of the beast (Revelation 13:16-17; 14:9-11; 15:2; 16:2; 19:20; 20:4) is keeping Sunday as the Sabbath or Lord's Day. They teach that Sunday observance will be enforced by law and, if a person submits to this, they will have received the mark of the beast. In the booklet, *The Counterfeit Mark*, the Adventist L. E. Tucker writes, "The fact is that the person who keeps Sunday as the Lord's day does not obey Jesus in reference to the day that he keeps." (p. 24). A little later Tucker writes, "In keeping the first day of the week he shows that he is a follower of Rome in that respect. Again you see how the attempted change of the Sabbath constitutes the MARK of identification between those who obey God as the supreme authority regarding the Sabbath and those who obey the authority of the papacy as supreme in regard to Sunday. This brings every soul face to face with the most important issue of all in his life. Will you receive the seal of God or will you receive the Mark of the Beast?" (ibid., p. 25-26)

A little later, Tucker explains how "the mark" gets "in their hand and in their foreheads." "Many people tell us: 'We know that the seventh day is the right Sabbath but we have to work on that day or lose our jobs.' Such people have no Sunday-Sabbath in their mind or forehead because they do not believe in it, but their "hand" obeys it, so they receive it in their hand. There are others who see the seventh day is the true Sabbath in the New Testament but they love their old friends and their old ways more than the unpopular truth and WISH they did not have to obey it." . . .(ibid., p. 28). "After rejecting the truth they become enthusiastic believers in the false Sabbath (Sunday) and thus they receive this mark "IN THEIR FOREHEADS," (p. 29.)

A little later Tucker writes, "Which will it be for you? It is up to each of us. You will settle this matter as to whether you will receive the SEAL OF GOD or the MARK OF THE BEAST, by the WAY YOU DECIDE THE SABBATH QUESTION." (ibid., p. 32.)

Please read Revelation 13:16-17; 14:9-11; 15:2; 16:2; 19:20; & 20:4. Do you see *any* mention of Sunday, Saturday, first day, seventh-day, or any of the like in these verses or their context? No, but the Seventh-day Adventist do (Proverbs 30:5-6). They add to the very book that says,

“If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book.”
(Revelation 22:18)

Ecumenism

In their ungodly handling of Revelation, Adventists reveal their ecumenism with their twisted prophecy. On page 29-30 in this same little booklet, *The Counterfeit Mark*, Tucker quotes from page 449 of Ellen G. White's book *The Great Controversy Between Christ and Satan*.

“Christians of past generations observed the Sunday supposing that in so doing they were keeping the Bible Sabbath, and there are now true Christians in every church not excepting the Roman Catholic communion who honestly believe that Sunday is the Sabbath of divine appointment. God accepts their sincerity of purpose and their integrity before Him, but when Sunday observance shall be enforced by law and the world shall be enlightened concerning the obligation of the true Sabbath, then whosoever shall transgress the command of God to obey a precept which has no higher authority than that of Rome will thereby honor popery above God. He is paying homage to Rome and to the power which enforced the institution ordained by Rome. He is worshipping the beast and his image.”

This too is false teaching. First of all, the world will not be “enlightened” in the future as the Adventists say. The world will be deceived (Matthew 24:24; Mark 13:5-6, 22; 2 Corinthians 4:3-42; Thessalonians 2:9-12; Revelation 13:3, 8, 14; 17:8; 19:20). The mark of the beast will come with a “strong delusion” (2 Thessalonians 2:11). They will “believe the lie” (2 Thessalonians 2:11). They will all “honestly” believe it (Revelation 13:3-4).

Conclusion

With the above teachings explained, a true believer should view SDA theology with great caution. As explained, it should be noted that Seventh-day Adventists espouse a number of unorthodox theological distinctives such as soul sleep, the annihilation of the wicked, and (at least historically) the insistence that they are the only true church).

However, the primary issues that separate Seventh-day Adventists from biblical Christianity are (1) their unorthodox view of Christ's work of atonement; (2) their illegitimate elevation of Ellen G. White's prophecies; and (3) their legalistic insistence that believers are bound to observe the Sabbath and Mosaic dietary laws.

All three of these issues touch fundamental doctrines of the Christian faith. It is for that reason that evangelicals ought to view SDA theology with great caution. Upon examination, its doctrinal distinctives fall short of biblical orthodoxy.