



## Did Jesus Enter The Most Holy Place In A.D. 31?



Seventh-day Adventists are the only people on earth who would answer the above question with a “yes.” This is not surprising. Adventists claim to belong to a movement which was divinely raised up in order to give a unique message to the world. A message which was unknown to the rest of christendom. The very nature of our mission demands that we disagree strongly with the rest of the Christian world on several key points. The question of where Jesus went when He ascended to heaven is one of those points. While the rest of the Christian world insist that Jesus ascended directly to the **MOST HOLY** Place of the heavenly sanctuary, Seventh-day Adventists have always taught that in fact, Jesus ascended to the **HOLY** place of the heavenly sanctuary.

On the surface it would seem that the rest of the Christian world have a great deal of support for their beliefs. Several texts in the Bible say that when Jesus returned to heaven he went directly into the presence of the Father and sat down at His right hand (Mark 16:19; Heb.1:3,13; 8:1; 10:12; 12:2; 1 Pet.3:22; Acts 7:55-56; Rom 8:34; Eph 1:20; Col 3:1; Heb 1:3). However, it is always a safe rule when studying the Scriptures, to free our minds of all preconceived ideas, and then to study ALL the materials relevant to the subject before coming to a final conclusion.

This rule has often been ignored by many would-be Bible students and has resulted in the widespread acceptance of such deadly errors as Sunday observance, Trin-

ity worship and belief in the natural immortality of the soul. This careless approach to the study of God’s word has also resulted in the popular error that Jesus ascended to the Most Holy place of the heavenly Sanctuary after His resurrection.

The pre-conceived reasoning goes something like this:

“The sanctuary in the Old Testament had two apartments. God dwelt in the Most Holy place, therefore in the heavenly sanctuary, God also dwells in the Most Holy place. Since Jesus went directly to the Father’s right hand, then He must have gone directly into the Most Holy place.”

This reasoning is superficial and overlooks two factors which have a bearing upon the issue.

1. Is the Father always—was the Father always in the Most Holy place of the sanctuary? Is that the the lesson which He intended to convey by the type?
2. What does the term, “on the right hand of God” signify? Is it a symbolic phrase, or is it to be taken literally?

These were questions which were considered by the early Adventists. They made it the subject of careful and thorough study. The evidence of history is that these pioneers of the Advent faith were deep thinkers who made prayer and Bible study a major part of their daily lives. Anyone who reads their writings can readily tell that they were of a different breed than today’s crop of “theologians.”

It was this careful and prayerful attitude to study which led them to discover the truth that God is not always in the Most Holy place of the heavenly sanctuary. That the Bible does not teach this. They saw clearly that the Scriptures teach that heaven is a literal, real place, where there is a real sanctuary with real apartments where Jesus literally ministers on our behalf.

As they carefully studied the Scriptures they saw that Jesus did indeed ascend to the presence of the Father in AD 31, but they also saw very clearly what the rest of the Christian world missed; That in AD 31, both the Father and the Son had not yet en-

tered the second apartment of the heavenly sanctuary. The work which Jesus entered upon immediately upon His return to heaven was the work in the first apartment as typified by the Old Testament ritual, and it was there that He continued His work in the Father’s presence, until 1844.

Daniel 7:9 illustrates this truth very clearly. It says,

*I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire. (Dan 7:9)*

*A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened. (Dan 7:10)*

Here we see two things happening.

1. Thrones are set in place which were not there before.
2. God takes a seat. It should be very clear to the most careless reader that if God sits, then before He sat, He must have been standing, or sitting somewhere else. This is clear Scriptural evidence that God is not always sitting, immobile in the Most Holy place as some teach.



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With Open Face  
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*With Open Face* is dedicated to the promotion of the truths committed to the Advent movement, as believed and taught by the early Adventist pioneers. In particular to the restoration of those truths which have been cast down to the ground and trampled underfoot by the papacy, and adopted by her daughters.

Our purpose is to motivate our readers to commit themselves wholly to the task of personal preparation for the coming of the Lord, and to the taking of the final warning message to every nation, kindred, tongue and people.

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However, there is far more compelling evidence in the writings of the apostle Paul, and particularly in the book of Hebrews. Let us now turn our attention there. More than any other book in the New Testament, Hebrews focuses on the ministry of Christ as our High Priest. Naturally, then, we would expect to find here, some light that would help us to more clearly understand the subject under discussion.

The passage which, above all others is used to "prove" that Jesus entered the Most Holy Place in AD 31, is actually the passage which contains the strongest evidence that He ascended, not to the Most Holy Place, but to the **Holy** Place otherwise called the First Apartment of the heavenly sanctuary.

The translators of almost all the versions of the Bible have had a problem with the book of Hebrews, and especially with chapter 9. Very few of them have translated certain words as they should literally have been translated. Instead they have inserted meanings which they felt would better suit their interpretation of the verses in question. You will see what I mean in just a moment. They problem they had, was that the words which they were reading in the Greek language, as they read Hebrews chapter 9, did not fit in with their understanding of the message that Paul was giving. So what did they do? They changed the meaning of the word when they translated it into English and so, as a consequence, there is one particular word which gives an entirely different pic-

ture of Christ's position in heaven, from the one taught by the Advent Message. This single word has affected the entire message of Hebrews 9, and has distorted the meaning of two texts in particular. The texts in question are Hebrews 9:8 and Hebrews 10:19,20. They read as follows:

*The Holy Ghost this signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing: (Heb 9:8)*

*Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; (Heb 10:19,20)*

You will see very clearly that both these verses, as they read, seem to be pointing us to the Most Holy place of the heavenly sanctuary, and to be saying that since the time that Christ ascended to heaven, all Christians have been given access to the Most Holy place and have been able to benefit from a work being done there by Jesus since AD 31.

This false idea has been inserted into the Scriptures, because, as I stated earlier, one word has been mistranslated by the translators of most of the Bible versions.

Am I stating facts here? Can we be absolutely sure that there has been a mistranslation? Would so many eminent scholars have made such a fundamental mistake as to mistranslate a key word repeatedly? The answer is a resounding "yes." As we proceed to examine the evidence you will see why I speak so positively.

The key to understanding certain words used in Hebrews 9, is found in the first 3 verses of the chapter. Please remember a vital fact as we examine these verses. The author of this book wrote in the Greek language with which he was very familiar. His audience would read it in the Greek language which was their native tongue. They would have no concept of the English meanings and ideas which our translators have imposed on the text.

Hebrews 9:1 reads as follows:

*Then verily the first covenant had also ordinances of divine service, and a worldly sanctuary. (Heb 9:1)*

Now we can clearly see that when Paul speaks of the "sanctuary" in this verse, he means the entire sanctuary, containing both the holy and the most holy apartments. The word which he uses here for sanctuary, is the Greek word, **hagion**. If you had lived during the days of Paul, and you spoke the

Greek language, then whenever you spoke of the entire sanctuary, you would have used the word, **hagion**.

The next verse, Hebrews 9:2, says:

*For there was a tabernacle made; the first, wherein was the candlestick, and the table, and the showbread; which is called the sanctuary. (Heb 9:2)*

Here, now, we encounter the first confusing mistranslation. It is clear that this verse is speaking of the first apartment, or the Holy place. It says that the candlestick, the table and the showbread were in this apartment, but then goes on to say, "which is called the sanctuary." In actual fact, it should have been translated, "which is called the holy place." This is what it actually says in the Greek language. The translators made the first of several mistakes here. The word translated as **sanctuary** in this verse, is the Greek word, **hagia**. This word does not refer to the complete sanctuary, but only to the first apartment. As we saw earlier on, the word which means the entire sanctuary, is, **hagion**.

Again, I say, if you were a Greek speaking person in the days of the apostles and you heard the word, **hagia** you would immediately know that the person who used it was speaking of the first apartment of the sanctuary. There would be no confusion in your mind. Let me use an illustration to make this point a little clearer.

We all speak the English language. This is our natural tongue. Now in our homes we normally have bedrooms, a kitchen, a bathroom and a living room. How likely is it that I might confuse the names of the rooms and say to you by mistake, "let us go to the bathroom to have our lunch." Really, how likely is it that such a thing might happen. If I was not trying to be funny, then it would mean that I was getting senile. Do you see what I mean? Paul was not being funny, and he was not getting senile. His language was Greek and he was writing to people whose natural language was Greek. He used the exact words which he wanted to use. So he said in effect, "when I speak of the entire sanctuary, I use the word, **hagion** and when I speak of the first apartment, I say, **hagia**. Let us keep that in mind as we move on now to the next verse, Hebrews 9:3:

*And after the second veil, the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of all; (Heb 9:3)*

There can be no doubt that here, we are speaking of the most holy place, the inner-

*Continued on page 6*

## A Letter From Keith Coombs

I was pleasantly surprised when I received a copy of the July 1998 issue of the magazine "With Open Face." Straight way I realized that it was meat in due season for it addressed two issues that need to be dealt with.

1. The trinitarian view of God.
2. The coming of Elijah (Malachi 4: 5, 6).

As I got over the surprise I realized that the significant difference between the "middle of the road Trinitarian" and that of Historical Adventists is on the following question: "Is the holy spirit an extension of the Father, or is the holy spirit a Being, independent of the Father as Jesus is independent of the Father?"

Consider the *Desire of Ages*, p. 671. "The holy spirit was the highest of all gifts that He [Christ] could solicit from his Father for the exaltation of his people. The spirit was to be given as a

regenerating agent, and without this, the sacrifice of Christ would have been of no avail. The power of evil had been strengthening for centuries and the submission of men to this Satanic captivity was amazing. Sin could be resisted And overcome only through the mighty agency of the third person of the Godhead who would come with no modified energy but in the fullness of divine power."

Now based on this quotation I am led to believe that maybe they holy spirit is an independent person. I will note that all the other concepts mentioned in your article does not negate the holy spirit being a separate being from The Father or Jesus.

Now as I consider the article entitled "Why Elijah Must Come" I was taken aback by this statement "Elijah is me, Elijah is you." Why? If Elijah in Christ's lifetime was John the Baptist, why should I believe that we all are to be prophets in the spirit and power of Elijah? Well, we all believe that Moses' prayer for all God's people to be proph-

ets will be answered by the one hundred and forty-four thousand and possibly Malachi 4: 6 gives the initial work of this group of people.

We all know that it is the "straight testimony" which will cause a "shaking." Hence it appears that just before the latter rain a group of people who "sigh and cry for the abominations" in God's Church will begin to agitate for righteousness in the church. Elijah's mainline duty was to work with backslidden Israel to show them their God was different from Baal. Therefore those who choose to stay in the church and minister are those who will be doing the works of the Father in this time and hence God will provide the holy spirit so that they can be effective witnesses for him. Could this group be called the Elijah?

I am looking forward to your comments on both subjects.

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*We appreciate this letter from Brother Coombs and hope that the article below will answer, at least in part, one of his questions. The other question, we believe, is also dealt with in the article on page 10, entitled, "Satan's Deadliest Lie."*

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## WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

by David Clayton

Some time ago I was given four copies of the "Adventist Review." This is not the regular North American publication, but the condensed version, the Inter-American edition. In looking through them, I was interested to find that every one of those issues had something to say on the issue of "off-shoots," and loyalty to "the Church." I read the articles carefully, and was struck by two things:

(a) The leadership of the S.D.A. church seem to be really worried that the dissident movement is making a significant impact on church members.

(b) The appeals being made for "loyalty to the church," are simplistic, Biblically unsound, revealing either intent to deceive, or a sad ignorance of the teaching of the Bible. I have reproduced some of these statements below:

"It (the S.D.A. church) is God's created, appointed, and *only means for the salvation of sinners.*"

"It is the *'gate of heaven* for the sin-sick soul."



"No one pretends that God's church is blameless or that it has no fault ... but it is GOD'S CHURCH, and all should stand back and let God deal with His possession."

(*The Adventist Review*, Inter-American edition - Feb.1995, page 2.)

"Many ... have been tempted to doubt our remnant status or special calling. They are making a mistake that may last for eternity. Inspiration tells us that God will "carry the noble ship which bears the people of God safely into port" and that to "enter any new organization... would mean apostasy" (2SM 390).

"Scripture is clear: God has established a remnant church for these last days. Corporately, no other church body fits the description but ours, which alone has been given His present truth message."





(*ibid* - Sept. 1994, page 7)

Even many of those who seek for reformation and revival show a great lack of understanding, and a blind spot when it comes to this issue of the church. In a book written by Elder Ron Spear of "Hope International", entitled, "What Is The Church?" the following statements appear (After quoting Testimonies to Ministers, p.300):

"This statement tells us why it is important **to our salvation** to remain in church membership, unless disfellowshipped, until the time God takes the reins." (p.45)

"We must stay in the church, never becoming a separationist." (p.62)

Well then, where is the Bible support for all of this? Where in the Bible can we find any **denomination** identified as God's church?

### THE KEY ISSUE

The issue of contention is this: Is God's church the S.D.A. denomination? Is it the S.D.A. organization? Is it the S.D.A. movement? Is it any, or all of these? We hardly need to even go any further than the key doctrine of Seventh-day adventism to settle the question. It is the doctrine of the Investigative Judgment.

Consider the following question carefully: Which group of people has the Investigative Judgment been dealing with, from 1844 until now? Is it not the "House of God" which is being judged (1 Peter 4:17)? Is it not the "Judgment of the Church" which is presently taking place? Well then, consider also, the following statements from the pen of Sister White:

"So in the great day of final atonement and investigative judgment the only cases considered are those of the professed people of God." (*Christ in His Sanctuary* -p.16)

"At the time appointed for the judgment - the close of the 2300 days in 1844 - began the work of investigation and blotting out of sins. All who have ever taken upon themselves the name of Christ must pass its searching scrutiny." (*The Great Controversy* - p.486)

Is it only Seventh-day Adventists who are being examined in this judgment? Does it not include ALL denomina-

tions? "**All who have ever taken upon themselves the name of Christ,**" these are the ones who are examined in the "judgment of the Church (GC -486)!"

So then, what we clearly see from this, is that the visible church, consisting of wheat and tares, is made up of all those in the world who have taken the name of Christ, regardless of denominational affiliation. Among them may be found the true Christians; the wheat among the tares. Those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life!

### THE ADVENT MOVEMENT?

If the Advent movement is not exclusively the church of God, what then is its significance? What is its special place in God's plan?

God did indeed raise up the Advent movement for a great purpose; it is indeed a prophetic movement, raised up at a critical moment in time. But this purpose was not that it should become, exclusively, the church of God in the world, "the only means of salvation for sinners." There is no salvation outside of the church of Christ. However, there certainly are many persons who will be saved outside of the S.D.A. church, and even outside of the movement. This alone tells us that it cannot be exclusively the church of God in the world.

The Advent movement is really the Elijah movement which was prophesied for the last days (Malachi 4:5). It is the movement which is to restore all the truths which were trampled down by the great apostasy of the dark ages (Daniel 8:14).

*Thousands were led to embrace the truth preached by William Miller, and servants of God were raised up in the spirit and power of Elijah to proclaim the message. Like John, the forerunner of Jesus, those who preached this solemn message felt compelled to lay the ax at the root of the tree, and call upon men to bring forth fruits meet for repentance. Their testimony was calculated to arouse and powerfully affect the churches and manifest their real character. And as the solemn warning to flee from the wrath to come was sounded, many who were united with the churches received the healing message; they saw their backslidings, and with bitter tears of repentance and deep agony of soul,*

*humbled themselves before God. And as the Spirit of God rested upon them, they helped to sound the cry, "Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come." (Early Writings of Ellen G. White - PG- 233)*

*The work of John the Baptist represents the work for these times. His work, and the work of those who go forth in the spirit and power of Elijah to arouse the people from their apathy, are the same in many respects. Christ is to come the second time to judge the world in righteousness. The messengers of God who bear the last message of warning to be given to the world are to prepare the way for Christ's second advent as John prepared the way for his first advent. (The Youth's Instructor - 05-17-00 -The Violent Take it by Force)*

*John came in the spirit and power of Elijah to proclaim the first advent of Jesus. I was pointed down to the last days and saw that John represented those who should go forth in the spirit and power of Elijah to herald the day of wrath and the second advent of Jesus. (Early Writings of Ellen G. White - PG- 155)*

However, let us consider well that Elijah was sent with a message of rebuke TO ISRAEL. Not to begin a new Israel. Not to become all of a sudden the only object of God's regard in the whole world. In fact, he did feel at one point that God had no one else left. However, God rebuked him with the news that there were still 7000 left who had not bowed the knee to Baal.

The Seventh-day Adventist organization has mistaken God's call to service, as a call to exclusive favour. What a mistake! God called us to do a work. This does not mean that we alone belong to him. Simply that we have been chosen for a particular task. The task is important, yes. The responsibility is awesome: "Elijah truly shall first come and restore all things (Matt. 17:11)." Yet the call does not mean that we have suddenly become the whole church of God in the world! No more than Elijah's faithfulness made him the only Israelite alive!

If we say that the Seventh-day Adventist church is, "A church", or "A movement," this is perfectly o.k. But when we claim that it



is THE church, the fullness of Christ's body in the world, we are making a claim which borders on presumptuousness.

## THE FOUNDATION

Jesus Himself, clearly defined the foundation of His church in a conversation with His disciples, one day at Caesarea, Philippi. "Upon this Rock," He said, "I will build My church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it (Matt.16:18)."

"The rock is Peter." So says the Roman Catholic Church. But without even examining the passage carefully, the thoughtful person may brush such a proposition aside. The foundation is the root, the basis, the pattern from which the building grows. No mere man could ever fill such a position. Therefore the Holy Spirit says in 1 Corinthians 3:11, "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ." It is Jesus Christ Himself, who is the Rock, the foundation of His church.

"Whom say ye that I am?" was His question to the disciples.

"Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God," was Peter's answer, and we do well to study this answer, for Jesus instantly declared that it was an answer from God Himself, and was the truth upon which His church would be built.

What was implied in Peter's answer, "Thou art the Christ"? To grasp the full impact of what he was saying, we need to try to think as the Jews of that time did. The word "Christ" (or "Messiah" in the Hebrew), brought images to the Jewish mind that spanned four thousand years. Visions of deliverance, visions of glory, of the establishment of a kingdom where all would be righteousness and peace; of a ruler whose coming would not only subdue all of Israel's enemies, but would settle all doctrinal disputes as well.

From that first prophecy made to Adam and Eve in the garden, of One who would bruise the Serpent's head, a string of promises were scattered throughout the scriptures from Genesis to Malachi, of a mysterious coming Ruler who would change the way of life of God's people dramatically and permanently.

Jacob, upon his deathbed declared: "The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet until Shiloh come; and unto Him shall the gathering of the people be (Genesis 49:10)."

"There shall come a star out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel," Balaam cried, in spite of himself. "...out of Jacob

shall come He that shall have dominion (Num.24:17,19)."

Most powerful of all was Isaiah's prophecy: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace (Isa. 9:6)."

These prophecies and many others had painted an indelible image of the Christ in the minds of the Jews. Some of their ideas about Him were vague and undefined, it is true, but one thing they were certain of was the fact that He would be absolute, authoritative ruler. That He would take complete control, and that henceforth, all facets of life would centre in Him. Their expectations of the Messiah were echoed in the words of the Samaritan woman whom Jesus met at Jacob's well:

"I know that Messiah cometh, which is called Christ: When He is come, He will tell us all things (John 4:25)." No questions, no arguments, no doubts. When Messiah came, that would be the end of ALL controversy.

Now this was the person whom Peter declared Jesus to be. The One who was absolute, supreme, infallible and complete, and Jesus declared, "upon this rock (this truth) I will build MY church." Please note the emphasis on the word "My".

The word "church" means, "those who are called out." There have been many groups of people who have been "called out". Many even which have been called out in the name of God. The Jews regarded themselves as one such called out group, built upon the foundation of Abraham's bloodline and the writings of Moses. But Jesus said, "My church, My called out ones will be different from all others. How so? They will recognize Me as their absolute authority. As God's final word.

This is why Jesus is "the Door" of the sheep fold (John 10:9). We enter the fold of His church by submitting ourselves to Him in absolute surrender. There is no other way, and no other qualification for entering the fold (John 10:9). Whenever anybody presents any other criterion as a requirement for becoming a member of any "church", then it is clear that such a church is not God's church, but must be a false church! The word of God is very plain on this point.

"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved (Acts 4:12)."

"None other name," saith the scripture. Is this sufficient for you? What about the name, "Seventh-day Adventist"? Is this the name whereby we must be saved?

## ONE CHURCH - MANY MINISTRIES

The word of God makes it clear that there may be, and are various arms of the Christian church. Like some misguided Christians of today, the disciples of Jesus were at times self-centered and exclusive. They knew that they had a treasure in Christ and were anxious to keep Him as their exclusive property.

*"John answered Him saying, Master, we saw one casting out devils in Thy name and he followeth not us: and we forbid him because he followeth not us." (Mark 9:38)*

How clearly do we see here the spirit manifested by so many denominations today! The spirit which says, "we are God's own people exclusively. We are Christ's and Christ is ours (alone). You do not worship with us; you are not a member of our denomination, therefore you are outcast, you cannot be saved!" How completely contrary to the teachings of Jesus. "Forbid him not...", was Christ's command, "for he that is not against us is on our part (Mark 9:39-40)."

Certainly, God has only one church, for His word tells us that "there is one body...one Lord, one faith, one baptism (Eph.4:4,5)." There is only one fold. But let us be assured that this fold is not a mere denomination.

"Other sheep I have which are not of this fold," said Jesus, "them also I must bring...(John 10:16)." But the fold to which He referred, was **the Christian church**. Standing around Him as He spoke these words was His "little flock", His disciples. Those who then belonged to His fold. Those who then followed Him. But scattered among the Jews, among the gentiles were many other sincere and true worshippers of God who yet knew nothing of Jesus Christ; who did not follow Him, or belong to His fold. "Them also I must bring," Said Jesus, "and there shall be one fold and one Shepherd." What was it that at present placed them outside the fold? Simply the fact that they were not yet followers of Jesus!

To believe in Jesus, to surrender to Him and follow Him is the key. This, and this alone is the criterion for becoming a part of Jesus' church and it is an abuse of God's word when any denomination takes it upon



itself to declare itself to be the fold; to be exclusively, God's church. Of necessity, such a denomination must establish membership criteria which require more of their members than simply loyalty to Jesus Christ. (Please see Acts 19:3-5 ; Acts 16:31 ; Acts 8:36-38)

The fact that there is only one body, one church, must not cause us to lose sight of the fact that "there are diversities of gifts ....there are differences of administrations .... there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all ( 1 Corinthians 12:4-6)."

No single administration, denomination, or ministry, represents the whole of God's work in this world. How utterly contrary to the scripture to even suggest such a thing! Through many different groups and ministries, Jesus is carrying on His own work and though some, like John, may seek to forbid the others who "walk not with us," God's work yet remains under the control of Jesus Christ, and no human apostasy may take away His place and authority as Head and controller of His own church.



*For a more complete study on this subject you may write to Restoration Ministries and request our free audio tape entitled, "What Is The Church."*

### **Beam In His Eye**

D.L. Moody, the evangelist was criticised by a fellow minister, for the way he conducted his after meeting counselling sessions. The minister said:  
 "I don't like the way you conduct your meetings, Mr. Moody."  
 "That's funny," said Moody, "neither do I. How do you do it?"  
 "Well, er – actually, I don't do it!"  
 "Oh well, in that case, I like it better the way I do it than the way you don't do it!" Replied Moody.

## **Did Jesus enter the Most Holy Place?**

*Contd. from page 2*

most apartment of the sanctuary. There are two things to note here. In passing, let us notice that Paul speaks of "the second veil." There were two veils. A first, as well as a second. When we come upon the phrase, "within the veil," in the book of Hebrews, let us not automatically assume that this means inside the most holy place. There were **two** veils. "Within the veil" may mean within the **first** apartment as well as within the **second** apartment.

The second thing of note, and more to the point, is the fact that Paul uses a term here for the Most Holy place which is found **nowhere else** in the entire New Testament. This is not surprising, for this is the only place in the New Testament where the Most Holy place is discussed. The term Paul uses is **hagia hagion**. In other words, when a Greek-speaking person spoke of the most holy place, he would refer to it as **hagia hagion**.

So then, what we see, is that right here at the beginning of chapter 9 of Hebrews, the apostle Paul defines his terms and makes it very clear what he means when he uses certain words. In effect, what he is saying is this:

"When I say **hagion** I mean the entire sanctuary."

"When I say **hagia** I mean the first apartment or the Holy place."

"When I say **hagia hagion** I mean the second apartment or the Most Holy place."

These are plain facts. They are absolutes and cannot be controverted. The problem is that the term **hagia hagion** which means the most holy place, or the holiest place, or the innermost apartment, is used **nowhere else** in the entire book of Hebrews, apart from in verse 3 of chapter 9 where Paul tells you what it means. Yet, in verse 8 of chapter 9, and in chapter 10:19, we see the words, *holiest of all*, and *the holiest*. How did these verses come to be translated in this way?

The translators of the King James Version came upon the word **hagia** in these verses, which clearly means, *the holy place or the first apartment*. However, because that was not their understanding of the passage, they took the extreme liberty of translating the word as *holiest!!* In this way they did great harm to the meaning of the apostle Paul. Please examine the insert on the following page and you will see in how many cases they have confused the message of the book of Hebrews by mistranslating the word **hagia**. Sometimes they

translated it as *sanctuary*, another time as *holy places* again, as *holy place*, and a couple of times as *holiest*. They made it appear that Paul did not know what he was doing and got mixed up in the use of his words!!

The truth is that Paul knew exactly what he was talking about. If there is confusion, it is not because of what Paul wrote. He chose his words carefully. He was a master of the Greek language and knew exactly what each word meant. This is why in the first three verses of chapter 9 he takes great care to explain the meaning of the words which he would be using as he discussed the work of Jesus in the heavenly sanctuary.

What do we find then, when we correctly insert the words, *first apartment* into these texts which were so badly mistranslated by the translators?

Hebrews 9:8 now reads:



**"Hagia"** is the Greek word that is incorrectly translated as "holiest of all" in Hebrews 9:8, and as "the holiest" in 10:19.

The word "hagia" occurs eight times in the book of Hebrews, and is translated in the King James Version in the following way:

Sanctuary	: Hebrews 8:2 ; 9:2 ; 13:11
Holy Place	: Hebrews 9:12,25
Holy Places	: Hebrews 9:24
Holiest	: Hebrews 10:19
Holiest of All	: Hebrews 9:8

Hebrews 9:1-3 is the key to understanding the meaning of this word as it is used by the apostle Paul in the book of Hebrews.

*9:1 Then verily the first covenant had also ordinances of divine service, and a worldly **sanctuary** (**Hagion**:- used only in Hebrews 9:1)*

*9:2 For there was a tabernacle made; the first, wherein was the candlestick, and the table, and the shewbread, which is called the sanctuary (**Hagia**:- used in Hebrews 8:2; 9:2,8,12,24,25; 10:19; 13:11)*

*9:3 And after the second veil, the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of all (**Hagia Hagion**:- used only in Hebrews 9:3)*



*The Holy Ghost this signifying, that the way into the **holy place** (first apartment) was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing: (Heb 9:8)*

Hebrews 10:19 now reads:

*Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the **holy place** (first apartment) by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; (Heb 10:19,20)*

So now we see the truth crystal clear, and not surprisingly, we see that the teaching of Hebrews 9 is in perfect harmony with the message which God gave to the Adventist pioneers and totally out of harmony with the teaching of Babylon.

This is truly a wonderful thing when we consider it carefully, because the evidence is so conclusive. The writer of the book of Hebrews had three words from which to choose: **hagion**; **hagia**; and **hagia hagion**. As was already said, his natural tongue was Greek and he knew perfectly well the meaning of each of these words. Why did he choose to use the word *hagia*? If he wanted to refer to the Most holy place why didn't he use the term *hagia hagion* after telling us in verse three that that is the term which was used in referring to the Most holy place? Did he make a mistake several times? Did he become confused as to the meaning of the words? You decide for yourself what the answer is to these questions and remember to be honest with yourself before God.

As far as I am concerned it is a most striking thing that one of the strong points which the enemies of Adventism use to attack our faith, when carefully examined, turns out to be one of the strongest reasons in favour of it. This is not coincidence. The Advent movement as originally founded was divinely guided and those who attack the truths given to those early pioneers are in a place where I would fear to be. The prophet Ellen White says,

*We had the truth; we were directed by the angels of God. It was under the guidance of the Holy Spirit that the presentation of the sanctuary question was given. It is eloquence for every one to keep silent in regard to the features of our faith in which they acted no part. God never contradicts Himself. Scripture proofs are misapplied if forced to testify to that which is not true. Another and still another will arise and bring in supposedly great light, and make their assertions. But we stand by the old*

*landmarks. (Selected Messages Book 1, p.161)*

The truth is that Paul knew the meaning of the sanctuary services and realized that in keeping with the type, Jesus was then, in the first century AD in the first apartment of the heavenly sanctuary, carrying on His ministry. This is why he never used the words *hagia hagion* with reference to the ministry of Christ.

There are some who may say that the "context" shows that he meant the most holy place, even though he wrote the word, *hagia*. We must disagree with that. Our own biases can colour the way we interpret a passage and if space would permit I could give several examples of that. One striking example is where the majority of the "scholars" and the "learned men" in the world today (including the Pope) insist that Revelation 1:10 is referring to Sunday, when it mentions *The Lord's Day*. If we accept that Paul knew what he was doing and understood the words which he was using, then we must approach the entire passage with that understanding. Let us allow the words to speak to us, rather than to try to impose our own biases upon the word. We will find, if we do this, that the meaning of the passage will become clear, and once again, we will discover that God was the one who led the pioneers of the Advent movement.



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### **Important Principles**

*Before you are able to convince me of error you must first demonstrate you understand what I say.*

*Finney*

*If I profess with the loudest voice and clearest exposition every portion of the truth of God except precisely that little point which the world and the devil are at the moment attacking, I am not confessing Christ, however boldly I may be professing Christ. Where the battle rages, there the loyalty of the soldier is proved, and to be steady on all the battlefield besides, is mere flight and disgrace if he flinches at that point.*

*Martin Luther*

## **Portraits of Jesus?**

This article seeks to consider if it's acceptable to have pictures portraying Jesus. As Christians we worship both God the father and his son Jesus Christ. The second commandment, exodus 20: 4,5 instructs us not to make any likeness of the God we serve (" thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image or any likeness of anything that is in heaven...") Moses in explaining in Deuteronomy 4:15, 16 said " take ye therefore good heed unto yourselves, for ye saw no manner of similitude on the day that Lord spake unto you Horeb in the midst of the fire: lest ye corrupt yourselves and make a graven image, the similitude of any figure, the likeness of male or female." Thus it appears that those who worship Jesus should not make any pictures to portray what he looks like. Bearing in mind that no one can actually testify to what Jesus truly looked like, then with these pictures that we normally see portraying him, one is "making unto himself the likeness" of a man and then calling this likeness a picture of Jesus.

If one argues that somehow these pictures enhance our worship, or has spiritual benefits, then obviously he would be breaking the second commandment " thou shalt not bow down thyself to them nor serve them..." Exodus 20: 5. For example, a person who uses a lucky charm around his neck will soon find that if he somehow lost his lucky charm he would become like "a fish out of water." That is, he has become a servant to his lucky charm. Similarly, churches using this picture of Jesus to enhance their worship become so attached to this fabrication that they cannot do without them. If one suggests that there are no benefits to be obtained by the use of these pictures then surely we do not need them and it would be wiser to discard their use.

Furthermore, consider that the Orthodox churches encourages the use of these pictures of Jesus and Mary introducing the veneration of these images of Jesus and the "Saints."

Finally these pictures are known to be a stumbling block to some people of African origin and following the example laid down in Romans 14: 21 " it is neither good to each flesh nor drink wine, nor anything whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak."

As we commit ourselves to God each day may we see it fit to discard this stumbling block also.

*Contributed by Keith Coombs.*

## TRUTH FROM RC CHURCH DISTURBS SDA LEADER.

By now most of us have probably heard of the so-called *Special Document From the Vatican* with its 10 points to "Evangelize Seventh-day Adventists." The president of the Inter-American Division of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Israel Leito, confessed that he did not at first pay much attention to the document when it was handed to him. He thought that "it might be a hoax." However, in his own words:

*"that same night as I checked my e-mail, I received a message from our web master here at the Division, copying a message that he received from a certain Stephen P. Haws....This made me think that what was handed to me in Central America is not a hoax but may have some degree of truth, presenting the plan to regain lost ground to the Seventh-day Adventist Church.*

*What alarmed me more is that when I went into the web page as advertised here by Mr. Haws, I discovered that they have linked the Inter-American Division web page to their web page, making it appear as if Inter-America is cooperating with the Catholic Church. I am deeply disturbed by this...We have insisted that they remove us from their web site, and after initially challenging us on the legality of it, they have reluctantly done so. However, substantial negative information has been included about our church..."*

### Stephen Haws' Letter

Hi,

*My name is Steve and I'm building a Catholic site called "Examining Protestantism!" I am currently working on a page called "Common Ground" where I am trying to list those Christian groups who share various Catholic beliefs.*

*(<http://www.shasta.com/sphaws/commonground.html>.)*

*I know it would be strange to think that the SDA and Catholic Churches share any beliefs (other than the Trinity), but I am curious about your "Beliefs" page, no. 15 -The Lord's Supper. What do you mean by "Christ is present?" You might actually make my page if you believe*

**With Open Face**

*the Eucharist is more than a mere "symbol."*

*You are already on my page under "Trinity."*

*Am looking forward to your reply on the "presence" of Christ in communion.*

*Thank you.*

*Stephen P. Haws*

This letter is very interesting and it is highly significant that the president of the Inter-American Division did not comment on the startling discoveries of Mr. Haws.

Firstly, according to Mr. Haws, Seventh-day Adventists and Catholics agree on the Trinity, while they disagree on almost everything else.

Secondly, he has discovered a statement in the SDA beliefs which makes him believe that SDAs and Catholics may also share similar beliefs on the subject of the literal presence of Christ in the Communion bread.

One can only imagine how delighted Mr. Haws would have been if he had managed to get hold of the latest SDA Church Hymnal and then turned to the second verse of hymn #402. That would have made his day! It reads:

*His broken body in our stead, is here in this memorial bread...*

No doubt Mr. Haws would have been even more thrilled to discover that the earlier SDA *Christ In Song* hymn book had rendered this verse:

*His broken body in our stead is seen in this memorial bread...*

No doubt he would have felt that we were making progress in the "right" direction.

### Stephen Haws' Website

I found the website setup by Mr. Haws to be in no way alarming (at least not from the angle from which the IAD president viewed it). It is not much different from hundreds of other sites set up by people who wish to defend their religious beliefs, or their denominations. Mr. Haws has in fact set up links to several websites of other denominations, none of which have reacted in such a paranoid way as the IAD has done.

What Mr. Haws has attempted to do is to show that although other denominations are critical of the beliefs of the Catholic Church, many of them in reality have the same, or similar beliefs as the Church which they are criticizing. He simply used the SDA link as a reference

to which people could go in order to prove that what he was saying about SDA beliefs is true. There is nothing wrong with that.

I suspect that there was something about the information on this Catholic web site which touched Mr. Leito on a sore spot. Let us examine what Mr. Haws has to say about the SDA church, which according to the IAD president is "substantial negative information about our church."

After showing that the Eastern Orthodox, Anglican, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Reformed and Baptist Churches all believe in the Trinity (with links to the web sites of some of these organizations), Mr. Haws then comes to the SDA Church, and comments as follows:

***Even the Seventh-Day Adventists!***  
*See this Catholic article on SDA Beliefs which confirms that the SDA's believe in the Holy Trinity. (Interesting, in that Satan allows "Antichrist" and His "Whore" Church to teach the truth about God! Why (do) they focus on Sunday services?)*

Can anybody point out to me the "substantial negative information" about the SDA Church to which Mr. Leito referred? It seems to me, rather, that Stephen Haws has touched the SDA Church on the same sore spot that we have been hitting for a couple of years. ***How can the Roman Catholic Church be antichrist if they teach the truth about the most important doctrine of Christian faith?*** Or, to put it another way, how can the SDA church and the antichrist organization agree wholeheartedly on the doctrine which is the basis of all the beliefs of the Catholic Church?

Mr. Haws continues with a final note:

***(NOTE: On April 13, 1999 I received an e-mail from the Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Inter-American Division, requesting that I remove their link from my site. I therefore replaced the SDA "proof link" with the above Catholic link. The SDA-ID did not deny they believed in the Trinity. I therefore assume my comment re Satan allowing his "whore" church to teach the truth about God hit an Achilles heel. I wish to thank the SDA-ID for giving me the idea for a new article, "How to Handle Seventh-Day Adventists". Look for it in the near future.)***

**Comment:** If a man shows you dirt on your face, wash your face. Don't attack



## CAMPMEETING NOTICE

**It's Campmeeting time again.** It's almost time for us to once again make our way to "Copper" in the hills of St. James for four days of fellowship and spiritual refreshing.

Please indicate very early whether you will be attending this campmeeting as we need to make proper arrangements for accommodating the additional numbers who may be attending .

Campmeeting begins on **Wednesday the 4<sup>th</sup> of August** and will conclude on **Sunday, the 8<sup>th</sup> of August.**

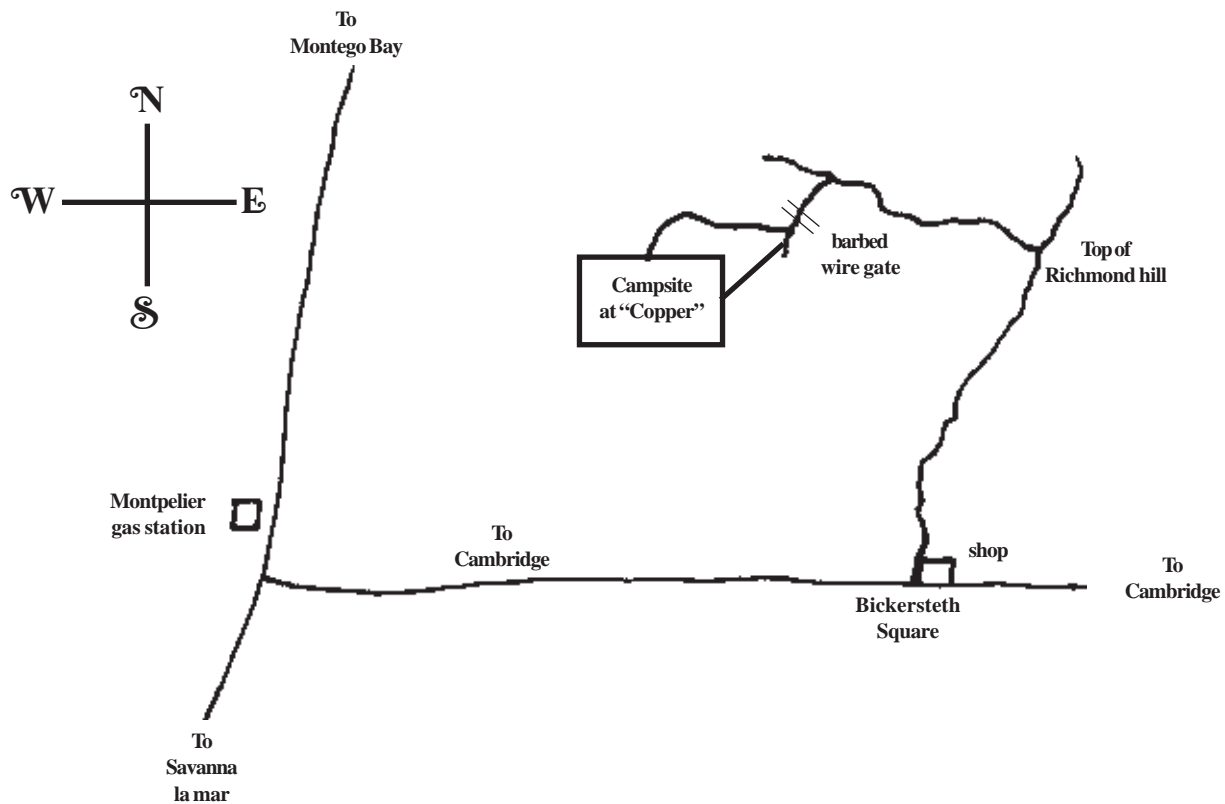
Please contact brother David Clayton before July 15 if you are planning to attend. Call (876) 904-7392.

Each person is required to make a contribution of (JA)\$400.00 towards the cost of food etc. (only lunch will be served each day. Please make your own provisions for breakfast & supper.

Speakers will include Pastor Allen Stump from Smyrna Gospel Ministries as well as other local speakers.

Please remember to take with you:

- Your own bedding, air mattress or foam for sleeping.
- Eating Utensils
- Bucket for fetching water.
- Basin for bathing (you could use your bucket for this)
- Tent (if possible).



### **Directions:**

If coming by your own transportation, travelling towards Montego Bay, from Sav-la-mar direction, turn right, on the Cambridge road at Montpelier (if coming from Montego Bay, turn left of course!). Travel about a mile and a half along this road until you come to Bickersteth square and turn left (a two-storied white shop is on the left just where you turn). Travel approximately 2-3 miles along a narrow winding road which climbs continually (Richmond Hill) until you come to a left turn at the top. Take this left turn (if in doubt, ask for the 'Copper' property) and travel down this road for about a mile. You will come to another left turn, (look carefully, or you may miss it) and you will notice that this road is barred by a bamboo gateway. Take this road, go through the bamboo gateway. Follow this road for 200 yards. It will take you straight to the camp.

If you are coming by public transportation, call (876) 904-7392 to make arrangements to be picked up at Montpelier.

# Satan's Deadliest Lie

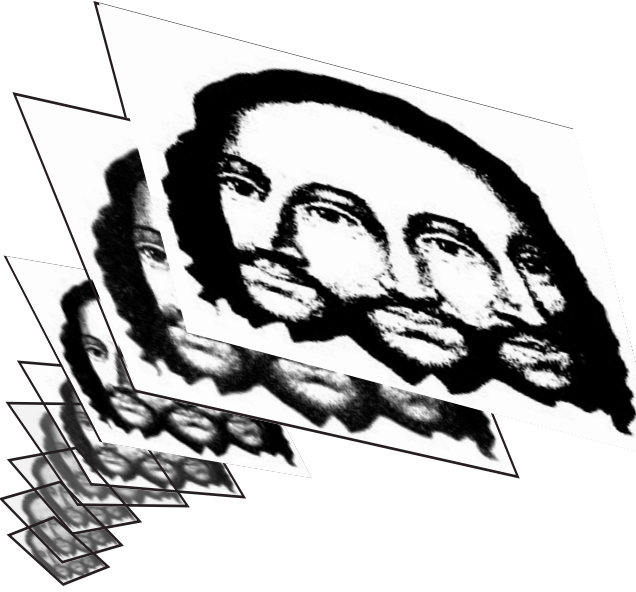
*This article is a new tract put out by Restoration Ministries which deals with the issue of the trinity.*

God's enemy and our enemy, the devil, has been trying to rob us of one of the greatest blessings which we can experience in this life. Our God and heavenly Father has given us blessings which are so wonderful that we can hardly find the words to explain them.

The first great blessing is that our Father loves us so much that He gave His Son to die for our sins. It was His own Son that He gave. His only begotten Son. One who was born from the very substance of the Father Himself. The Father and His Son were together for millions of years. They were very close to one another, and the Father loved the Son with a very great love (See Proverbs 8:22-31). Yet, God loved us so much that when He knew that we were doomed to everlasting death, He decided to give His only begotten Son. The Son of His bosom, the one whom He loved from the days of eternity, to die for us (Rom. 8:32). This truly did happen. It was for us that the God of heaven gave His true Son to die.

The second great blessing which the Father has given us, is that He Himself, and His Son, Jesus, have come to live with us. Please think about what I just said. God HIMSELF, the almighty One lives in everyone who is a genuine Christian!! I do not mean that His angels are with us (although they are). I do not mean that His power is with us (although it is). What I mean is that He Himself, the great God, and His Son, live with us, and in us, if we are His. Do you ask HOW this is possible? I do not know how. I know that God does not live in us in His bodily form, but nevertheless, His presence is here. His power, His life, He Himself is here, even though I cannot see Him. This is what He promises in His word:

Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. (John 14:23)  
(See also 1 Cor. 6:17,19; 2 Cor. 6:16; Acts 17:27,28).



Can you see how great are these two blessings are which God has given to us?

1. He has given His own, only begotten son to die for us so that we can be saved from the penalty of everlasting death. How wonderful it is that such a person could love us so much. Surely we ought to love and serve Him in return!
2. He Himself and His blessed Son will live with us if we choose to give our lives to Him. He will be our best Friend. Our close, constant Companion. We can be the friends of the Almighty God. He, Himself, personally will be with us always and forever.

There is no greater blessing in all of Christian experience. I myself have found out that fellowship with God and His Son is the highest joy that I can have in this life. Can you imagine? God, the Almighty One is my personal Friend!! When I talk with Him, I know He is in charge of my life. I forget my problems because I know that He takes care of them all.

This is what eternal life means. To know and to have personal fellowship with God (who is the Father) and with His Son, Jesus Christ. This is what Jesus Himself said:

And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. (John 17:3)

## **The Teaching of Antichrist**

Therefore, any false teaching which takes away these blessings from me, must be one of Satan's most dangerous false doctrines. Yet there is a very popular teaching among Christian Churches which destroys these two great blessings. This false teaching says that:

(a) Jesus was not really the true, begotten Son of God.  
(b) The true Son of God did not really die.

(c) Jesus and His Father, our God, are not personally present with us, but have sent another person instead.

You can see that this is a very deadly false doctrine. Yet most Christians have accepted this teaching. Maybe even you have accepted this teaching. This doctrine says that Jesus never had a beginning and that He and God are the same age, that they are equal in power and authority. I ask you, how then could Jesus be the Son of God? Can a son be the same age as his father? This doctrine denies that Jesus is, and always was the Son of God. The Bible says of this doctrine:

Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? **He is anti-christ, that denieth the Father and the Son.** (1 John 2:22)

By now you may have realized that I am talking about the doctrine of the TRINITY. This is the false doctrine which denies that Jesus is the true, begotten Son of God. According to this teaching, Jesus was not really the Son of God, but was actually one of three Beings who are all God. This doctrine teaches that He was only the Son of God by name, but not in the sense that He was born from God.

If this was true, then Jesus could not really have died on the cross, because God cannot die, and according to this teaching, Jesus was God Himself!! They say that only the body died, but the spirit was still

alive and safe with the Father. If this is true, then what did God suffer when Jesus died? If this is true, then only a human body died on Calvary. Could a human body pay for the sins of the world?

As long as you believe this doctrine, you will never be able to realize what God did for you when He gave His only begotten Son to die for your sins. You will never understand how much He loves you. How can we love and serve Him properly if we don't appreciate how much He loves us?

The second deadly danger of the trinity doctrine is that it pushes God and Jesus far away from us. Jesus has made the following promises:

- ... I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. (Heb 13:5)
- ... lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. (Mat 28:20)
- ... If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. (John 14:23)
- I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you. (John 14:18)
- Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you .... (John 14:28)
- ... truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. (1 John 1:3)

He promises that He and His Father PERSONALLY will be with us. But according to the doctrine of the trinity, it is not Jesus Himself and the Father Himself who are with us, but it is another person called *The Holy Spirit*. This is the second false teaching of the trinity doctrine.

**Who Is The Holy Spirit?**

The truth is that there are only two persons in the godhead. Not three. The two persons are God, the Father, and Jesus Christ, His Son. (Please see 1 cor. 8:6; 1 John 1:3; Rev. 5:13; Rev. 7:10 and many other texts.). It is true that there is a Holy Spirit, but the question is, "Who, or what is the Holy Spirit?" The Holy Spirit is not a third person, separate from God and Jesus. The Holy Spirit is actually the *spiri-*

*tual presence* of the Father and the Son, but not in their bodily form.

The Bible teaches that there is only ONE **Lord** (Eph. 4:5).

The Bible teaches that there is only ONE **Spirit** (Eph. 4:4).

Who is the one Lord and the one Spirit. Here is the answer in 2 Corinthians 3:17.

Now **the (one) Lord is that (one) Spirit:** and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.  
(2 Cor 3:17)

Look at how the same truth is brought out in the following texts:

- *Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.* (John 14:19,20)
- *I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one....* (John 17:23)

Do you see? It is the Father in Jesus, and Jesus in us. They are with us in spirit form, not in bodily form. This is why the presence of them with us is called *The Holy Spirit*.

Satan wants to take two precious things from you. One is the knowledge of the love of God and His Son. That love which was so wonderfully demonstrated when God gave His Son to die for men (1 John 4:9). The other is the knowledge of the indwelling presence of God and His Son. Without these, what are we left with? Nothing. We are orphans, lost people seeking to find a way to be saved. Trying to face life, but helpless and lost.

Thank God for the gospel of His Son! Thank God for a full and perfect salvation. What a joy to know that I have been redeemed, not with gold or silver, but by the precious life-blood of the only begotten Son of the great God of the universe. I am somebody. I am worth something. How wonderful to know that my friends and constant companions are this same God and His Son! This gives me courage and confidence. This makes me know that I am safe, even when I walk through the valley of the shadow of death. This makes me know that there is nothing too hard for me to face. God lives with me, and in me. I have an abiding Friend

who will never let me down.

My dear friend, I invite you now, to abandon this false doctrine of the trinity. Accept the truth about God and His Son. Give your life to them forever and determine that from now on you will serve them and walk with them until the day when we shall meet them face to face.

If you would like to learn more about this subject, then please ask for the two cassette tapes entitled, *The Things Which Are Revealed*, and *God On Trial*.

<b>Run Slow</b>
<p>Have you ever watched kids on a merry-go-round, Or listened to rain as it taps on the ground? Ever followed a butterfly's lilting flight, Or gazed at the sun until it was night?</p> <p>You'd better slow down, don't run so fast. Time is so short ~ The music won't last.</p> <p>Do you run through each day, always on the fly? When you ask "How are you?", do you hear the reply? When the day is done, do you lie in your bed With the next hundred chores running through your head?</p> <p>You'd better slow down, don't run so fast. Time is so short ~ The music won't last.</p> <p>Ever told your child, "We'll do it tomorrow." And in your haste, not see his sorrow? Ever lost touch, let a good friendship die, Cause you never had time to call and say "Hi"?</p> <p>You'd better slow down, don't run so fast. Time is so short ~ The music won't last.</p> <p>When you run too fast to get somewhere, You miss half the fun of getting there! When you worry and hurry through your day, It's like an unopened gift . . . thrown away . . .</p>