

THE WHEAT AND THE TARES AN EXPOSITION

Wiesmullan Vonbruggen

Printed in 2014

Thusia SDA, Publishing Ministry, P.O Bag 59 Morvant,
Trinidad. Tel: 1-868-625-0446
E-mail- t3m_producer@yahoo.com
(1868)352-4938

A publication of the Thusia SDA Church, dedicated to spreading the final gospel of Christ into all the world.

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

REJECTION OF 1888 MESSAGE

BIBLICAL EXPOSITION

ELLEN G. WHITE'S VIEW

THE HARVEST MESSAGE; WHAT ELLEN WHITE PROCLAIMS

INTRODUCTION

The concept of *the Wheat and the Tares* parable that is propagated in the Seventh Day Adventist church organization is a definite, distorted, misconstrued perversion of what is meant in the Bible. More so the application that Mrs. White gives of how this parable as related to the general church of Seventh Day Adventist is also given a perverted meaning by many ministers and preachers among Adventism, to avoid the straight witness of truth of the 1888 message of righteousness by faith.

The SDA Conference organization avoid those who reject their present apostasy identifying them as offshoots and possible tares. Thus it is the burden of our heart as true Seventh Day Adventist of the revival movement within Adventism to give the position of truth as the Spirit of truth has given.

Also there are derivatives of false ideas in regards to what is the end of the world as related to the harvest. All of this we shall address. This study must be taken with sincere intentions of an open mind so that you can be convinced by the Spirit of truth to make a stand for true revival and reformation and be part of the little company of remnant Adventist. The Spirit of Prophecy is very clear on this matter of who are the *tares and the wheat* within the S.D.A. church.

THE REJECTION OF THE 1888 MESSAGE

We must firstly understand that the present Adventist organization is in apostasy due to the rejection of the 1888 message of Righteousness by Faith.

This is ratified soundly by E .G White. “*The Lord in His great mercy sent a most precious message to His people through Elders Waggoner and Jones. This message was to bring more prominently before the world the uplifted Savior, the sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. It presented justification through faith in the Surety; it invited the people to receive the righteousness of Christ, which is made manifest in obedience to all the commandments of God. Many had lost sight of Jesus. They needed to have their eyes directed to His divine person, His merits, and His changeless love for the human family. All power is given into His hands, that He may dispense rich gifts unto men, imparting the priceless gift of His own righteousness to the helpless human agent. This is the message that God*

commanded to be given to the world. It is the third angel's message, which is to be proclaimed with a loud voice, and attended with the outpouring of His Spirit in a large measure." **Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers p 91, 92**

"There has been a departure from God among us, and the zealous work of repentance and return to our first love essential to restoration to God and regeneration of heart has not yet been done. Infidelity has been making its inroads into our ranks; for it is the fashion to depart from Christ, and give place to skepticism. With many the cry of the heart has been, 'We will not have this man to reign over us,' Baal, Baal, is the choice. The religion of many among us will be the religion of apostate Israel, because they love their own way and forsake the way of the LORD. The true religion, the only religion of the bible, that teaches forgiveness only through the merits of a crucified and risen Saviour, that advocates righteousness by the faith of the Son of God, has been slighted, spoken against, ridiculed and rejected. It has been denounced as leading to enthusiasm and fanaticism."
Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers p 467-469

These statements show that the S.D.A. organization has' indeed rejected the 1888 message despite their claims of having that message presently. It is their blatant and outright lying spirit against the Spirit of prophecy that makes it so painful to bear of the denial that there is a rejection of truth in the church organization.

This is the issue that Thusia Seventh Day Adventist has with the Adventist organization worldwide, that the facts are undeniable of the claims by E.G. White that the true S.D.A. are those that accept the message of Righteousness by Faith, as was presented in 1888 by Elders E. J. Waggoner and A. T. Jones. The supreme importance of this message is to be understood as it relates to the remnant church and the finishing of the last gospel proclamation to the world. As concerning the 1888 message Mrs. White says:

"This is the message that God commanded to be given to the world. It is the third angel's message, which is to be proclaimed with a loud voice, and attended with the outpouring of His Spirit in a large measure." **Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers p 91,**

What has been laid out here is the fact that the state of the Adventist church is divided as to the ones who are faithful and has the message of the revival, and those who are in a state of backsliding and apostasy. Those that are in the backsliding and apostate state have

become so, due to the Laodicea state of Luke warmness.

E .G. White says this of the Adventist church:

*"Dear Brethren and Sisters: The Lord has shown me in vision some things concerning the church in its present lukewarm state, which I will relate to you. The church was presented before me in vision. Said the angel to the church: 'Jesus speaks to thee, 'Be zealous and repent.'" This work, I saw, should be taken hold of in earnest. There is something to repent of: Worldly-mindedness, selfishness, and covetousness have been eating out the spirituality and life of God's people". **Testimonies Vol. 1 P. 141.***

*The church is in the Laodicean state. The presence of Christ is not in her midst. Abridge the work limit your labors, and you remove your helper. What a terrible thing it is to exclude Christ from His own church. "Notebook **Leaflets p. 99.***

What is this message to the Laodicean church that is related to the S.D.A. church? The Message of Righteousness by Faith that came in 1888 was the answer to the lukewarm spirit in most Adventists then, even as it is in the majority now. But as was shown by Sis. White, this message was rejected then and it is still rejected and hated now by the majority of church members.

"The True Witness says of a cold, loveless, Christ less church, "I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of my mouth" (Revelation 3:15, 16). Mark the following words: "Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked." Here is represented a people who pride themselves in their possession of spiritual knowledge and advantages. But they have not responded to the unmerited blessings that God has bestowed upon them. They have been full of rebellion, ingratitude, and forgetfulness of God; and still He has dealt with them as a loving, forgiving father deals with an ungrateful, wayward son. They have resisted His grace, abused His privileges, slighted His opportunities, and have been satisfied to sink down in contentment, in lamentable ingratitude, hollow formalism, and hypocritical insincerity. With pharisaic pride they have vaunted themselves till it has been said of them, "Thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing" (verse 17).

*Has not the Lord Jesus sent message after message of rebuke, of warning, of entreaty, to these self-satisfied ones? Have not His counsels been despised and rejected? Have not His delegated messengers been treated with scorn, and their words been received as idle tales"? **Faith and Works p. 83, 84.***

This above statement is so true, Mrs. White again says:

*"Why do you cherish such bitterness against Elder A. T. Jones and Elder Waggoner? It is of the same reason Cain hated Abel. Cain refused to heed the instruction of God and because Abel sought God, and followed His will, Cain killed him. God has given brother Jones and brother Waggoner a message for the people. You do not believe that God has upheld them, but He has given them precious light, and their message has fed the people of God. When you reject the message borne by these men, you reject Christ the giver of the message': **Letter 51-A, 1895.***

Mrs. E. G. White gave her voice of approval to the message brought by the two men, who God was using to enlighten the then backsliding lukewarm Adventist. *"The message given us by A.T. Jones and E.J. Waggoner is a message of God to the Laodicean Church."* **Letter S-24, 1892 (to Uriah Smith).**

The message was and will in the now future be rejected by many Adventist. It may seem not possible for the church organization to do this, but they have not ever accepted this message as again says the Spirit:

"In 1888 in the General Conference held At Minneapolis, Minn, the angel of Revelation 18: I came down to do his work, and was ridiculed and rejected. And when the message he swells into a loud cry, it will again be ridiculed, spoken against be rejected by the majority." **Ellen G. White in Taking up a reproach.**

Thus it is said that the message that was sent to the S.D.A. church was and will again be rejected, this time by the majority. Therefore those few are the true ones, this is so true even as Mrs. White says there will be two companies or divisions in the church.

*"A new life is coming from heaven and taking possession of all God's people. But divisions will come in the church. Two parties will be developed. The wheat and tares will grow up together for the harvest." **2 Selected Messages p. 113.***

*"The work will grow deeper and become more earnest to the very close of time. And all who are laborers together with God will contend most earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints. They will not be turned from the present message, which, is already lightening the earth with its glory. Nothing is worth contending for but the glory of God. . .?' **Ibid p. 114.***

What is clearly seen in these two statements is the fact that the two parties in the church are *the wheat and the tares* and what causes the division is the new life from heaven being rejected. This light of truth is the 1888 message of righteousness by faith, one class is seen to be surely contending for the Faith and not turned from it.

THE BIBLE EXPOSITION ON THE WHEAT AND TARES

As concerning the issue of the parable of the wheat and tares the relevance of all that has been stated and said will now be clearly seen. Because the parable has deep truths related to the state of the Adventist church and its present apostasy and attitude to those who bear the message of truth today in the church.

What we would do is to give an analysis of what is meant of the wheat and tares from the Bible rightly dividing the word of truth. The parable is highly relevant to the end time remnant church as the final message is being proclaimed and the judgment is about to close and Christ is soon to come.

A. THE WHEAT AND TEARS EXPOSITION

The parable of the wheat and tears is significant as to the condition of the church as it faces the attack of the enemy (Satan) to cause destruction and confusion. But the words of Jesus Christ is sure that "the gates of hell shall not prevail" Matt. 16:18, for the destruction of the wicked tares is sure at the end of the world. The church must stand united and pure in the faith of Jesus Christ (Rev.14:12) as it surely will be victorious in the end.

Now as we are in the time of the end, the existence of the remnant church is evident as it faces the onslaught of satanic attacks to corrupt and pervert the pure faith of the saints who are the wheat. The great controversy is always to be seen in issues in the church.

Ellen White describes it thus: “*The parable of the wheat and the tares shows the mystery of the divine and the satanic agencies working in direct opposition, in vital conflict. The conflict continues till the close of this earth’s history. The incorruptible seed is the living Word of God, which works in the personal sanctification of the receivers, elevating them by bringing them into the participation of the divine nature.*

Christ Triumphant 236.

So we are viewing the continuation of the wrath of the dragon against the remnant church, it is the ongoing of the great controversy between Christ and Satan. The point of importance is that Mrs. White makes it clear that *the Word of truth makes us to have a sinfree sanctified experience through partaking of God’s divine nature.*

Then we can view the conflict of the wheat and tares as to the nature of the experience of each has as being either divine or satanic.

Scripture: *Matt 13:24-30 another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field:*

But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.

But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also.

So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? From whence then hath it tares?

He said unto them, an enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up?

But he said, nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them.

Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.

Matt 13:36-42 Then Jesus sent the multitude away, and went into the house: and his

disciples came unto him, saying, declare unto us the parable of the tares of the field.

He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man;

The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one;

The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels.

As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world.

The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;

And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.
KJV

B. EXPOSITING THE PARABLE

1. Jesus Christ gave a truth description of the wheat, world and tares;

Matt. 13:37 “He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; the field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one;

The enemy that sowed them is the devil;

The harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels.

The Biblical support;

2. The Son of man is Jesus Christ the Saviour of the world, Jn. 3:17; Matt.16:13-16; Luke 19:10; Jn. 4:42; Titus 2; 13. The point of note is that Jesus Christ as son of man is divine and human; His divinity is Him being saviour to all humanity.

3. The field is the world Matt. 13:38; Jn. 17:11, 15, 16.

Note! The wheat as the church is in the world field. Hence it will be under Satan’s attack as the work of spreading the gospel continues. Christ came into the world to save sinners 1Tim 1; 15

4. Who are the good seed the wheat, who are the children of the kingdom?

5. These are the ones that have received the gospel of the kingdom or the gospel of Jesus Christ. Jn.1:12; Rom.1:16; Jn.3:5; Mk.1:14, 15.

Note. The wheat are children of God who have repented (reject idols of the heart; Eze.14:6) and believed (accept as truth) the gospel of Christ Rom.10:11-14). This gospel is in this time of the end the Loud cry of the third angel's message and among Adventism the emphasis is on righteousness by faith or justification by faith. Thus Jesus Christ is saviour in sowing the word of truth that makes us become wheat or good seed from God and Christ through the gospel of righteousness by faith.

THE WHEAT (CHILDREN OF GOD)

(REPENT AND BELIEVE (ACCEPT AS TRUTH))

THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST

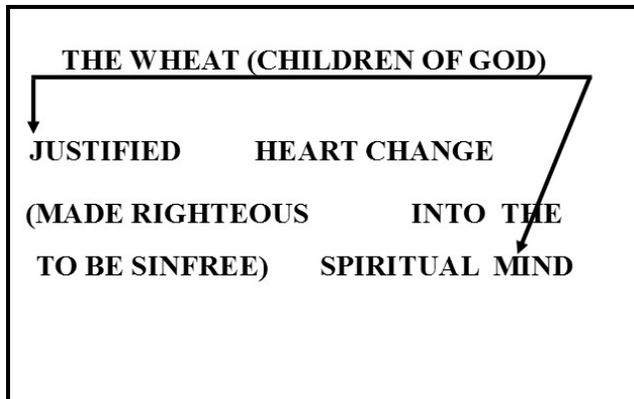
6. Those who are the wheat, are the ones who in receiving the gospel, believed the truth and are justified (made righteous to be sinfree) in heart and changed inwardly. They are made free from the idol values of the carnal mind; Rom.8:6; Eze.14:3,4,5,6.

7. Thus in justification they have be given the spiritual mind of life and peace; Acts13:39; Rom.5:18,1;

8. The separation from sin is real, to become dead to sin of the old man and body of sins 1Cor.6:9,10,11; Rom.6:6,7,17,18.

The false objective justification, of non heart change from inward sin, only standing in Christ, cannot make one a wheat.

The true justification of sinfree change is the first work to be a wheat in preparation for the harvest.



9. The wheat are also related to those who are children of the light; 1 Jn. 1: 1Thes. 5: 5,6.

10. Thus by the word of the incorruptible seed the wheat area born of truth. 1Pet.1;23,25

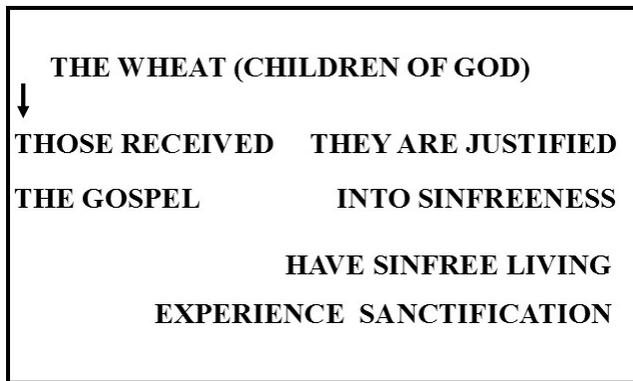
11. Now the growth of the wheat the good seed, springing up and bearing fruit; This means that they are gaining a personal experience in sinfree sanctification in Christ's righteousness. This is how one is established and fixed to be a wheat for the harvest.

12. As a result of the first work of inward justification (righteousness now in the heart) into Sinfreenesss, the working of sanctification proceeds: Rom.3:22; Phil.3:9; Jn.17:3; Gal.2:20; Eph.3:17-19

13. By the Spirit of truth in them, the work of sanctification of sinfree living continues. Jn.15:2,3,4,5; Eph.5:25,26; Rom.8:9,10. Thus they are in Christ and rooted in Him . Col.2:6,7

The work of sinfree sanctification makes the wheat (people of God) fitted for the harvest. A false sanctification makes one remain in sin, and hopeless. Sinfree living is a reality through the gospel of Jesus Christ.

So then the wheat are children of God and Christ, and the working of the plan of salvation in them is in the transformation in justification and maintaining this change through sanctification in sinfree living.



Thus the parable of the wheat and tares as in the bible, shows that the church is separated from Satan and his workers. The church will always suffer due to the enemy working inside through the tares. It is the gospel of justification by faith to be made sinfree, a righteous experience that makes one a wheat.

They must continue to experience sinfree living sanctification in overcoming sin. Thus they are counted worthy to past the investigative judgment

14. Now who are the Tares?

As Christ had stated 'but the tares are the children of the wicked [one]; The enemy that sowed them is the devil Matt.13:38,39 .

Then the identity of a tare is specific that the tares are of Satan, he has sown them in the church among the wheat.

15. Satan is the originator of all lies and heresies, and presents himself as an angle of light. Jn. 8:44; 2Cor.11:14. Satan still sees himself as a giver of light, but it is his darkness of God and Christ, to pervert the knowledge of the holy character of God manifested in the gospel of Jesus Christ. To cause many to be lost; *2Cor 4:3-4 but if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.*

Therefore it is only true that the tares are planted in the church to the intent to carry out Satan's work. Which is to cause doctrinal deception, create division in the church through false accusations on the genuine, and mislead sincere brethren.

16. Thus the tares, they are the unconverted in the church, the children of Satan, and are yet in their sins: Eph.2:2, 3; 1Jn3:8.

17. Satan uses them to cause discord, division and heresies in the church among the wheat or genuine Christians. Acts 20:29, 30. 2Pet.2:1, 2; Rev.2:2.This is the work of the tares in

specific

NOTE! While tares are children of the devil, the natural man being unconverted is not a tare as described here. Also even if the Christian falls into transgression, in that state of transgression such is not a tare as in the parable. That is why care is to be taken as to who are rooted up.

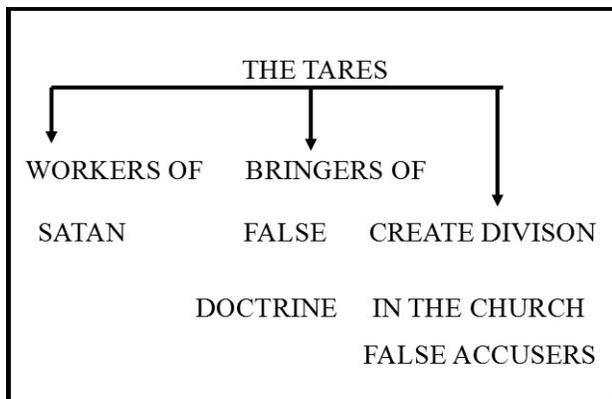
18. Also those who are tares have an appearance of outward profession of Christ, a form of Godliness. 2 Tim 3:5; and lukewarm in spirit Rev. 3:16, 17.

19. Hence why they are not always easily discerned, but mingle with the true Christians, but time and endurance prove the test of genuine character maturity in the faith of Christ. The tares will be exposed.

20. So in a broader sense tares can be identified as unconverted persons who have the carnal mind and allow Satan or evil angels to influence them at times to undermine those members who are wheat.

21. We see examples of those who are wheat but falls into temptation under Satan's influence; *Luke 22:31-32 And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.*

Peter of course was not a tare in the sense of being sowed by Satan to destroy the church.



22. A prophetic note! Thus the tares are indeed the seed of Satan destroyers of the church. There will always be the controversy of Satan against the church until the controversy ends in the final conflict, as described in Rev.13:11-16. Satan attacked the church throughout the ages and now seeks to supplant the holy evangelistic influence of the last gospel message through the remnant church in this world Rev.12:17. But the remnant

church will triumph and the tares will be destroyed. Rev.18:1-8.

23 **The harvest, is the end of the world;** the harvest as the end of the world must be understood to mean that the harvest is pivotal to the close of this world's history.

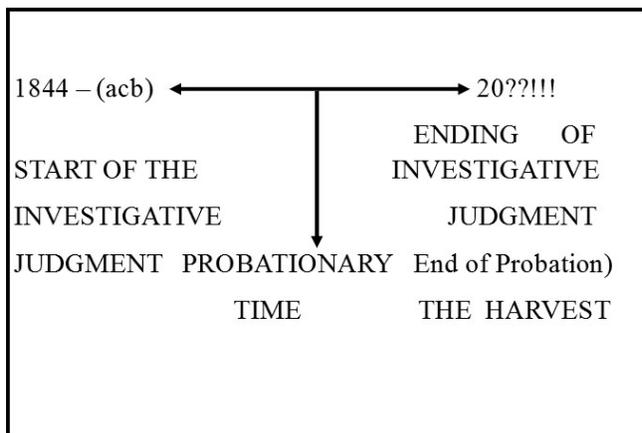
24. But there are end time events that are associated with the end of the world chiefly is the second coming of Jesus Christ which is the day of the LORD. Connected with this event is the investigative judgment, and the wrath of God the seven last plagues. Rev. 11:15,16,17,18,19.

25. Therefore the end of the world will happen only after the ending of the investigative judgment the harvest; Matt.25:31-45. Mal.3:5.

26. The actual destruction of the world begins during the wrath of God the seven last plagues falls; Rev.14:17-20. Rev.19:11-21, Matt.24: 50-5; Matt. 24: 50-5; Rev.6: 14-17.

27. The end destruction of the world is with the literal appearance of Christ in His second coming. Matt.24:27, 28,30,31; Lk.21;27

28. The investigative judgment began in 1844, (Dan. 8;14; Dan.7;9,10) hence we are now living in probation time (Matt. 25: 14-21) as the harvest is soon to commence at the ending of the investigative judgment. Now is the preparation time to make our calling and election sure in the ending of the judgment or the harvest. Dan.7:13, 14, 22; Mal.3; 2, 3, 4; (Matt.24; 30, 31; Matt.13: 27-30, 38-43)



29. **The Harvest;** The ending of the investigative Judgment, this end time event makes a great and final separation of all people. This determines every one's eternal salvation. Rev

22:11-12.

So as Jesus said “Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.” So then at the harvest the end of the world, we see the ending of the investigative Judgment. Here are points showing the harvest of the righteous at the ending of the judgment and the wicked are lost.

The Wheat; Matt.13: 43 / Tares; Matt.13:40-42

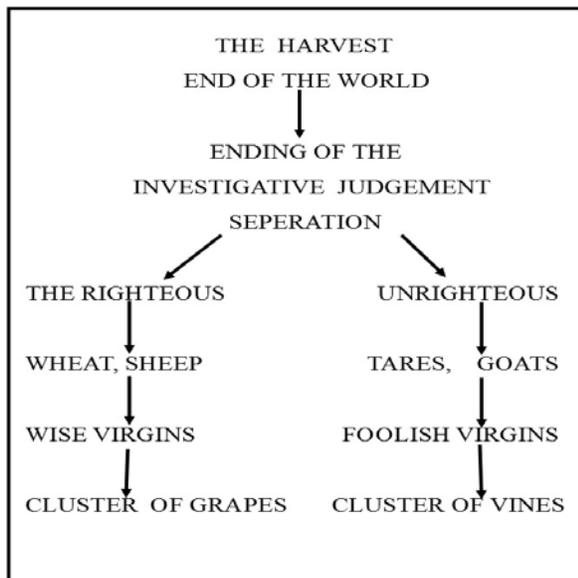
2. Sheep; Matt.25:31-40 / Goats; Matt. 25:31, 41-45

3. Wise Virgins; Matt:25:1,2,10 / Foolish Virgins; Matt:25:2,8,11,12
Cluster of Grapes; Rev.14:14,15,16 / Cluster of Vines;
Rev. 14: 17 –20

30. This leads to the great truth that those who are the wheat, the sheep, the wise virgins and the grapes are the symbolic representation of the church who are the beneficiaries of the blessings of the investigative judgment.

1 John 4:17. The perfection of God’s sinfree love in the heart makes the church prevail in the judgment with boldness.

Rev 3:5 As Satan will not prevail against the church, so it is that because we overcome all sin and be made sinfree in love that we remain in the book of life. And Christ confesses us before God and angels in the judgment.



The parable of the wheat and tares, as we see has deep theological salvific realities, and is related to the truth structure of seventh day Adventism as to the doctrine of the sanctuary and the investigative judgment. But more so, we must accept that the experience of Sinfreenesss, first in justification and continued in sanctification is the fulfilling conditions for one to prevail in this investigative judgment harvest.

Then as the investigative judgment harvest ends, the end of the world to the wicked is come because probation is closed, the harvest is ended (end of the investigative judgment). The wicked are lost in their iniquity and transgressions, thus the wrath of God the seven plagues falls on them. And then the second coming of Christ to gather all the righteous in the resurrection who passed the judgment harvest, and the brightness of His glory destroys the wicked and the earth is destroyed.

Any other application of what this parable could mean is to wrest the scripture to your own destruction. The perversion of truth is done to substantiate and glorify Satan, errors and sin.

ELLEN .G. WHITE'S VIEW

How Ellen .G. White applies the wheat and tares to the Seventh Day Adventist

Seeing that we have the Bible position of wheat and tares: As the church in the world

comprising of the children of God and Christ, the truly converted, who are the wheat.

And the tares as those whom Satan has planted in the church to do his destructive work to undermine the doctrines and faith of the children of God.

So that in the church there are the genuine Christians who are standing in the light of grace and developing character like Christ the salvific example in contrast to the tares who are unconverted and insincere to the truth causing much pain and grief to the company of truth loving members.

Alongside this, there will always be some members who will lose their sincerity and fall into transgression, in this state they can come under the influence of the enemy Satan and evil angels, while they are exerting traits of the tares they are not tares in the direct sense.

These persons can return to Christ once they regain sincerity and love for the truth and faith to be sinfree. Care has to be taken in uprooting these as tares.

Let's use E. G. White's statements to understand the subject under discussion

While there are many statements that can be used from E.G. White, on this subject, we will limit to those that set the foundation to interpret the true and proper meaning of the wheat and tares according to Ellen White.

Most Adventist argue the point about "Both the wheat and tares in the church", of this we will see what E.G. White says; General members some who are wheat but lose conversion display traits of being tares because of Luke warmness. But tares are planted by the hand of Satan doing a work of destruction to the truth. The wheat being the true members.

Who are wheat and tares?

*"He that sowed the good seed is the Son of man. . . . The good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one." The good seed represents those who are born of the word of God, the truth. The tares represent a class who are the fruit or embodiment of error, of false principles. "The enemy that sowed them is the devil." Neither God nor His angels ever sowed a seed that would produce a tare. The tares are always sown by Satan, the enemy of God and man. **Christ's Object Lessons p. 70.***

Here we can see that Sis. White makes mention of the fact that the work of God and Satan is opposing to each.

Those that have accepted the gospel of Christ have been made to become children of God (They are the wheat) by the word of God. The truths of Christ has made them sinfree indeed from within.

The work of Satan is seen in the class that are called the embodiment of error, of false principles. These **specific tares** are the working of Satan and since they have the false principles and error in them, then the tares will cause destruction in the church. The specific tares are the propagators of erroneous doctrine and false principles that will undermine the truth foundation of Adventism.

The point made here is that the church being in the world is assailed by the enemy to do harm to the wheat. Then as it now stands in the S.D.A. church some are definitely tares as being those that are presenters of false doctrines and destroying the principles of Adventism, while those who are wheat are of the true company the genuine Adventist.

Let's see further application;

"While the Lord brings into the church those who are truly converted, Satan at the same time brings persons who are not converted into its fellowship. While Christ is sowing the good seed, Satan is sowing the tares. There are two opposing influences continually exerted on the members of the church. One influence is working for the purification of the church, and the other for the corrupting of the people of God. "Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers p. 46.

Here is a distinct parallel made and applied to the church

The persons that are called into the church are wheat. Therefore those that are converted are called by God and are made so by the working of the spirit of truth.

Then the church has in it the truly converted. Christ sowed the wheat the good seed.

Those that are tares in specific did not come by the working of the spirit of Christ. Satan brings persons that are unconverted into the church, the tares are of his working and the influence that they give upon the members are disturbing, working for the corrupting of the people of God.

The wheat are the good seed the converted, Christ work in them for the purification of the church. Thus they have an influence of truth and work for the furtherance of the gospel. These points makes a strong position as to how Ellen White viewed the wheat and tares in the church.

Concerning the actual role of tares in the church, of this E.G .White says;

"All the way along in the history of the third angel's message there have been found among the believers men who have done much harm to God's cause. These men are spots in our feasts of charity; tares among the wheat; wolves among the sheep, ready to bite and devour. Delighting to bear false witness, they cruelly injure the reputation of others. Every such

*one will be rewarded "according to his works." God "hath appointed a day, in which he will judge the world." Then will be made the separation between the wheat and the tares. In that day it will be clearly revealed that those who seek to destroy the reputation of God's servants are hypocrites. By their own lips will be borne the testimony that will clear from suspicion those against whom they have reported evil". **Review and Herald, May 12, 1903.***

Clearly the evil work of the specific tares are seen to be against the wheat who has the truth of the third angel's message. The tares being among wheat in the church do the most harm in seeking to destroy the work of God. It means that professed members are the very ones who are doing the destructive work.

These tares are also wolves, and bear false witness to destroy the reputation of those who are doing the work of Christ. Thus in Adventism Satan has planted his workers.

The whole truth of what constitute the wheat and tares is given by Mrs. Ellen White to identify the difference of the true and false members among Adventist, those who hold onto presenting true Adventism as against those who intent on perverting the truth.

Thus the concept that is propagated by the apostate Adventist organization, is to give worth to their apostasy and hate for the revival. It is clear that the wheat are, the ones who will be the people in the church that has the final message to give to the world. They are what constitute the true remnant S.D.A. church in the world today.

In the end the tares will be exposed to be the real hypocrites, the judgment will show the evil of these tares.

Now Ellen White makes a point of the real state the church should be;

*"The church was to be as a field of wheat, but a strange hand has planted tares among the wheat, and it is this mingling of tares and wheat that causes the children of God to weep with sorrow." -**Review and Herald, December 19, 1893.***

So who are the ones causing the church to be in such a deteriorated condition? The tares cause the wheat members to sigh and cry for the corruption in the church. Tares are of the hand of Satan.

The world as the field; *"The field," Christ said, "is the world." But we must understand this as signifying the church of Christ in the world. The parable is a description of that which pertains to the kingdom of God, His work of salvation of men; and this work is accomplished through the church. True, the Holy Spirit has gone out into all the world; everywhere it is moving upon the hearts of men; but it is in the church that we are to grow and ripen for the garner of God. "**Christ's Object Lessons p. 70.***

The church is set up in this world of sinful human beings through Christ, and those that become part of it are called to be perfect in Him who is their Saviour.

Then the Wheat that constitute the church are the ones that have the gospel of Christ to help all gain good character in Jesus Christ.

Again the emphasis is made that the church of wheat is where salvation is offered to all. The church is the pillar and ground of the truth, and in it the science or plan of salvation is learnt, so that those who are true to the working of the Spirit of truth in their hearts will be developing characters.

Therefore those who are called to enter the church are given the chance to gain salvation by Christ and God. They are not true believers yet, but have conviction. Thus they can become members of the church of wheat as they yield to the faith of Christ and be changed to be wheat and be saved. These are not tares as Jesus stated nor as Ellen White mentioned.

Again Ellen White says;

"The world is a fallen world, and the church is a place represented by a field in which grow tares and wheat. They are to grow together until the harvest. It is not our place to uproot the tares, according to human wisdom, lest under the suppositions of Satan, the wheat may be rooted up under the supposition that it is tares. The wisdom that is from above will come to him who is meek and lowly in heart, and that wisdom will not lead him to destroy but to build up the people of God" **Letter 1 p.63, 1893. Vol. 2 Mind Character Personality p. 636.**

So here tares are in the church mingling with the wheat, but there are wheat that lose conversion and portray attitudes that appear as they are like tares. Care must be taken not to uproot these.

So then a wheat losing conversion is not a tare. Tares are sown by Satan.

Ellen White describes tares as lukewarm members of Adventist; *"We have abundant evidence that tares grow with wheat in the church of God. There are sincere Christians in the church, and are also lukewarm Christians. These have opportunity to know the truth. The Word of God is presented to them; they come to the banquet, as Judas came to the Passover, but like Judas, they do not eat the Word of life. No one can compel them to eat the Word of eternal life to make thorough work for repentance, that they may obtain a Christian experience, and become rooted and grounded in the truth. . "* **Upward Look chap. 21 (1985)**

The tares as the lukewarm seventh day Adventists members are most often resistant to genuine spiritual experience in Christ. Hence why constant contention in giving them truth.

Ellen White shows the real problem of those who are lukewarm called tares;

"There is in some of the members of the church, pride, self- sufficiency, stubborn unbelief: and a refusing to yield their ideas, although evidence may be piled upon evidence which makes the message to the Laodicean church applicable. But that will not blot out the church that it will not exist. Let both tares and wheat grow together until the harvest. Then it is the angels that do the work of separation ". Vol.2 Selected Messages P. 6

A. So we have **specific tares** with the embodiment and false principles who are sent of Satan to destroy members.

B. But also there are the **general lukewarm members** as tares due to their lack of conversion, these are given the message of truth to become genuine as wheat.

C. There is this generalization by Mrs. White, but specific is the working of tares and their origin. If all lukewarm members are tares in the specific sense then most of the members are sown by Satan. It is the lukewarm members who repent and believe the message of righteousness by faith that become converted thus wheat.

NOTE; this situation makes it clear that the message to the Laodicean church is applicable to S.D.A. church now as said by Sis. White that the Laodicean state of Lukewarmness can only be cured by the message of righteousness by faith, and this truth came to the S.D.A. church in 1888. This will make the wheat mature for the harvest.

"I was shown that the testimony to the Laodicea's applies to God's people at the present time, and the reason it has not accomplished a greater work is because of hardness of their hearts. But God has given the message time to do its work. The heart must be purified from sins which have so long shut out Jesus. This fearful message will do its work... Testimonies, to the Church Vol. 1 p 186-187

"The message given us by A.T. Jones and E.J. Waggoner is a message of God to the Laodicean Church." Letter S-24, 1892 (to Uriah Smith).

Note. The lukewarm state of laodiceanism started way back in 1854 among SDA and still exist, so the tares are also applied to those who are in the Laodicea state.

Of the tares in the church Ellen White again says;

"The tares closely resembled the wheat while the blades were green; but when the field was white for the harvest, the worthless weeds bore do likeness to the wheat that bowed under the weight of its full, ripe heads. Sinners who make a pretension of piety mingle for

a time with the true followers of Christ, and the semblance of Christianity is calculated to deceive many; but in the harvest of the world there will be no likeness between good and evil. Then those who have joined the church, but who have not joined Christ, will be manifest. "Christ's Object Lessons p. 743

The tares are not legitimately part of the church, for the good seed and the bad seed cannot be in unity. The true principles of the origin of evil in the church is here given, that the hand of the enemy has crept in to wreak havoc in the church.

The tares are of Satan's doing. In doing so this causes the servants of God to be sorrowful and weep, for the presence of the tares makes it burdensome to the church because some of the wheat could be and are affected for the worse.

Now, does not this say that the tares are the source of trouble in the church? And that there is strong need that those who has the truth be able to preserve the truth in its purity? Should not those who stand as leaders, do the work in God's way of seeking to correct the lukewarm members and expose the tares with the truth? Yes, this would be giving them a fair opportunity to hear the faith of Christ's gospel.

Then as the time is given for all to learn the truth and develop the perfect character, both the wheat and tares would have to face the judgment which proves who has been faithful in obedience to Christ in forming character.

Then the divisions in the church is not by the little company who has the revival and reformation message of righteousness by faith, but the SPECIFIC tares (and laodiceans members) who hate the message. And thus by rejection causes confusion with their lies and deceit of error concerning the truth of justification and sinfree living.

Ellen White identifies division in the church as wheat and tares;

"A new life is coming from heaven and taking possession of all God's people. But divisions will come in the church. Two parties will be developed. The wheat and tares will grow up together for the harvest." '2 Selected Messages p. 113.

Here the point of the separation or division is clear, the two parties developed are the wheat and tares. Thus in the church there are wheat and tares and they are to be seen in their true character in the time of the investigative judgment (the harvest).

"Here are plainly represented two distinct parties, formed from a company that was once united. The members of one of these parties are in resistance to the will of God. They have taken themselves from the side of the loyal and true, and are now resisting the warnings of

the Spirit of God." **Review and Herald Vol. 5 p. 341 (July 18 1907).**

The point of emphasis by Ellen White is the character difference of the wheat and tares as to the truth.

The present truth to Adventist makes the distinction of the wheat and tares.

"The work will grow deeper and become more earnest to the very close of time. And all who are laborers together with God will contend most earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints. They will not be turned from the present message, which is already lightening the earth with its glory. Nothing is worth contending for but the glory of God. .ibid. p.14

What is the present message spoken of here by Mrs. White that will be contended for by the wheat against the tares?

“*"The Lord in His great mercy sent a most precious message to His people through Elders Waggoner and Jones .this message was to bring more prominently before the world the uplifted Savior, the sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. It presented justification through faith in the Surety; it invited the people to receive the righteousness of Christ, which is made manifest in obedience to all the commandments of God. Many had lost sight of Jesus. They needed to have their eyes directed to His divine person, His merits, and His changeless love for the human family. All power is given into His hands, that He may dispense rich gifts unto men, imparting the priceless gift of His own righteousness to the helpless human agent. This is the message that God commanded to be given to the world. It is the third angel's message, which is to be proclaimed with a loud voice, and attended with the outpouring of His Spirit in a large measure."* **Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers p.91.**

The message ‘It presented justification through faith in the Surety; it invited the people to receive the righteousness of Christ, which is made manifest in obedience to all the commandments of God.’ This is what makes the wheat as the little company now among SDA, the reality of a change in heart into sinfree justification for obedience to the law of God.

*"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. "Vol. **1 Selected Message p. 362.***

With seventh day Adventism the application of the wheat and tares by Ellen White is seen as to the division, backsliding condition, by lukewarm Adventist and the in flock of errors

mainly by those who are tares in specific, all of which caused the rejection of the present truth of righteousness by faith which is the loud cry of the third angel's message.

The tares in the church as the lukewarm laodiceans and the ones who Satan has planted to destroy the foundation of Adventism is a hindrance to success.

THE HARVEST MESSAGE; WHAT ELLEN WHITE PROCLAIMS

The idea of a harvest message is not original to the Bible as a named doctrine or message. This term was made up by Ellen White herself based upon the understanding of the importance of the meaning of the harvest and the it's connection to the final message of the loud cry.

But as there are many winds of false doctrine blowing into the present Adventist church, then wild unfounded ideas are sweeping away many into delusions. The idea of a harvest message contrary to what E.G. White says comes from the Davidian shepherd rod movement. In this they purport that God is now seeking to harvest the last portion of the church the 144,000 who are to preach the shepherd's rod message to the church. Others proclaim a dual harvest concept.

1. As we have already presented from the Bible perspective that the harvest is the ending of the investigative judgment, which is the end of probation for the world. So can there be any contradiction from the Spirit of prophesy on this point?

2. Ellen White made it distinctly clear that the present message of truth for true seventh day Adventist is '*justification through faith in the Surety; it invited the people to receive the righteousness of Christ, which is made manifest in obedience to all the commandments of God.*' **Testimony to Ministers and Gospel Workers p. 91**

And this she says is the final message to the world;" ... *This is the message that God commanded to be given to the world. It is the third angel's message, which is to be proclaimed with a loud voice, and attended with the outpouring of His Spirit in a large measure.*" **Ibid. p 91**

We will see how this is connected to Ellen White's idea of the harvest message.

3. But first let's see how Ellen White understood the harvest.

"Many will be in heaven who their neighbors supposed would never enter there. Man judges from appearance, but God judges the heart. The tares and the wheat are to grow together until the harvest; and the harvest is the end of probationary time." **Christ's Object Lessons p.71.**

I. Here the idea Mrs. White gives of the harvest is “the end of probationary time.”

4. What context is the end of probationary time?

A. *“The announcement, “The hour of his Judgment is come,” points to the closing work of Christ's ministration for the salvation of men. It heralds a truth which must be proclaimed until the Saviour's intercession shall cease, and he shall return to the earth to take his people to himself. The work of judgment which began in 1844, must continue until the cases of all are decided, both of the living and the dead; hence it will extend to the close of human probation.”* **Great Controversy (1888) p. 435.**

- i. “The hour of his Judgment is come,” is “the closing work of Christ's ministration”, “the close of human probation.” Which is the ending of the judgment.
- ii. Thus far we understand that Mrs. White apply the same idea we got from the Bible as to what is the harvest; the ending or close of the judgment, signal of the close of probation.

5. These other statements adds strength to the context of THE HARVEST as the end of probationary time;

B. *“Both the parable of the tares and that of the net plainly teach that there is no time when all the wicked will turn to God. The wheat and the tares grow together until the harvest. The good and the bad fish are together drawn ashore for a final separation.”* **Christ's Object Lessons p.123**

C. *“Again, these parables teach that there is to be no probation after the judgment. When the work of the gospel is completed, there immediately follows the separation between the good and the evil, and the destiny of each class is forever fixed “Christ's **Object Lessons p.123.**”*

i. So the harvest happens after the final gospel is preached, and the harvest is the separation of wheat from tares. There is no probation after the close of the judgment which means the end of probation is the end of the judgment, at which all of our destiny is decided.

6. A final statement that stamps the truth pointedly.

D. *“When the work of the investigative judgment closes, the destiny of all will have been decided for life or death. Probation is ended a short time before the appearing of the Lord in the clouds of heaven. Christ in the Revelation, looking forward to that time, declares: “He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.” Revelation 22:11, 12.* **Great Controversy p.490.**

i. This makes a complete order of the events as to how the harvest is understood by Ellen White as with the other quotations.

ii. Close of the investigative judgment or Probation, ends before Christ comes'. What this shows is that after the close of probation or the investigative judgment, the wrath of God, the seven last plagues falls, then the second coming of Christ in the clouds of heaven.

Rev. 22:11, 12 is the final verdict of Christ at the ending of the investigative judgment or close of probation.

Therefore the harvest concept according to the Bible and Ellen White is the ending of the investigative judgment, which brings the end of the world as the close of salvation to all the wicked. At the end of the harvest the wrath of God the seven last plagues falls on the wicked who rejected the final message. Then the second coming of Christ in glory which destroys the earth.

In Adventism the final or end time messages called the three angels messages as well as the fourth angel, Rev.14:6-12; Rev18:1-5 are the truths that have inclusive the investigative judgment 'the hour of His judgment is come'. And also "blessed are they that die henceforth", with "the harvest of the grapes". These are messages that point to the end of the harvest or the ending of the investigative judgment. Inclusive is the wrath of God the seven last plagues on Babylon and all the wicked who are lost which falls after the ending of the investigative judgment.

Therefore in Adventism the harvest message is also the third angel's message and the loud cry of the fourth angel. Because these end time message prepares the church and those in the world who accept the final warning to be of Christ's harvest.

FIRST ANGEL (Rev.14; 6, 7)

EVER LASTING GOSPEL
INVESTIGATIVE JUDGMENT
THE CREATOR
THE SABBATH

SECOND ANGEL vs.8
BABYLON IS FALLEN
FALSE CHRISTIANITY

THIRD ANGEL (Rev.14:9, 19, 12, 13-16)
MARK AND IMAGE OF BEAST
(SUNDAY HOLINESS/AND LEGISLATION)
WRATH OF GOD (SEVEN LAST PLAGUES)
LAW AND GOSPEL
INVESTIGATIVE JUDGEMENT

FOURTH ANGEL (Rev.18:1-5)
BABYLON FALLEN
CORRUPTION OF FALSE CHRISTIANITY
GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION
PLAGUES

Therefore the idea of harvest message is the message that prepares the church for the ending of the investigative judgment or the close of probation. Rev.11:18, 19; Rev.14:6, 12, 14-16. Dan.7:13, 14, 22.

The preparation for this judgment harvest is the message of righteousness by faith (Rom.3:22,24,28; Rev.14:12); (Rom.8:6;Rom.5:1);(Rom:6:6,7,17,18,22; 1Jn.4:16,17,Rev.3:5)

THE HARVEST MESSAGEAs stated by E.G. White

“The message of the angel following the third is now to be given to all parts of the world. It is to be the harvest message, and the whole earth will be lighted with the glory of God.”
Letter 86, 1900. Last Day Events 208.

Here Ellen White call the fourth angel’s message to be the harvest message to light up the world, why? Because this message prepares the world to meet the standard to be part of the harvest at the ending of the judgment.

“To prepare a people to stand in the day of God, a great work of reform was to be accomplished [by the Advent Movement]. God saw that many of His professed people were not building for eternity, and in His mercy He was about to send a message of

warning to arouse them from their stupor and lead them to make ready for the coming of the Lord.

*This warning is brought to view in Revelation 14. Here is a threefold message represented as proclaimed by heavenly beings and immediately followed by the coming of the Son of man to reap "the harvest of the earth." **Maranatha p.173.***

The messages of Rev.14 is that which prepares the people of God to stand in the day of God, even the harvest of the wheat from the earth.

*"These truths, as presented in Revelation 14 in connection with "the everlasting gospel," will distinguish the church of Christ at the time of His appearing. For as the result of the threefold message it is announced: "Here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." And this message is the last to be given before the coming of the Lord. Immediately following its proclamation the Son of man is seen by the prophet, coming in glory to reap the harvest of the earth." **Great Controversy p.453, 454***

i. The last message is summed up as they that have the law and the gospel, which when proclaimed brings the end of the world and causes the harvest of the earth. Hence it is a harvest message.

4. *"To the apostle John on the isle of Patmos were opened scenes of deep and thrilling interest in the experience of the church. Subjects of intense interest and vast importance were presented to him in figures and symbols, that the people of God might become intelligent concerning the perils and conflicts before them. The history of the Christian world to the very close of time was revealed to John. With great clearness he saw the position, dangers, conflicts, and final deliverance of the people of God. He records the closing message which is to ripen the harvest of earth, either as sheaves for the heavenly garner, or as fagots for the fires of the last day. **Sign of the Times, November 1, (1899)***

Here the closing message is as in the book of revelation which will be in Rev.14 and Rev.18.

This Ellen White Says is the closing message to ripen the harvest, the grapes or wheat for the heavenly garner. Hence they are termed the harvest message.

In concluding this study we have set forth the Bible and writings of Ellen White as in perfect unity. Wheat are wheat and tares are tares each has its distinct origin, but we see a broader representation of tares as to those who are lukewarm. The harvest time does not afford any tare to be a wheat, thus preparation is important in justification as a sinfree change and sinfree sanctification.

Some final statements; *“The Saviour does not point forward to a time when all the tares become wheat. The wheat and tares grow together until the harvest, the end of the world. Then the tares are bound in bundles to be burned, and the wheat is gathered into the garner of God. “Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father.” Then “the Son of man shall send forth His angels, and they shall gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; and shall cast them into a furnace of fire; there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.”* **Christ’s Object Lessons P. 75.**

“These words of Christ are meaningless to those who are looking for a temporal millennium, when all the world will be converted. He expressly states that the wheat and tares shall grow together till the harvest, which is the end of the world. Then the tares are to be gathered out of the field; but they are not to be transformed by a mighty miracle into wheat. They are to remain tares, and are to be cast into the fire and utterly destroyed.” **Vol.2 Spirit of Prophecy p.250.**

To the slow of heart because of the lukewarm condition and having been pointed the wrong way of a false concept of justification will not find these truth to be appreciable.

To such Ellen White says; *“I have no smooth message to bear to those who have been so long as false guideposts, pointing the wrong way. If you reject Christ's delegated messengers, you reject Christ. Neglect this great salvation, kept before you for years, despise this glorious offer of justification through the blood of Christ and sanctification through the cleansing power of the Holy Spirit, and there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation. I entreat you now to humble yourselves and cease your stubborn resistance of light and evidence”.* **Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers p.97, 98**

May the grace of God and Jesus Christ give you the blessing of justification that makes one to be in the experience of Sinfreeness. This is the experience of those who are wheat.

AMEN