

The Important Thing

Review

The “Passing of the Time” in 1844 led to a recognition of the Antitypical Day of Atonement, and—in time—to the whole distinctive eschatology of the Adventist Church

The root meaning of the noun “atonement” is the adjective phrase “at-one”

The greatest evidence of Christ’s at-one-ness with His Father was works of kindness

That’s why Jesus pointed John the Baptist to His “medical missionary” work as the sign that He was the Messiah

Review

John's confusion had come from not realizing that "the principle of self-abnegation" that the Holy Spirit had called him to follow, was the ***universal*** principle of operation for the kingdom of heaven—that even the ***Messiah*** would live that way!

At-one-ment is a function of the Priest

In His "High-Priestly Prayer," Jesus prayed that His followers might be "one" with Him and the Father "that the world may believe that You sent Me"

It is the "glory" of Christlike character displayed in the merciful acts of His followers which proves they are "one" with Him

Review

In fact, this display of Christlike “works” by His followers will be “greater” than what Jesus did when He was on earth

Christ’s work is described in Isaiah 61, and our work is described in Isaiah 58, which shows how “Medical missionary work is to be bound up with the message, and sealed with the seal of God”

And, since the seal of God is the Sabbath—

“We cannot keep this day holy unless we serve the Lord in the manner brought to view in” Isaiah 58

Looking Forward

- “When our churches will fulfill the duty resting upon them, they will be living, working agencies for the Master. The manifestation of Christian love will fill the soul with a deeper, more earnest fervor to work for Him who gave His life to save the world....
- “We shall see the medical missionary work broadening and deepening at every point of its progress, because of the inflowing of hundreds and thousands of streams, until the whole earth is covered as the waters cover the sea.”

—*Notebook Leaflets*, book one, 18

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Looking Forward

□ “They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.”

—Isaiah 11:9

□ “For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.”

—Habakkuk 2:14

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The Worst Case Scenario

□ “Should all the inhabitants of this little world refuse obedience to God, He would not be left without glory. He could sweep every mortal from the face of the earth in a moment, and create a new race to people it and glorify His name. God is not dependent on man for honor.”

—*Review and Herald*, March 1, 1881

The Worst Case Scenario

□ “Before Christ’s first advent.... all heaven waited the bidding of their Commander to pour out the vials of wrath upon a rebellious world. One word from Him, one sign, and the world would have been destroyed. The worlds unfallen would have said, ‘Amen. Thou art righteous, O God, because Thou hast exterminated rebellion.’”

—*Signs of the Times*, August 27, 1902

The Worst Case Scenario

□ “He has worlds upon worlds that give Him divine honor, and heaven and all the universe would have been just as happy if He had left this world to perish.”

—*Review and Herald*, March 9, 1886

The Worst Case Scenario

□ “Three times Christ prayed, ‘Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me.’ ... What if His request had been granted, and the cup had passed from Him? The scene that was presented before me as the result of such a decision made me for a time lose all consciousness. When I awoke the scene was presented to me again and again until it had passed before me three times.

□ “As I have thought of that cup trembling in the hands of Christ; as I have realized that He might have refused to drink it and left the world to perish in its sin, I pledged that every energy of my life should be devoted to Christ, that I may win souls to Him.”

—*General Conference Bulletin*, June 6, 1909

Looking Forward

□ “We are to work the works of Christ.... Isaiah says, ‘Thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the Lord shall be thy rearward.’... This is the work that must be done before Christ shall come in power and great glory.... Man is the agent through whom God works for man, and yet how few have given themselves unreservedly to work the works of God. Man can accomplish nothing without Jesus, and yet it is so arranged in the plan of salvation, that its great object cannot be consummated without human co-operation.”

—*Review and Herald*, November 1, 1892

Looking Forward

- “There are some who withhold themselves from their fellow men, and shut themselves within themselves, and the gospel of Jesus Christ is made void by their practice. Their words go as far as expressions of warmth, but the poor are not clothed, nor fed, nor warmed, nor taught, nor given personal labor.
- “These indolent, slothful servants are abundant; but they say, and do not. They themselves are destitute of hope, faith, and love, and they are not helped by the gospel, because they are not doers of the word.

Looking Forward

□ “Some moral expressions are made, and some frozen exhibitions are shown, but the bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness do not penetrate the heart, brighten the life, and give vitality to their religious experience. They do not know what service, unselfish service, to God means. Many consider that it will sometime be their duty; but it cannot be now. They contemplate it afar off, as something we are not ready for, when it should have been brought into their life at the very beginning of their religious experience....

Looking Forward

- “The moral apathy that is prevailing in the churches today, would be largely corrected, if they would consider that they are under service to God to do the very work Christ did when he was upon the earth and ‘went about doing good.’ ...
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Looking Forward

- “This work is the work the churches have left undone, and they cannot prosper until they have taken hold of this work in the cities, in highways, and in hedges.
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—*Home Missionary*, November 1, 1897

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—*Home Missionary*, November 1, 1897

The Loud Cry

□ “Cry aloud, spare not; Lift up your voice like a trumpet; Tell My people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.”

—Isaiah 58:1

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Atonement

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—Isaiah 58:1

□ “Then you shall cause the trumpet of the Jubilee to sound on the tenth day of the seventh month; on the Day of Atonement you shall make the trumpet to sound throughout all your land.”

—Leviticus 25:9

The Loud Cry

□ “The time of test is just upon us, for the loud cry of the third angel has already begun in the revelation of the righteousness of Christ, the sin-pardoning Redeemer. This is the beginning of the light of the angel whose glory shall fill the whole earth.”

—*Review and Herald*, November 22, 1892

Righteousness by Faith

- “Faith in Jesus Christ as our personal Saviour, the One who pardons our sins and transgressions, the One who is able to keep us from sin and lead us in His footsteps, is set forth in the fifty-eighth chapter of Isaiah. Here are presented the fruits of a faith that works by love and purifies the soul from selfishness. Faith and works are here combined....
- “‘Thy righteousness shall go before thee.’ What does this mean? Christ is our righteousness.”

—*Review and Herald*, March 17, 1910

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—*Review and Herald*, March 17, 1910

The Message Cried Aloud

□ “‘Why have we fasted,’ they say, ‘and You have not seen? Why have we afflicted our souls, and You take no notice?’ In fact, in the day of your fast you find pleasure, and exploit all your laborers. Indeed you fast for strife and debate, and to strike with the fist of wickedness. You will not fast as you do this day, to make your voice heard on high. Is it a fast that I have chosen, a day for a man to afflict his soul? Is it to bow down his head like a bulrush, and to spread out sackcloth and ashes? Would you call this a fast, and an acceptable day to the LORD?”

—Isaiah 58:2–5

The Message Cried Aloud

□ “loose the bonds of wickedness... undo the heavy burdens... let the oppressed go free...break every yoke... share your bread with the hungry... shelter the poor who are cast out... clothe the naked... extend your soul to the hungry... satisfy the afflicted soul

The Parallels

□ “And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write,

The Parallels

□ “These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked

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□ “I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.

The Parallels

□ “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.”

—Revelation 3:14–21

The Parallels

□ “Since the time of the Minneapolis meeting, I have seen the state of the Laodicean Church as never before.”

—*Review and Herald*, August 26, 1890

Missing in Action

□ “I asked the meaning of the shaking I had seen and was shown that it would be caused by the straight testimony called forth by the counsel of the True Witness to the Laodiceans. This will have its effect upon the heart of the receiver, and will lead him to exalt the standard and pour forth the straight truth. Some will not bear this straight testimony. They will rise up against it, and this is what will cause a shaking among God’s people.”

—*Early Writings*, 270

The Straight Testimony (sort of)

- “Says the true Witness, ‘Behold, I stand at the door and knock.’ ...
- “The heavenly Guest is standing at your door, while you are piling up obstructions to bar His entrance. Jesus is knocking through the prosperity He gives you. He loads you with blessings to test your fidelity, that they may flow out from you to others. Will you permit your selfishness to triumph? Will you squander God’s talents, and lose your soul through idolatrous love of the blessings He has given.”

—*Review and Herald*, November 2, 1886

The Straight Testimony (sort of)

□ “All His gifts are to be used in blessing humanity, in relieving the suffering and the needy. We are to feed the hungry, to clothe the naked, to care for the widow and the fatherless, to minister to the distressed and downtrodden. God never meant that the widespread misery in the world should exist. He never meant that one man should have an abundance of the luxuries of life, while the children of others should cry for bread. The means over and above the actual necessities of life are entrusted to man to do good, to bless humanity.

The Straight Testimony (sort of)

□ “The Lord says, ‘Sell that ye have, and give alms.’ Be ‘ready to distribute, willing to communicate.’ ‘When thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind.’ ‘Loose the bands of wickedness,’ ‘undo the heavy burdens,’ ‘let the oppressed go free,’ ‘break every yoke.’ ‘Deal thy bread to the hungry,’ ‘bring the poor that are cast out to thy house.’ ‘When thou seest the naked,... cover him.’ ‘Satisfy the afflicted soul.’ ‘Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.’ These are the Lord’s commands.”

—*Christ’s Object Lessons*, 370

The Straight Testimony (sort of)

□ “The work of the people of God is to enlighten the world, in accordance with the directions given in the fifty-eighth chapter of Isaiah. Here is presented the plan of work which is to be carried on in every place where the truth takes hold of minds and hearts. In connection with the proclamation of the message is to be done the work of relieving families who are in distress. Those who take their position on the Lord’s side are to see in Seventh-day Adventists a warm-hearted, self-denying, self-sacrificing people, who cheerfully and gladly minister to the needy.”

—*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 1, 224

Keeping the Balance

□ “But the work of providing for all the depraved, all the drunkards, and all the prostitutes, has not and never will be given by the Lord to Seventh-day Adventists.”

—*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 1, 224

Medical Missionary work is...

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The evidence of His Messiahship

The prerequisite for the latter rain

The “glory of the Lord” in the loud cry

What Laodiceans don't have

The Unjust Steward's New Plan

- “To the unfaithful steward his lord’s goods had been entrusted for benevolent purposes; but he had used them for himself. So with Israel....
- “The servant in the parable had made no provision for the future. The goods entrusted to him for the benefit of others he had used for himself; but he had thought only of the present. When the stewardship should be taken from him, he would have nothing to call his own. But his master’s goods were still in his hands, and he determined to use them so as to secure himself against future want.

The Unjust Steward's New Plan

- “To accomplish this he must work on a new plan. Instead of gathering for himself, he must impart to others....
- “So with the Pharisees. The stewardship was soon to be taken from them, and they were called upon to provide for the future. Only by seeking the good of others could they benefit themselves. Only by imparting God’s gifts in the present life could they provide for eternity.”

—*Christ's Object Lessons*, 369

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The unjust steward's new plan

The Last Call to the Supper

- “Doctor Kellogg is doing the very work which God has given to the church in Battle Creek—the last call to the supper He has prepared....
- “Time is short, and there is a great work to be done. If you feel no interest in the work that is going forward, if you will not encourage medical missionaries to work in the churches, they will do it without your consent, for this work must and will be done. Brother _____, Brother _____, Brother _____, in the name of the Lord, I call upon you to take your position on the Lord’s side. Do not be found fighting against God.”

—*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 11, 218

The Last Call to the Supper

- “The medical missionary workers are doing the long-neglected work which God gave to the church in Battle Creek—they are giving the last call to the supper which He has prepared.
- “In order to be carried forward aright, the medical missionary work needs talent. It requires strong, willing hands, and wise, discriminating management. But can this be while those in responsible places—presidents of conferences and ministers—bar the way?
- “The Lord says to the presidents of conferences and to other influential brethren: ‘Remove the stumbling blocks that have been placed before the people.’ ...

The Last Call to the Supper

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—*Testimonies*, vol. 8, 71, 75

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The Revelation of God's Character...

□ “Christ is waiting with longing desire for the manifestation of Himself in His church. When the character of Christ shall be perfectly reproduced in His people, then He will come to claim them as His own.”

—*Christ's Object Lessons*, 69

□ “The completeness of Christian character is attained when the impulse to help and bless others springs constantly from within”

—*Christ's Object Lessons*, 384

The Revelation of God's Character...

□ “As Christians we are to have a righteousness that shall be developed and seen—a righteousness that represents the character of Jesus Christ when He was in our world.”

—*Bible Commentary*, vol. 4, 1151

The Revelation of God's Character...

□ “Those who wait for the Bridegroom’s coming are to say to the people, ‘Behold your God.’ The last rays of merciful light, the last message of mercy to be given to the world, is a revelation of His character of love. The children of God are to manifest His glory. In their own life and character they are to reveal what the grace of God has done for them.”

—*Christ's Object Lessons*, 415

The Revelation of God's Character...

□ “Search heaven and earth, and there is no truth revealed more powerful than that which is made manifest in works of mercy to those who need our sympathy and aid. This is the truth as it is in Jesus. When those who profess the name of Christ shall practice the principles of the golden rule, the same power will attend the gospel as in apostolic times.”

—*Mount of Blessing*, 137

□ “The standard of the golden rule is the true standard of Christianity. Anything short of it is a deception.”

—*General Conference Bulletin*, July 1, 1900

...in Apostolic Power

□ “Search heaven and earth, and there is no truth revealed more powerful than that which is made manifest in works of mercy to those who need our sympathy and aid. This is the truth as it is in Jesus. When those who profess the name of Christ shall practice the principles of the golden rule, the same power will attend the gospel as in apostolic times.

—*Mount of Blessing*, 137

...in Apostolic Power

□ “God’s work is ever to be a sign of His benevolence, and just as that sign is manifest in the working of our institutions, it will win the confidence of the people, and bring in resources for the advancement of His kingdom. The Lord will withdraw His blessing where selfish interests are indulged in any phase of the work; but He will put His people in possession of good throughout the whole world, if they will use it for the uplifting of humanity. The experience of apostolic days will come to us when we whole-heartedly accept God’s principle of benevolence.”

—Special Testimonies, Series B, No. 4, 10

...in Apostolic Power

□ “Before the final visitation of God’s judgments upon the earth there will be among the people of the Lord such a revival of primitive godliness as has not been witnessed since apostolic times.”

—*Great Controversy*, 464

...in Apostolic Power

□ “Nothing will help us more at this stage of our work than to understand and to fulfill the mission of the greatest Medical Missionary that ever trod the earth; nothing will help us more than to realize how sacred is this kind of work and how perfectly it corresponds with the lifework of the Great Missionary. The object of our mission is the same as the object of Christ’s mission. Why did God send His Son to the fallen world? To make known and to demonstrate to mankind His love for them....

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...in Apostolic Power

□ “God’s purpose in committing to men and women the mission that He committed to Christ is to disentangle His followers from all worldly policy and to give them a work identical with the work that Christ did.”

—*Medical Ministry*, 24

...in Apostolic Power

□ “In no way could the Lord be better glorified and the truth more highly honored than for unbelievers to see that the truth has wrought a great and good work upon the lives of naturally covetous and penurious men. If it could be seen that the faith of such had an influence to mold their characters, to change them from close, selfish, overreaching, money-loving men to men who love to do good, who seek opportunities to use their means to bless those who need to be blessed, who visit the widow and fatherless in their affliction, and who keep themselves unspotted from the world, it would be an evidence that their religion was genuine.”

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The Basis of the Judgment

□ “When the Son of man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory: and before Him shall be gathered all nations: and He shall separate them one from another.’ Thus Christ on the Mount of Olives pictured to His disciples the scene of the great judgment day. And He represented its decision as turning upon one point. When the nations are gathered before Him, there will be but two classes, and their eternal destiny will be determined by what they have done or have neglected to do for Him in the person of the poor and the suffering.”

—*Desire of Ages*, 637

The Basis of the Judgment

□ “There is a work to be done by our churches that few have any idea of. ‘I was an hungered,’ Christ says, ‘and ye gave me meat; I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink; I was a stranger, and ye took me in; naked, and ye clothed me; I was sick, and ye visited me; I was in prison, and ye came unto me.’... there is a work, as yet untouched, that must be done. The mission of Christ was to heal the sick, encourage the hopeless, bind up the brokenhearted. This work of restoration is to be carried on among the needy, suffering ones of humanity.

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The Basis of the Judgment

□ “God calls not only for your benevolence, but your cheerful countenance, your hopeful words, the grasp of your hand. Relieve some of God’s afflicted ones. Some are sick, and hope has departed. Bring back the sunlight to them. There are souls who have lost their courage; speak to them, pray for them. There are those who need the bread of life. Read to them from the Word of God. There is a soul sickness no balm can reach, no medicine heal. Pray for these, and bring them to Jesus Christ. And in all your work, Christ will be present to make impressions upon human hearts.

The Basis of the Judgment

□ “This is the kind of medical missionary work to be done. Bring the sunshine of the Sun of Righteousness into the room of the sick and suffering. Teach the inmates of the poor homes how to cook.”

—*Call to Medical Evangelism*, 23

Proclamation is the Explanation
of the Demonstration

Proclamation without Demonstration
is actually Misinformation

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The Catalyst that Closes Probation

□ “If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. He who hates Me hates My Father also. If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father.”

—John 15:22–24

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It's Simple...

- “Read Isaiah 58, ye who claim to be children of the light. Especially do you read it again and again who have felt so reluctant to inconvenience yourselves by favoring the needy. You whose hearts and houses are too narrow to make a home for the homeless, read it; you who can see orphans and widows oppressed by the iron hand of poverty and bowed down by hardhearted worldlings, read it.
- “Are you afraid that an influence will be introduced into your family that will cost you more labor, read it. Your fears may be groundless, and a blessing may come, known and realized by you every day.

It's Simple...

□ “But if otherwise, if extra labor is called for, you can draw upon One who has promised: ‘Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily.’ The reason God’s people are not more spiritually minded and have not more faith, I have been shown, is because they are narrowed up with selfishness. The prophet is addressing Sabbathkeepers, not sinners, not unbelievers, but those who make great pretensions to godliness.

It's Simple...

□ “It is not the abundance of your meetings that God accepts. It is not the numerous prayers, but the rightdoing, doing the right thing and at the right time. It is to be less self-caring and more benevolent. Our souls must expand. Then God will make them like a watered garden, whose waters fail not.”

—*Testimonies*, vol. 2, 35

□ “It is the very essence of all right faith to do the right thing at the right time.”

—*Testimonies*, vol. 6, 24