



But in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. – Matthew 15:9

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A Letter To A Man Named Peter

Dear Peter:

You and I have never met and on this earth as it is, we most likely never will. I know of you from having listened to online archived Bible study classes that you attended for a few weeks or maybe it was months. You intrigued me. Your knowledge of Scriptures and zeal for the Lord was something that few people exhibit. Yet I'm finding that as time advances, there are more and more people stepping forward and taking a stand for the God that the Bible teaches rather than the impostor, the wannabe god (with a lower case). My assessment of you from listening to your input while attending those classes was that you are one of those people who cannot be quiet about your God. And this is a good thing.

A while back I made a comment on my Facebook page that when listening to a Bible study class online I heard a comment that had disturbed me. This comment was about an "interview" that Ellen G. White, the Seventh-day Adventist prophetess, allegedly had with the devil. The person who made this comment was you, Peter. You gave the reference where you had read this and you even produced the book and began reading the passage in question.

When I had finished listening to the class I moved on to the next one without making a note which class this had been, nor did I mark the reference you gave as to what book the passage was found in. As time passed and I chewed on it I felt as though this was something I needed to address so I backtracked. I began relistening to a large section of the archived studies with the goal of finding that particular one where I heard once again, the passage where Ellen purportedly

had a discussion with satan.

I decided to write to you through this website. This was done because I have concerns for not just you because it sounded as though others in that class had the same response that you did when you read the passage. So, other than your name I'm not revealing where I ran across you. I do this for privacy issues. You or the others might not mind if it's known that you attended that class, but then again you might not want it to be revealed. And that means that where I found you is our little secret. I'll be trying to contact the person who taught that class and asking that someone try to find you and let you know this letter is here.

Peter, I don't want to call you a fraud, liar, or anything along that line. You have information that I don't have and that is the book from which you read. You said it was the 1885 edition of *The Great Controversy* and you read from page 337. Our personal Ellen library only covers 2+ shelves on our bookcase. We don't begin to have all her books and compilations. It wasn't until sometime in the last few years that I learned there was an 1888 edition of *The Great Controversy* and your copy of the 1885 edition was a new one for me.

When I go to Ellen for references of some kind, I use the website egwwritings.org and that's where I went to search for the reference you cited during the class. Guess what – I couldn't find it. But just because I couldn't find it doesn't mean you aren't telling the truth. I probably am leaning toward believing you more than I believe the website. The reason I say that is that I've been told, and this is only hearsay, that the website is guilty of removing things that they don't want the public to read.

And that was an accusation that I am unable to verify. I have been told of one thing they have removed but I cannot share that because I haven't actually made a search for it to see if that's factual.

But there was something else that I found somewhere on the internet and since I didn't mark it or write it down, I don't know where I found it. What I found was a quote from an old Review and Herald written by an unknown source back in the days that Ellen was still alive. She may have written it or someone else whom I assume was crucial in the development of the early SDA church may have been the one who wrote it.

I was able to find and verify that the article I found on the internet did in fact exist. Some time after that I began noticing there was a stir being made regarding the SDA church's position on abortion. That caused me to go on a search for the article I had read earlier but no matter what I tried I could not find

it. I spent several days, possibly a couple weeks, searching for that article but it eluded me. Hopefully I simply couldn't find it. I would hate to think that those who run the egwwritings.org website are indeed censoring what we read.

I can share with you what that article was because I did see it with my own eyes. The article stated that the unborn child is a living person and it's life should be protected. Since the SDA church is guilty of providing abortions at their hospitals yet the church founders were of the belief that the life of the unborn should be protected then I have to wonder if the people at the egwwritings.org website are in fact guilty of censorship.

And with that said, I have found things in her writings that would cause me to wonder why they remain available for the public to read if they are in fact guilty of suppressing information.

As far as your quotation from *The Great Controversy*, even though I was unable to find it, I did write down enough of what you read that I was able to type into their search engine what was needed for them to find where she had quoted the devil. Are you interested in what I found?

You read and I wrote down, “says the great deceiver.” The search engine at egwwritings.org found that phrase in 5 different places. One of those places was the book, *Last Day Events*. I'm going to reference it here and want you to see what “they” did with it.

Says the great deceiver: ... “Our principal concern is to silence this sect of Sabbathkeepers.... We will finally have a law to exterminate all who will not submit to our authority.”—*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, 472, 473 (1884). – *Last Day Events*, p. 255

Yes, the book *Last Day Events* is a compilation, but notice what the people responsible for this publication did. When you read that passage, what message did you receive? It looks to me as though they want us to know (believe) that the devil is primarily concerned with ending Sabbath observance and is planning to kill all the Sabbatharians to reach his goal. By reading just that much how could we get any other message?

Sadly, we have been trained to not ask questions. Verbally we're told to ask questions if we have them, but when we are bold enough to ask them then we may find ourselves on the black list. Why? Because asking questions is a form of questioning church/pastor/teacher/etc... authority. They want us to believe what we have been taught without thinking it through.

It even happened to Jesus. He asked a why question and was slapped in the face for it. The person who teaches the Bible study class you attended once told a story about meeting someone who had attended a church-run university. She had innocently asked a question and was nearly expelled for asking it. I began asking questions and it caused a lot a grief for my husband and me. He was stripped of all his duties at church and I ended up transferring my membership to a different church for safekeeping. As I watched what was happening in the church both locally and on a world-wide scale I ended up asking to have my membership removed.

As an afterthought, I actually sat and watched the pastor put his finger in my husband's face and tell him, "you will think and believe what I tell you and leave reason out of it, or else...." My husband was teaching a message that is very similar, maybe even the same, as what the teacher in that Bible study class you attended teaches.

Now take another look at that passage above taken out of the book *Last Day Events*. Do you see anything that bothers you or do you see this passage through the eyes of what we have been trained to see? I'll tell you what I see. I see dots. Those dots indicate that they left something out. And trust me, this isn't the only instance where "they" have done that.

Here's a little secret I'll let you in on but keep it under your hat, please. I like to tell people that I'm 22 years old, blonde, to-die-for figure, and I'm dating a rock star. The secret is that I'm happily married to an old geezer in his mid 60's and he works in a factory. I'm only 2 years younger than him so that makes me about 3 years past 22 year of age (I can't do math), my hair (or what's left of it) is brown with lots of gray highlights, and my to-die-for figure will probably kill me if I don't take some weight off.

Well, I told you that to let you know I'm getting on up there. I'll be 63 on my next birthday which will happen in a few months. Not only am I old, I also have an Adventist education. When you put those two things together something happens that may have never occurred to you and I'll share it.

Many years ago the Department of Education of the General Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church wrote and published a book called *Principles Of Life From The Word Of God*. This book was copyright protected in the year 1952 which was before I was born. *Principles Of Life* was a textbook used to teach church doctrine to academy students, usually at the 12th grade level. I took the class in the 10th grade. My parents also took this class and I am still in

possession of my textbook which had been my dad's when he took the class. It became a family heirloom.

At this point in time this book is more valuable than if I just had the book new or if I read it from the internet. The reason I say that is somebody who used this book before me took a lot of notes during class and they wrote those notes on the pages of the textbook. The notes were taken in pencil which is beginning to fade and sometimes the notes are illegible. However, there is enough there that I can make out the ideas that were being taught from this book. They were teaching the human law construct and legalism.

I heard you mention that you are a 4th or 5th (?) generation Adventist and I've heard you mention going to academy. If you are old enough then you may have taken the class that this textbook was used to teach. The class was called Bible Docs.

A few years ago I came across a doctrine the church was teaching but I no longer believed it. I had come to view the teaching in a different light and believed what I had been taught presented God to be acting in a way that was less than loving.

As I thought about that doctrine, I wondered if I could find in writing where the church was actually teaching that, or had someone made it up. I began a search and eventually remembered that I had that old Bible Docs textbook and wondered if there was a mention of this doctrine in that textbook. Bingo! I found it.

As I sat and read their book, I was disturbed. Right there in front of me was a passage directly from Ellen herself where she stated what I had been taught but no longer believed because it said something about God that when thought through wasn't very nice. What was I going to do with this?

A little explanation about this book and how it was written. We were attending academies where our access to library material was censored. Anything theological that was from a non-Adventist source would never have been allowed into the school's library. Those who attended a boarding academy would have had a hard time getting to a public library and internet had not yet been invented. Our reading and study material was controlled. We were essentially living in a cage and being told we were "sheltered."

This textbook was written in a way that would encourage the student to **NOT** look up references. Many times the writers would ask a question then give you

the answer they wanted you to have by quoting the reference right under the question. With the answer right there in front of you there was no need to look up the answer.

And that's what I was facing when I was searching in that textbook for an instance where the church did in fact teach the given doctrine that I was questioning. There was the teaching and the answer they wanted us to have right in front of me. My earlier blindness-training had caused me to miss something.

But wait.... What did I see? What was that I had missed earlier? I'll tell you. In the middle of the passage they gave to prove their point there were dots. They had left something out. By this time I had recognized the church had brainwashed me and I was angry. In fact, I was angry enough that I did the unthinkable which was to look up their reference and read the entire passage for myself. What I found was they had deliberately removed crucial thoughts from what Ellen wrote in order to present a false picture of God. Had they given us the entire passage they would not have been able to prove their point because Ellen was in fact teaching what I had come to believe.

Please understand that I hesitate over my choice of wording in my above accusation of those who wrote that textbook. I don't actually know for a fact that they deliberately omitted key facts in order to change the meaning so it would read what they wanted it to read. I don't know if they were even aware they were doing this. They had also been blinded by church doctrine and most likely told that God would punish them with hellfire if they dared to question or present a different gospel. Could they have written that textbook in that way because they were operating on a level where they feared God?

They could easily quote Paul who wrote a letter to people he had witnessed to earlier when he told them not to believe a gospel different than what he had taught them. (Galatians 1:8,9) We have all been taught that the SDA organization is the only true church and they are the only ones with the true message. Therefore, their self-proclamation of truth-bearing could lead them to believe they were teaching the same message that Paul taught. And they had been taught that Ellen never made a mistake so what were they to do when faced with a contradiction in what Ellen said and what they had been taught?

Sadly, they chose to present a message that Ellen didn't present and they worked in a way to hide the fact they were misappropriating her teachings. But did they actually realize they were guilty of this? I honestly don't know and sincerely hope they didn't. It will be easier on them to face the truth that their

actions to mislead people were done in ignorance rather than to have to deal with the knowledge they intentionally led hoards of people to their death by their false doctrine.

I questioned a church doctrine, looked it up in a church-produced textbook then questioned their reference and found they were teaching a falsehood. Can you believe this... God didn't zap me for asking and seeking an honest answer.

You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.
– Jeremiah 29:13 NIV

My point in all this is we need to ask questions. We MUST ask questions and we will probably need to find those answers for ourselves because those who are supposed to be helping us are just as confused as we are.

Now again take a look at the above passage from *Last Day Events*. They are wanting us to receive the doctrine that the devil is focusing his attack on a day and those who observe that day as a holy day. But what will happen if we look up the passage they quoted? Let's do that. Let's see what it really says.

Oh, look how it starts! They took this from the 1884 edition of *The Great Controversy* which their search engine couldn't find. Hmm... Now that is interesting.

Chapter 67—The Snares of Satan

[From the fourth volume of *Spirit of Prophecy, or The Great Controversy*, 337-340 (1884).] [See Appendix.]

As the people of God approach the perils of the last days, Satan holds earnest consultation with his angels as to the most successful plan of overthrowing their faith. He sees that the popular churches are already lulled to sleep by his deceptive power. By pleasing sophistry and lying wonders he can continue to hold them under his control. Therefore he directs his angels to lay their snares especially for those who are looking for the second advent of Christ and endeavoring to keep all the commandments of God.

Says the great deceiver: "We must watch those who are calling the attention of the people to the Sabbath of Jehovah; they will lead

many to see the claims of the law of God; and the same light which reveals the true Sabbath reveals also the ministration of Christ in the heavenly sanctuary, and shows that the last work for man's salvation is now going forward. Hold the minds of the people in darkness till that work is ended, and we shall secure the world and the church also.

“The Sabbath is the great question which is to decide the destiny of souls. We must exalt the sabbath of our creating. We have caused it to be accepted by both worldlings and church members; now the church must be led to unite with the world in its support. We must work by signs and wonders to blind their eyes to the truth, and lead them to lay aside reason and the fear of God and follow custom and tradition.

“I will influence popular ministers to turn the attention of their hearers from the commandments of God. That which the Scriptures declare to be a perfect law of liberty shall be represented as a yoke of bondage. The people accept their minister's explanations of Scripture and do not investigate for themselves. Therefore, by working through the ministers, I can control the people according to my will.

“But our principal concern is to silence this sect of Sabbath keepers. We must excite popular indignation against them. We will enlist great men and worldly-wise men upon our side, and induce those in authority to carry out our purposes. Then the sabbath which I have set up shall be enforced by laws the most severe and exacting. Those who disregard them shall be driven out from the cities and villages, and made to suffer hunger and privation. When once we have the power, we will show what we can do with those who will not swerve from their allegiance to God. We led the Romish church to inflict imprisonment, torture, and death upon those who refused to yield to her decrees; and now that we are bringing the Protestant churches and the world into harmony with this right arm of our strength, we will finally have a law to exterminate all who will not submit to our authority. When death shall be made the penalty of violating our sabbath, then many who are now ranked with commandment keepers will come over to our side.

“But before proceeding to these extreme measures, we must exert all our wisdom and subtlety to deceive and ensnare those who honor

the true Sabbath. We can separate many from Christ by worldliness, lust, and pride. They may think themselves safe because they believe the truth, but indulgence of appetite or the lower passions, which will confuse judgment and destroy discrimination, will cause their fall.

“Go, make the possessors of lands and money drunk with the cares of this life. Present the world before them in its most attractive light, that they may lay up their treasure here and fix their affections upon earthly things. We must do our utmost to prevent those who labor in God’s cause from obtaining means to use against us. Keep the money in our own ranks. The more means they obtain, the more they will injure our kingdom by taking from us our subjects. Make them care more for money than for the upbuilding of Christ’s kingdom and the spread of the truths we hate, and we need not fear their influence; for we know that every selfish, covetous person will fall under our power, and will finally be separated from God’s people.

“Through those that have a form of godliness but know not the power, we can gain many who would otherwise do us harm. Lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God will be our most effective helpers. Those of this class who are apt and intelligent will serve as decoys to draw others into our snares. Many will not fear their influence, because they profess the same faith. We will thus lead them to conclude that the requirements of Christ are less strict than they once believed, and that by conformity to the world they would exert a greater influence with worldlings. Thus they will separate from Christ; then they will have no strength to resist our power, and ere long they will be ready to ridicule their former zeal and devotion.

“Until the great decisive blow shall be struck, our efforts against commandment keepers must be untiring. We must be present at all their gatherings. In their large meetings especially our cause will suffer much, and we must exercise great vigilance, and employ all our seductive arts to prevent souls from hearing the truth and becoming impressed by it.

“I will have upon the ground, as my agents, men holding false doctrines mingled with just enough truth to deceive souls. I will also have unbelieving ones present who will express doubts in regard to the Lord’s messages of warning to His church. Should the people read and believe these admonitions, we could have little hope of

overcoming them. But if we can divert their attention from these warnings, they will remain ignorant of our power and cunning, and we shall secure them in our ranks at last. God will not permit His words to be slighted with impunity. If we can keep souls deceived for a time, God's mercy will be withdrawn, and He will give them up to our full control.

“We must cause distraction and division. We must destroy their anxiety for their own souls, and lead them to criticize, to judge, and to accuse and condemn one another, and to cherish selfishness and enmity. For these sins, God banished us from His presence; and all who follow our example will meet a similar fate.” – *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 472-475

There you have it. And what did you just read? When I read that I immediately saw that the devil stated, “The Sabbath is the great question which is to decide the destiny of souls.” And this is what we have been taught. Our pastors and evangelists are out there preaching the sabbath. And satan has admitted to creating his own sabbath and his intent to lead people to revere the false day. As you stated, Peter, these things are happening now. We can see them. By these tokens Jesus must surely be about to come. Right?

Right?

But did you catch the flaw? In the class where you read the statement it sounded like you didn't catch on and had fallen for this deception. What deception, you ask? Read it again. It's as plain as the nose on your face.

From where did Ellen get this information? I don't believe it came from God because it's got flaws. So, did she make it up, or did she really get it from satan? According to Ellen, this is satan who is speaking. And if satan has said it, WHY DO YOU BELIEVE IT? Here's what Jesus had to say to those who follow satan:

You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. – John 8:44
NIV

Maybe we should read more of that passage:

Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. I know that you are Abraham's descendants. Yet you are looking for a way to kill me, because you have no room for my word. I am telling you what I have seen in the Father's presence, and you are doing what you have heard from your father."

"Abraham is our father," they answered.

"If you were Abraham's children," said Jesus, "then you would do what Abraham did. As it is, you are looking for a way to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. Abraham did not do such things. You are doing the works of your own father."

"We are not illegitimate children," they protested. "The only Father we have is God himself."

Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I have come here from God. I have not come on my own; God sent me. Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say. You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me! Can any of you prove me guilty of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don't you believe me? Whoever belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God." – John 8:34-37

Jesus was speaking to the pharisees when the above conversation took place. He is telling them they cannot understand what he is saying because they are following the deceiver who is the father of lies. When he lies he speaks his native language. But he added that if we belong to God then we will hear what he says. The reason we don't understand yet unthinkingly accept things that are presented to us in a way that is confusing is because we are wearing blinders. When we come to know more about God and understand more about his Character which is Love, those blinders will come off and we will no longer be deceived by the impostor.

So what are we going to do with the passage taken from *The Great*

Controversy, 1884 edition? Peter, I'm not going to tell you what to do with it. From listening to your comments in class I believe you know and love our Creator which is the true God. Only you will be able to determine whether or not you are hearing him in exposing the fallacy in that passage that Ellen wrote or will you cling to what you've been programmed to hear? I can't answer that for you and I won't try.

But, if you are at a loss and need a little nudge to put you on a different thought pathway, let me share with you some of the problems I have with this. When you read these then please understand that I'm in no way claiming this is the absolute, set-in-concrete interpretation. Not at all. I don't have the answers. And I certainly don't see all the flaws in that passage. But I see enough that red flags are waving and telling me to not fall for this.

Here's at least part of what I'm seeing:

1. Where did Ellen get this information? I don't believe it came from God because the true God would not give us information knowing full well that we would misunderstand it and use it to travel the pathway to destruction.

Did Ellen make this up herself and pass it off as coming from satan? If she did then she followed her lower-case father who is the father of lies. Or, as you suggested, Peter, did she actually have an interview with satan?

That thought creeps me out! It's bizarre! And it goes against what Jesus said and her own counsel. We were warned to stay away from him.

Another thought just occurred to me. Perhaps she copied it from someone else then passed it off as her own work.

2. That passage contradicts what Ellen herself wrote. Let me show you this:

For Such a Time as This! November 1

For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this? Esther 4:14.

Whoever sees the repulsive character of sin, and in strength from above resists temptation, will assuredly arouse the wrath of Satan.

The same spirit that in ages past led men to persecute the true church, will in the future lead to the pursuance of a similar course toward those who maintain their loyalty to God....

The decree that will finally go forth against the remnant people of God will be very similar to that issued by Ahasuerus against the Jews. Today the enemies of the true church see in the little company keeping the Sabbath commandment, a Mordecai at the gate....

Satan will arouse indignation against the minority who refuse to accept popular customs and traditions.... Persecuting rulers, ministers, and church members will conspire against them. With voice and pen, by boasts, threats, and ridicule, they will seek to overthrow their faith.... Not having a "Thus saith the Scriptures" to bring against the advocates of the Bible Sabbath, they will resort to oppressive enactments to supply the lack. To secure popularity and patronage, legislators will yield to the demand for Sunday laws. But those who fear God cannot accept an institution that violates a precept of the Decalogue. On this battlefield will be fought the last great conflict in the controversy between truth and error.

The words of Mordecai to Esther may apply to the men and youth of today: "Who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" – *Faith I Live By*, page 311

I'm not familiar with the book *Faith I Live By*, however, I'm thinking it's another compilation of different articles written by Ellen. There are dots in the above passage which lead me to believe they are quoting from some other source but I don't have the source from which they are quoting so I can't check what they are doing.

But take a look at what I highlighted. According to this passage Ellen says that the last great conflict in the controversy between truth and error is Sunday worship.

Let's keep looking. The following is taken from the book *Last Day Events*:

No one has yet received the mark of the beast.—Evangelism, 234 (1899).

Sundaykeeping is not yet the mark of the beast, and will not be until the decree goes forth causing men to worship **this idol sabbath. The time will come when this day will be the test,** but that time has not come yet. *The S.D.A. Bible Commentary* 7:977 (1899).

God has given men the **Sabbath as a sign between Him and them as a test of their loyalty.** Those who, after the light regarding God's law comes to them, continue to disobey and exalt human laws above the law of God in the great crisis before us, will receive the mark of the beast.—*Evangelism*, 235 (1900).

The Sabbath will be the great test of loyalty, for it is the point of truth especially controverted. When the final test shall be brought to bear upon men, then the line of distinction will be drawn between those who serve God and those who serve Him not.

While the observance of the false sabbath in compliance with the law of the state, contrary to the fourth commandment, will be an avowal of allegiance to a power that is in opposition to God, the keeping of the true Sabbath, in obedience to God's law, is an evidence of loyalty to the Creator. While one class, by accepting the sign of submission to earthly powers, receive the mark of the beast, the other, choosing the token of allegiance to divine authority, receive the seal of God.—*The Great Controversy*, 605 (1911).

Enforcement of Sunday Observance Is the Test

None are condemned until they have had the light and have seen the obligation of the fourth commandment. But when the decree shall go forth enforcing the counterfeit sabbath, and the loud cry of the third angel shall warn men against the worship of the beast and his image, the line will be clearly drawn between the false and the true. Then those who still continue in transgression will receive the mark of the beast.—*Evangelism*, 234, 235 (1899).

When Sunday observance shall be enforced by law, and the world shall be enlightened concerning the obligation of the true Sabbath, then whoever shall transgress the command of God to obey a precept which has no higher authority than that of Rome, will thereby honor popery above God. He is paying homage to Rome, and to the power which enforces the institution ordained by Rome. He is worshipping the beast and his image.

As men then reject the institution which God has declared to be the sign of His authority, and honor in its stead that which Rome has chosen as the token of her supremacy, they will thereby accept the sign of allegiance to Rome—"the mark of the beast." And it is not until the issue is thus plainly set before the people, and they are brought to choose between the commandments of God and the commandments of men, that those who continue in transgression will receive "the mark of the beast."—*The Great Controversy*, 449 (1911).

– *Last Day Events*, p. 224-226

For the sake of time and room on this letter, I won't post any more passages where Ellen states that the last test of loyalty is Sabbath observance vs Sunday observance. But you and I and all other Adventists and former Adventists have had it drilled into our heads that the day we worship on is the last test of loyalty.

Now have a look at something else Ellen wrote:

Those who wait for the Bridegroom's coming are to say to the people, "Behold your God." The last rays of merciful light, the last message of mercy to be given to the world, is a revelation of His character of love. The children of God are to manifest His glory. In their own life and character they are to reveal what the grace of God has done for them. – *Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 415

The message of Christ's righteousness is to sound from one end of the earth to the other to prepare the way of the Lord. This is the glory of God, which closes the work of the third angel.—*Testimonies for the Church 6:19* (1900)

Houston, we have a problem here. The last message of mercy is the revelation of his Character which is Love but the last test of loyalty will be the arbitrary act of Sabbathkeeping.

We cannot put both these doctrines together and have something that makes sense. Why? Because the way the church presents the Sabbath is that it is nothing more than a test of loyalty to God or loyalty to the impostor. This makes the Sabbath an arbitrary rule.

But we're not supposed to ask questions because it displeases God and he will

zap us for our lack of faith. Seriously? Have you ever heard any of these statements:

“God said it, I believe it, that settles it.”

“That's one of those questions God doesn't want us to know.”

“You'll have to wait until you reach heaven and ask God yourself.”

“I can't believe you asked a question so dumb/stupid!” (No answer given to the stupid or dumb question.)

“I worry about you questioning the church. If you don't stop you'll end up out of the church and burning in hell.” (Again, the question isn't answered.)

“What do you mean you don't understand. It makes perfect sense.” (Question dropped without an explanation.)

So, do we ask the question what is going on or do we bury our heads in the sand and hope it will all go away. When someone responds in a manner like those above, they have essentially told us to stop thinking and believe what we are told to believe. Some will even go further and threaten us with burning in hell if we don't stop asking questions.

Once I made a list of over 70 questions on teachings I had heard throughout my life. They were told me by different people who were in some way affiliated with the SDA church. These teachings were things that I never understood nor could I accept. The pastor heard about it and asked for my list. When I sent it to him he responded by addressing only 1 of my questions. He answered with a text that was taken out of context to prove to me that I was wrong. If he had used the text accurately then he would have proven that I was right but he didn't do that.

After giving me the whammy on the 1 question, he then ignored the rest of them and told me I needed to stop asking questions because I would end up out of the church and God would punish me by sending me to hell.

Throughout my life I have experienced many bitter and humiliating events where I had asked something or said something and was put down in some way for my comments. I became timid and feared to speak much. Eventually I became what is known as a shadow person. I had lost myself and tried to be whatever the other person wanted me to be. It didn't matter who the other person was, I tried to do what I was told and keep my mouth shut for fear of ridicule.

That led to psychotherapy and in time I learned that mine wasn't the biggest problem. The people who felt the need to put me down because I think differently than they do are the ones with the problem. A person who belittles another person thereby damaging that person just so they can feel superior is a person with serious issues. They are more in need of therapy than the one they damaged.

With my newly-found knowledge that it was OK to do my own thinking and ask questions, I set out to find the answer to those questions that the pastor had refused to address. What I discovered was the pastor was partially right. The answers I found led me to the realization that the church had brainwashed me into believing that God has satanic characteristics.

That realization led me out of the church and directly into the arms of the God who Loves me more that I could ever imagine. What a wonderful God I now serve! He loves me in spite of my flaws. I don't have to be somebody else in order to please him, he loves me as I am and is working to change my character. The way he works is to change my inner being. I am becoming the person I was created to be. And I'm finding that I can love others, even you, Peter, even though we have never met. And that love for you and those in that Bible study class has led me to point out that there is a problem with that passage in Ellen's writings.

But that was my story. I'm not telling you or anyone else to leave the religious organization to which you belong. You may be able to find the true God where you go to worship while I couldn't. God had to remove me from my weekly go-to-meeting place before I could see him for who he really is thereby we can now be more than friends. I can be intimate with him in a way I can't be with my own husband or anyone else.

We should NEVER believe something that satan has stated, even it if appears to be factual. He mixes error with truth and spins a web so deceptive that if possible even the elect will be deceived.

So, I've given you 2 reasons to question that statement. Don't believe the devil and the message is false.

I don't think I actually got around to saying why the message is false. I started but am not sure I actually finished. The problem is that the way the church teaches the Sabbath observance thing is that they make the day to be an arbitrary test of obedience. I didn't know the meaning of the word arbitrary and

looked it up. It has more than one meaning but one of those meanings is “tyrant.” Essentially it means that a person has the power to make up some rule for no reason whatsoever then can sit back and dole out punishments to those who fail to follow the rules. Someone who acts like that is definitely a tyrant.

While searching the egwwritings.org website I came across a passage that was to me quite interesting. Let me share it:

No one has a true message fixing the time when Christ is to come or not to come. Be assured that God gives no one authority to say that Christ delays His coming five years, ten years, or twenty years. “Be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh” (Matthew 24:44). This is our message, the very message that the three angels flying in the midst of heaven are proclaiming. The work to be done now is that of sounding this last message of mercy to a fallen world. 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 grow up together for the harvest. – *2 Selected Messages, p. 113*

This is interesting to me because she says that in the church two parties will be developed. My husband and I, and others I’m sure, can see this is now happening. The two divisions that we see are those who believe what the church is teaching which is the human law construct, and those who believe what the Bible teaches which is that God operates his creation based on natural law.

Let’s talk briefly about tithing. The church teaches that God requires we give a 10% tithe of our income. He also wants us to give extra in the way of freewill offerings. They tell you that God will send blessings if you pay and they will hint at the blessings being of a monetary nature. They will also tell you that God will send disasters if you don’t pay him because you are robbing him of what is rightfully his.

OK, so we’re supposed to leave logic out of Bible study. I understand that. But let’s be naughty just this once (and on many more occasions as well) and look at this teaching logically.

What the church is telling us is that God demands we pay him. If we do he’ll reward us and if we don’t he’ll send disasters. Umm... isn’t that illegal? They are teaching that God is running a protection racket and that is a criminal activity. The church wants you to believe that God is a mobster.

And as for freewill offerings. Those are **freewill**. **You're the one** who gets to decide how much you give beyond the 10% and if you don't give then the guilt trip is laid upon you.

OK, yeah. I can see why they don't want us to use logic when we question them. They don't want us to understand what they're actually teaching. Sadly, they themselves may not understand either but refuse to step out of the blindness because they've been threatened with hell if they falter. And what's even more sad is some of them may insist on promoting the human law construct because they've spent their entire career or maybe even their entire life insisting it's what we must believe, and refuse to step into the light because of pride. They fear losing face.

Did I just describe a symbolic mark in the head and a mark in the hand? Ironic, isn't it? The Adventists teach that the wicked will receive a mark either in their head or in their hand. If they receive it in their hand then it signifies they've accepted the devil as their master without knowing that's what they've done. If they receive the mark in their head then it means they've knowingly chosen to follow satan.

Ellen stated that Sunday-keeping was the mark of the beast and here I go offering a contradiction to that. I could offer more, much more, information that would support the belief that those who receive the mark of the beast are those who fail to accept the truth about God and his Character which is Love. Whether their choice be made because they were coerced or they simply didn't want to follow a God who wasn't going to destroy their enemies, or whatever their reason, they chose to reject the truth about God.

But we were talking about tithe. What does the Bible say about tithe. Yes, God does want our tithe. And yes, he will send blessings when we pay it. The key text states, "God loves a cheerful giver." (Written from memory so it may have been paraphrased.) And the key word in that text is "cheerful." God wants us to give because we WANT to give. And the blessing that we receive is not a monetary blessing, the reward is that we are learning how to love and take care of others. THAT is the blessing that I strive for.

The religious world is filled with teachings like this doctrine on tithe – a doctrine that gives a bad picture of God and causes people to give selfishly. They give because they want to receive blessings for themselves.

And I suspect that the Sabbath will also land somewhere in this category. But I'll be honest and admit that I don't truly understand what the Sabbath is all about.

It's true that I'm no longer an Adventist, but I am still a Sabbath-keeper. The SDA church is big on promoting the 10 list of rules and insist that the 4th rule must be obeyed but I honestly don't know why. I know a part of it, but what I know isn't enough to justify the restrictions that the SDA and Jewish organizations have placed on it.

Have you ever taken a look at that 4th rule? It says to keep the day holy, but the only thing it says to do in order to keep the day holy is to rest. That's the day we get to stay in our jammies all day long, put our feet up on the couch, and spend the day with Jesus and those who also want to spend the day with Jesus and with us.

Spending an entire day studying about Jesus with close friends is an experience I miss. In the past we had a small group that would meet in our home once a week for Bible study and occasionally we would spend the entire Sabbath together. My husband and I both enjoyed that and would love to experience that again.

Sadly, nobody here is interested in doing that. At least, not with us. They have been warned that we are confused and they need to stay away from us. Yeah, the Adventist church practices shunning.

So the 4th rule states to keep the day holy by resting. The Adventists have added to that one instruction a great, big, giant, lengthy, outlandish list of man-made rules that must be observed in order to keep the day holy. And Peter, you know that. Shall I start?

1. Don't wade in water past your ankle on the Sabbath.
2. Don't travel on the Sabbath.
3. Don't swim on the Sabbath.
4. Don't Bathe on the Sabbath.
5. Don't go fishing on the Sabbath.
6. Don't watch television on the Sabbath.
7. Don't turn on secular music on the Sabbath.
8. Never miss church. Even if you're feverish you must go to church.
9. If you live close enough you should walk to church.
10. Invite a visitor home for lunch.
11. Lunch should be prepared before sunset on Friday.
12. Don't eat out on Sabbath.
13. Don't go shopping on Sabbath.
14. Don't get sick on Sabbath because someone might have to take care of you during Sabbath hours.

15. Don't...

You know I could go on with that list. You could easily add to your own set of rules that you were taught. But those were just the Sabbath rules. The church has tried to enforce rules of behavior. Not only is it in that textbook I mentioned earlier, it's even in their set of fundamental beliefs.

It occurs to me that those people who need to follow rules probably don't have enough rules to abide by. Perhaps we should give them more man-made rules and in this case it will be woman-made rules. Their man-made rules are designed to take all the joy out of Sabbath and turn it into a burden. If that's what they want then perhaps they should avoid eating during Sabbath hours. Eating is an activity that is quite enjoyable therefore it must be sinful to eat during the Sabbath. And not only that, we, no, they should also refrain from taking a pee during Sabbath hours. They should make the effort to empty their bladders just before sunset on Friday and hold it until after sunset on Saturday. Why? Because the act of taking a pee is so refreshing. To do something that makes you feel better and gain some benefit from it must be sinful therefore having a pee should not be allowed during the Sabbath.

So, is there another way to view that passage that Ellen wrote where she revealed satan's plans for humankind? The answer is yes. Do I have all the answers? That answer is no.

There are people who have found a passage in the Bible that gives a different meaning for the word Sabbath. They believe that Jesus is our Sabbath. I won't advocate their teaching but neither will I dis it. I'll admit I don't understand it and I haven't actually studied it out. But I'll also admit that I don't understand the Adventist take on the Sabbath either. So I won't get too involved into refuting the Sabbath thing.

But I will point out something that you may or may not have noticed. In that passage the word Sabbath was written in two different ways. Sometimes the day was capitalized and sometimes it was written with a lower-case S. We are probably supposed to think that the capitalized Sabbath means Saturday and the lower-case sabbath means Sunday.

This may be true, but let's view that through the lens of those who believe that we find our rest in Jesus and he is our true Sabbath. When you read through the passage with that in mind and replace the upper-case Sabbath with Jesus instead of Saturday, it gives you a different idea of what is being said.

Here's a paragraph I pulled out of that passage. Let's read it again and when we're done I'll give you a few things to think about.

Says the great deceiver: "We must watch those who are calling the attention of the people to the Sabbath of Jehovah; (a specific 24-hour period) they will lead many to see the claims of the law of God (list of rules); and the same light which reveals the true Sabbath (a specific 24-hour period) reveals also the ministration of Christ in the heavenly sanctuary (a building), and shows that the last work for man's salvation is now going forward. Hold the minds of the people in darkness (applies only to the non-SDA) till that work is ended, and we shall secure the world and the church also.

Let's read it again but I'm going to change some words. Don't get too upset with me yet. I'll explain in a moment.

Says the great deceiver: "We must watch those who are calling the attention of the people to **Jesus**; they will lead many to see the **true character** of God; and the same light which reveals **Jesus** reveals also the ministration of Christ in the **hearts and minds of people**, and shows that the last work for man's salvation is now going forward. Hold the minds of the people in **believing the lies** till that work is ended, and we shall secure the world and the church also.

Do you see a difference in how that read? What I did was to replace certain words with words that the Bible actually uses differently than what our culture understands them to be. I'm pretty sure you're familiar with this because the teacher of that class you attended will occasionally tell the true meaning to some of these words. An example would be that God's name is his character. To give God glory is to reveal his character. God's justice isn't the act of revenge, instead it's the act of healing or setting things right.

There is a text at the end of Revelation that says if anyone adds to or takes away from the things written in the book then they're gonna be in a heap o' trouble.

I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this scroll: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to that person the plagues described in this scroll. And if anyone takes words away from this scroll of prophecy, God will take away from that person any

share in the tree of life and in the Holy City, which are described in this scroll. – Revelation 22:18, 19 NIV

After reading that text and the threat found in there you may be wondering why I would be so bold as to change what the Bible says. Sorry. That's a responsibility I refuse to accept. That change was made a long time before I was born. It was made centuries ago. The language changed. Words began having a different meaning than what the writers of the Bible had known them to mean. Many who wrote different translations were guilty of making changes to suit what they believed which wasn't what the Bible originally taught.

No. I don't take credit for discovering this. I'm only a peon whom is loved tremendously by the Creator of the universe and that makes me just as good as everyone else. But, it doesn't make me as educated as others. Nor have I spent my lifetime delving into the teachings in the Bible, neither have I studied languages. I'm just a commoner.

It was others who discovered the discrepancies in the language. Their discovery has led others to recognize that we have misunderstood what God is because we've viewed him through the lens of those who believe in and follow the human law construct rather than the natural law.

Ellen has stated something along the lines that only the most diligent Bible students will be able to see and understand the truth. That may be true because it takes a lot of work to suss out the words whose meanings have been changed. Or, in other places words have replaced the original words thereby giving the passage a different meaning.

If this is new to you then wait. Currently I'm in the process of preparing a tool that will help you to understand the difference in the language that we use today and the church uses to teach about God, versus the language the Bible uses which gives an entirely different picture of God. It isn't ready yet but hopefully it will be soon. Keep checking back. I'll post it on this website as soon as it's finished and it will be a free download.

OK, I'm really disturbed over that passage you read in class. Even after writing all this, I'm still not handling it well. Where exactly did Ellen get that information? How did she know what satan was plotting and had said to his cronies? She's so familiar with it you would wonder if she wasn't at the meeting where he spoke this to his minions. Did they really just give her a press pass and invite her in?

We're expected to believe something Ellen wrote simply because she wrote it. In

this case, I get the feeling she's gone too far. Something is going on there and I haven't yet satisfied my curiosity. Did she make that up? Did she steal it? Did she really spend time with satan? It is too bizarre.

The devil has been around a very long time and his intellect is far more than what ours is. He has been around throughout this earth's history and has actively been working to put into motion a deception that is so strong that if possible even the elect will be deceived. And don't believe me, believe Jesus for I just quoted him.

I'm going to do some thinking here. No telling where this will go. If the Sabbath of Jehovah is Jesus, what are the claims of the law of God? The law of God is his character. Ellen comes out and states that plainly. But there are people who are sticklers on believing that the law is a list of rules centered around a list of ten commands which were written on stone. As time passed humans added their own man-made rules and these people will consider these man-made rules to be just as binding as that list of 10.

But Jesus identified the most important commandment to be much more than following a list of rules.

The Greatest Commandment

Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." Matthew 22: 34-40

The main goal of this website, *In Vain Do They Worship Me*, is to proclaim to people the wonderful news about God's character. That news is that God does not have the satanic characteristic that the arch-deceiver wants us to believe. I invite you to browse through the topics in Noggin Notions and you'll find ways that my husband and I have tried to show the difference between true Bible teachings and doctrines of devils.

Earlier I said that I'll soon be placing a tool on this website to help people understand what they're reading when they read the Bible, but I didn't tell you

that my husband has a master's degree in education and has used his training to write a 2-year set of Bible studies aimed at the upper elementary and even older age group. He just finished it yesterday and has said that I can make that available on this website so that will soon be here as well. Keep checking back.

This has become a very long letter so I'm going to cut it short. There is so much more to be said but I am limited on how much I can post on this website without paying. Pay attention to what's going on in the world and in the church. Also pay attention to what the SDA church taught you. Ask yourself if the SDA organization is acting in ways that show God's true Character which is Love or are they acting in ways that show a satanic characteristic? If you say they are acting loving then let me ask you a few questions and you can chew on them. Find a way to view these behaviors that show God's love rather than a need to control. If you can find a way please let me know for I cannot find it.

*The church practices misogyny. Women are not allowed the same rites/privileges as men. This involves women who work for the organization and women who volunteer in a local church setting.

**People are expected to clean up their act before they are admitted into membership in the SDA church. Jesus accepts people where they are but the church demands they clean themselves up first.

***Racial intolerance. The SDA church maintains that it would be too big a task to reorganize their structure to have only 1 set of unions and conferences. In other words, they still segregate.

****They have a list of behaviors for their members to follow. This involves what to eat, drink, wear, and acceptable activities. You can find mention of this in their list of fundamental beliefs.

*****They support abortion.

*****They misappropriate Scriptures to make them claim something they aren't intended to teach. Tithing would be one of those things they misconstrue.

*****They practice exclusivity.

Another thing I want you to notice is what is happening in the world and with this planet. The SDA organization wants you to believe that the 7 last plagues will be literal according to what is written in the book of Revelation. But Revelation is a

book of symbols and should be interpreted symbolically. If you do that then you'll recognize that the plagues are and have been falling for years. We are now in the midst of the 6th plague and I've heard it suggested that we're in the midst of the 7th plague but I don't remember how that went. Just don't be surprised if Jesus shows up before the day is over. He could come at any time.

To recap this, satan is a liar. When he speaks he speaks lies for it is his native tongue. He has twisted things to appear as though what he is claiming is the truth. But the truth is not about a day, the truth is about God's Character. Jesus warned us. Be always prayerful and on your guard. Use your brain and think. Don't fall for the devil's lies.

At that time if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Messiah!' or, 'There he is!' do not believe it. For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. See, I have told you ahead of time.

"So if anyone tells you, 'There he is, out in the wilderness,' do not go out; or, 'Here he is, in the inner rooms,' do not believe it. For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. Wherever there is a carcass, there the vultures will gather. – Matthew 24:23-28

Those who wait for the Bridegroom's coming are to say to the people, "Behold your God." The last rays of merciful light, the last message of mercy to be given to the world, is a revelation of His character of love. The children of God are to manifest His glory. In their own life and character they are to reveal what the grace of God has done for them. – *Christ's Object Lessons*, 415

Peter, I've enjoyed listening to your comments in those archived studies and chatting with you tonight. My prayer is that somehow you will find this letter and that it will help you to recognize that what we read should always be questioned. If you do find this and wish to correspond with me there is a link here to my email. But don't hold your breath waiting for me to respond. I seldom check this email account. I'm not trying to be rude, I just simply forget.

These days I forget lots of things and one thing I forgot to add to this letter is a link. The textbook that I mentioned earlier is available as a free download on an Adventist website. You can get it here:

<http://documents.adventistarchives.org/Books/PL1952.pdf>

When you read through that textbook keep in mind that our parents were taught this stuff, we were taught this stuff, many of us had children who were taught this stuff. We were told we had to believe it so we taught it to our children and a multitude of others. And the false doctrines were spread and the SDA organization grew. I sincerely hope that the writers of that book believed they were doing the right thing in writing a book so blatantly deceptive. And I'm so glad I'm not the judge. Hopefully those writers will have realized their mistake and made it right with God before it was too late.

May God bless you in all that you do,

Hannah

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