



But in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. -

Matthew 15:9

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The Adventist Torah

I'm sitting here doing a counted cross-stitch and listening to a lecture. The speaker is defining the Jewish Torah. He states that there are people who believe the written Law that God gave, but they want to go a little farther just to make sure that they are doing the right thing. This practice of adding a little to God's Law started centuries ago. And as time has progressed there has been human rules added and added and added and added to the point that Jewish people have to do what we consider to be unusual things in order to be able to keep their law or the Torah.

It's been a while but at one point I read an article about a series of wires that are strung from the top of several buildings in New York City. These wires serve to connect the buildings so the Jewish people can move from one building to another on Sabbath without breaking their Torah.

Why do Adventists laugh at the Jews who try to follow the Torah? Adventists have their own Torah. Some Adventists become offended to downright belligerent when other Adventists don't follow their own personal Torah. We call these people legalists. Somehow being know as a legalist is supposed to place them on a different playing field than the Jewish people who follow the Torah and being on this different field allows them to toss their ha-ha boulders at the Jewish set of rules.

Let me list a few of the Adventist rules that I have been taught throughout my life. And when I list these please understand that I don't agree with any of it. Why? Because following a list of rules won't get you into heaven. Following a list of rules won't make you a friend of Jesus. Doggedly following a list of rules when

you would prefer to do the opposite of some of those rules will turn you into an enemy of Jesus rather than a friend because you will become rebellious.

Once I heard a story about a woman who was determined to follow her own Adventist Torah no matter what. Part of her personal Adventist Torah was a vegan diet. There was no way – NO WAY that any meat or meat by-products would ever touch her lips. By doing that she believed she was guaranteed a place in heaven.

Despite her personal Adventist Torah lifestyle, this woman developed cancer. She expected God to heal her because she had done all the right things but what she failed to do was get to know Jesus as a personal friend. As she was dying, she shook her fist at God and declared that if that was the way He was going to treat her then she would show Him how she really felt about Him. She retaliated by eating an egg.

That was a sad story. I don't remember who told it and I hope it was a story he had made up. But I fear that the story was true. She may well have spent her life so focused on following her own Adventist Torah that she failed to meet Jesus. And for her, that Adventist Torah of hers probably caused her eternal demise.

So what is a personal Adventist Torah? It's the rules that some Adventist has added to God's law in an attempt to control our behavior. The Adventist school system controlled our dress code and diet at school. Here's a short list of a few of the things that pop into my head:

- No cheese
- No eggs
- No dairy
- No wading on the Sabbath (above the ankle)
- No sideburns on men
- No braided hair on women
- No untucked shirts on men
- No jewelry
- No oil
- No alcohol
- No tobacco
- Don't go to the theater
- Don't go to the circus
- No dancing
- No rock music (country is allowed)
- No shopping on Sabbath

- No traveling on Sabbath
- No eating out on Sabbath
- No bathing on Sabbath
- No food preparation on Sabbath (except for slicing tomatoes)
- No Bible version other than the King James
- No sleeveless dresses/blouses
- No shorts
- No naked feet
- Don't have sex more than once a week
- Don't dress in a way to make your husband desire you

Did anyone notice that I didn't put desserts on that list? A few people have added sugar to that list but try going to any Adventist potluck and you'll probably find tons of desserts.

A major Adventist Torah deals with Sabbath activities. Essentially, according to the Adventist Torah, the day is required to be a burden. You cannot do anything that is enjoyable from the hours of sunset on Friday until the hours of sunset on Saturday. So for all of you who are intent on keeping this Adventist Torah, be sure to refrain from eating or drinking anything during the Sabbath hours because eating and drinking are activities that are quite pleasurable. And don't even consider taking a pee during the Sabbath hours. Everyone knows that having a pee is most refreshing.

So what is the solution? Simply stop focusing on your behavior because that is placing the focus upon yourself. Instead make the effort, and it will be a heroic sized effort, to place and keep your focus on God. Then allow the Holy Spirit to make the changes in you that need to be made. When the time comes that He knows it's time to change something in your life, He will let you know and give you the strength to overcome. At that point your job is to accept the deliverance.

Well, morning approaches. I need to finish this so Elkanah can proof it.

Love to all,

Hannah