

**Zahakiel:** All right, let's begin then. Pastor, please offer the opening prayer.

**Pastor Chick:** Dear Father in Heaven. We thank You for this holy time and pray for Your Spirit to lead, guide, and teach us during our meeting. In Yahshua's name, Amen.

**Barb:** Amen

**Zahakiel:** Amen.

**Naraiel:** Amen

**Peter:** Amen.

**Adriel777:** Amen

**Elyna:** Amen

**daphna:** Amen

**Gadriel:** Amen, Amen

**Lucan:** Amen

**Ruthline16:** Amen

**Zahakiel:** Happy Sabbath to everyone. When considering what to discuss for tonight's study, I actually began to think about the studies themselves. Yahweh has given us a body of work like nothing else in the history of the world. I do not say this to be proud of my contribution to this – the work is all from the Father – but if you consider the history of sacred writings, never before have we had (on written record) a set of books and studies dedicated to explaining Righteousness by Faith, and Victory over Sin in such volume, or with such clear language.

The Bible, of course, lays it out plainly. However, because the false doctrines of that day were aimed at having the hearers disbelieve that Yahshua was the Son of God, or that He did not really come in the flesh, or that He was not truly raised to life... very little was actually intended to counteract what He actually said and taught. Essentially, if Satan and his agents could get people to disbelieve in Yahshua altogether, it wouldn't matter what He did or said.

Today, it is largely acknowledged that Yahshua existed, that He was crucified, and that He claimed to be Yahweh's Son, sent to redeem us from sins. Much of the world believes this much, and certainly most to whom our evangelistic efforts have been dedicated; however, Satan has not slackened his efforts to keep mankind from the truth. Today, the enemies of the truth rarely go after the accuracy of the events recorded in the Bible, but instead their meaning. All of the "words" are declared to be true, but their meaning and application are what cause distance from the power of the Gospel.

The role of the evangelist, then, or at least the focus of evangelism, has changed. We must now speak of meanings, of applications. Rather than merely introducing the truth to a soul and letting the Spirit speak to how it must be lived out, we are now faced with a population of humans that have already been exposed to a great deal of falsehood. As such, one convicted of the truth of Christianity will not necessarily know the "truth," or seek out the true messengers, or fellowship with the genuine Bride. Today, we must not only introduce the Gospel, but also "bind up the work" as inspired writings have said, ensuring more carefully than ever before that the truth takes root in the willing heart and mind to bring forth a life fit for the divine harvest.

Tonight, I am calling the study "The Root of False Doctrines," because I want to examine the means by which error enters a Church. Of the various religions and sects in the world, only one is the Bride of Christ. The nature of that Bride, the way of recognizing that Church, is nothing complicated. In fact, on Facebook we recently read a post by Sis. Guerline, to which I added a little, indicating that the Church that is Yahshua's own – the Church that truly has and teaches the

Gospel – is one that teaches the death of sin in the heart, leading to a life free from transgression in which patience, joy, etc. are manifest. It is one that teaches the fruit of the Spirit's presence in all who are born again, a fruit that is present consistently, all the time, rather than merely in bursts of periodic "goodness" that is expected in most other religious traditions.

We have the Word, the writings of our members (as I've referenced just now), and their living testimonies, to confirm the unique, Biblical nature of the Creation Seventh-day Adventist message. But at what point, and how, did falsehood enter into the other groups, resulting in either them splitting away from the channel of truth, or the true people becoming a "remnant," a faithful few within a larger, corrupt body that needed themselves to depart? The "sifting" that the Spirit performs may take place in either of those two ways. Either the deceived ones leave, or the faithful ones do.

As CSDAs, and faced with the current situation with in Adventism, we have spoken much about the second eventuality. A once-faithful group absorbs pagan errors, and becomes confused. The confusion becomes institutionalized – a part of the organization's "official" position, and in that state, the organization unites with the world and falls. Those who continue to adhere to the truth recognize the condition, which we call "Babylon Fallen," and hear the voice of the Father calling them out.

As evangelists, we must often deal with those who have been left behind, as it were, in corrupt organizations. However, as early as the first stage taking place, that the group imbibes pagan errors, some individuals and internal groups may break away. In doing so they "jump the gun" to use a common expression, and just within Adventism, we may speak of the Reform Movement(s), the Davidians, and various other groups here and there that are not in error because they failed to progress, but because they progressed ahead of the appointed time, in the wrong direction, and further away from the truth.

To restate my meaning in familiar terms, we know that there is a Third Gospel Angel that leads the saints in the last days. There are two ways to fall out of step with this uniting Angel. One may move too slowly, and thus fall behind...but then one may also move too quickly. In moving too quickly, one does not know the way in which the Angel will lead, and so it is not a matter of going faster and arriving at the destination ahead of schedule; rather, it is going ahead of the Angel and losing the way for lack of guidance. We know the results of moving ahead of this Angel. We've seen the fanaticism, the misdirected energy, an obvious ditch on the other side of the road from the sloth and lethargy of unrepentant Laodicea that fell behind.

But how does it begin?

Yahshua tells us to "watch and pray," and this applies at least as well to organizations as it does to individuals, so how do we guard against error? Against what are we to watch and pray?

We know that all good things come from Yahweh. Individuality and creativity, these are manifest in the saints who take the principles that are eternal, and make of them something new. The studies that I am pleased to give, the principles behind them are nothing at all new...nothing of my own invention. The inspiration for them comes from a combination of factors...from conversations with the Brethren, from reading an inspired work, from our online postings, from emails, and this in combination with what our needs as a People happen to be. In adapting old principles to new circumstances, new insights arise. New ways of examining truth, new examples, and fresh ways to

understand appear. These things are exciting to me. I always learn something new, or some new way of understanding something, when I write out my notes. The truth of our position is affirmed by the Spirit bearing witness to what we say, and to those things that we hear and read that draw from us an "Amen."

So, the way of Yah's Kingdom is this: There is one truth that is expressed in various, eternal principles. The creativity of Yah's ministers is manifest in that they can take these unchanging ideas and shape them in a multitude of ways. This is precisely what Adam was tasked to do with nature, (Gen 2:15) and what Yahweh does spiritually with His People, symbolically called a "vine." (Isa 5:1, 2)

Satan, however, has no such restriction when creating falsehoods. The enemies of truth are free to create new principles, although (due to their creative sterility) tend to use old arguments to express them. How often have we not discussed the sacred truths of the Word, only to hear those who oppose the Scriptures using the same approaches and arguments again and again? Truly, we who stand on the authority of the Scriptures have nothing to fear from the wisdom of the world.

And so we see the exact opposite taking place; rather than eternal principles with new, creative expression, we see new, corrupted principles with ancient arguments. The new principles are those that appeal to the flesh, and this is precisely why they find such easy purchase in the Churches that have forgotten the voice of their Husband. Ultimately, this is the "reason" why false doctrines catch on, their root.

Consider the seven ages of the New Testament Church as it is laid out in Revelation's early chapters. The very first Church Age, Ephesus, the one closest in time to Yahshua's earthly ministry, must be our focus – as this is where the apostasies began. Yahshua explains how this took place, as we read, "I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil; and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars, and hast borne, and hast patience, and for my Name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted. "Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love." (Rev 2:2-4)

That last sentence tells the tale. Christianity, the religion of Christ, forgot its first love, the first and true principles, the beauty of Yahweh's great gift of creativity – to take these unchanging principles of the Kingdom, and "dress and keep" them, as Adam was to do with Eden, and so prosper. Instead, by forgetting the eternal principles, they accepted old arguments expressing "new" principles, and as Paul terms it, they were "bewitched." He asks the Galatians, "Are ye so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?" (Gal 3:3) There was a change.

This is the history of Ephesus, which represents the first Church Age. It began in the Spirit, with truth and light...and indeed its works continued to be righteous; however, it moved away from truth, from Agape, from the Spirit, and began to accept Satan's new, flesh-friendly principles. We might speak of self-confidence, of individualism, of "freedom from religion," and various other terms for the ever-changing principles of the flesh. There are new ones to appeal to every generation, and these that I have listed all sound very pleasant to the modern, worldly mind; however, they are counterfeits of the truth, which for these would be righteous ideas such as trusting in Christ, individuality (which is being one's own person without worshipping the "self") and freedom for all moral creatures within the Divine Law.

False doctrines appeal to the flesh, and then confuse the mind. Because they appeal to the flesh, and because they "sound" good on the surface, they attach themselves to selfishness and carnality in those who would be leaders, who would be teachers. Satan has special angels, special tempters, whose expertise lies in corrupting those who are, or who would be, the most effective messengers for the Gospel, and these concepts are their tools.

The Scriptures speak of "greater condemnation" for those who would be seen as masters; the obvious reason for this is because of the greater responsibility given to those who have skill and familiarity with the Word. In addition, however, these are they who must endure the greatest temptations, by the most powerful of the demons, who know that by affecting these few, by staining their messages, many souls are lost. The scandals surrounding popular ministers, both within and without Adventism, have become legendary over the years. Satan would have it so, knowing that this causes many to mistrust religious leaders.

It has become popular to say (and this is another example of a "new principle"), "I love Christ, but I hate religion." More generally, "I am spiritual, but not religious." This reflects a faulty understanding of what the Bible calls religion, and what it is supposed to be even in this last, dark generation.

So what shall we, the saints of Yahweh, do? Practically, here is what we must do: Watch and pray. Pray not only for yourselves, but for your leaders – both secular and religious. The Bible says, "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men, for kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty." (1Tim 2:1, 2)

The apostle speaks of respect for Church elders, (1Tim 5:17-19) and then says, "Brethren, pray for us." (1Th 5:25)

I echo this request. Pray for those who are in the ministry...do it daily. Pray for those of the One Bride, who speak the truth, and not false doctrine. Pray that they will be effective at the work that Yah has given to them. Pray that they will be protected from physical and spiritual enemies. Pray that the Father will direct them to willing souls, so that the Family on the earth will be expanded.

You know what the Scriptures say: "Ye have not, because ye ask not." (James 4:2)

And for all of us, we must pray for a discerning mind. Pray that we may know our flesh, to keep it under subjection, as Paul writes, (1Cor 9:27) to recognize when it is aroused by falsehood and deception, which are impossible to avoid in this wicked age. Pray for the work being done in the earth.

When I was teaching at the university in South Carolina, and I was witnessing to the head of my department, who was an Adventist, he said to me, and I paraphrase, "Your movement seems to be powerful now, and zealous for the truth, because it is young, and because it is small. I used to be a member of a 'reforming' group as well, but I returned to the mainstream Church." "The same thing happens with all these new groups...they seem to do well for a while, but inevitably they get older, and tired... they grow too large for unity to be easily maintained, and the members drift away or go on into obscurity."

This is what Satan would have us consider...He would have us forget our first love. He would have us forget that all reforms began with a small group, sometimes a single individual. This deception plays the statistics, rightly pointing out that "most" religious movements fail. That is certainly true... but only because there is only One Bride. If there is only one Bride, and all other groups necessarily either fall behind the Third Angel or rush ahead of it to lose their way, then of course "most" groups will fail.

But know the glory to which you are called, Brethren. The counterfeits will fall short of the glory of Yahweh, because that glory was never with them to begin with. Let nothing discourage us. Let us be settled, let us choose to be settled, into that truth so that we cannot be moved, not by any emotion, not by any false doctrine, not by any appeal of Satan's angels to our flesh.

Those who are in the Covenant, let us carry the Cross with pride, and resolute devotion (and I will speak of that word "Resolute" next week). Those who are not yet in the Covenant, I said this a few weeks ago, and I say it again: Aggressively pursue the path of life. I shall not fail to continuously exhort you to this. And you, let not your tongue be silenced by discouragement, or circumstances, but lay claim to the life that Yah has promised you. The root of false doctrines is nowhere within Yahshua, nor is it to be found in His Bride, for the flesh is dead among those born again.

Finally, I will say this: "Pray one for another, that ye may be healed." (James 5:16)

There is one truth, and many falsehoods. There is one Bride, and many false women. Rejoice that you have come to the foot of the Cross, and have gone away forever changed...and let us move ever forward, upward, onward, together we go to the Kingdom in which our Inheritance lies, and to the Father and Son who have called us out of this darkness, and into the light of Their perfect truth.

Are there any questions or comments about tonight's study?

**Adriel777:** Amen!

**Peter:** Amen. Q

**Zahakiel:** Go ahead.

**Peter:** You have touched on the first age of the church....

**Naraiel:** Amen!

**Peter:** after Yahshua. Are you going to touch on the other ones? End

**Zahakiel:** Well, the purpose of mentioning Ephesus was because it was the first, and so this is where false doctrines began to take root in the New Testament...because of forgetting the first love. The other ages had their own particular issues, and I suppose those could be studied in turn...but for now we were looking at the very root of falsehood. It's an idea to consider, though... 😊

**Peter:** (ok thanks)

**Zahakiel:** All right, if there are no others, then I will ask Bro. Luke to close our meeting.

**Lucan:** Dear heavenly Father. We thank you for the lessons you have left us in the examples of those who came before us. As the principles of truth are eternal, we may see in every age and circumstance an outworking of either those principles, or a deviation from them. We have seen those who have rushed ahead of your leading, and we have seen those who have fallen behind. We are blessed that, having been among one of them at some point, each of us was called to be among those who walk perfectly in step with the leading of your Spirit. May we not be distracted by the examples of those who are in error, but learn from them, as we do according to the principles of righteousness. In Yahshua's name we pray, amen.

**Zahakiel:** Amen.

**Pastor Chick:** Amen.

**Barb:** Amen

**Ruthline16:** Amen

**Gadriel:** Amen, Amen

**daphna:** Amen

**Naraiel:** Amen.

**Peter:** Amen

**Adriel777:** Amen

**Peter\_Jr\_18:** Amen