

"REVOLUTION or REFORMATION?"

Campmeeting Series #1, GGSDA, 8/8/15

INTRO. A. **BULLS**--Everybody has heard my story about going to see the Chicago Bulls play the Portland Trailblazers, in Chicago, 2 of us for Portland, 20,000 for Chicago. Portland won, 2 of us standing cheering, 20,000 sitting down. but 10 years later--moved to Chicago. Converted to Chicago. See Michael Jordan every night. Then move to California. Don't see Chicago any more, just Lakers, Kobe, Shaq. Michael Jordan retires,--pretty soon--not Chicago fans anymore. Don't go, don't care. **Could that happen to you with the Church?** Could enough little things happen? One person told me, could never join a church, discriminates against women. Another couple, did their wedding, could never join if don't accept gays. Someone in the church says something makes you mad, gradually just doesn't matter any more.

B. **WAR**--We have two sons, one's a history major, they're not too much into art museums, so we go to war and battlefields. **Civil War, Napoleon and Waterloo in France, WW I in France, WWII, D-Day, Omaha Beach, Utah Beach.** One of Hilda's Dutch cousins lives next to Germany, right in the middle of the Bridge Too Far battle, took us on a walk all over, German trenches still there 70 years later, showed us where Americans paratroopers landed--right there, shooting through these trees. **What makes people do that?** Someone says, jump out of this plane, while people are shooting at you, get out of this boat, run onto that beach, carrying 80 pounds, climb that cliff, people shooting machine guns at you. You're in the trenches, someone orders you to **go over the top**, know most of you going to die. Something makes people do it--saving family, freedom.

1. When we left, vote against women had just happened--**Are people still going to be willing to die for the Church?** Go on mission trips. Give \$10,000-\$15,000 in tithe a year, pay \$30,000 to go to La Sierra, \$7,000-\$8,000 to go to Orangewood. Will people still believe, this is God True Church, going to go through to the end--or will there little QQ--maybe the Church is going to go in a direction we just can't go, not willing to fight for it anymore?

C. **ADVENTISTS have always** drawn this little chart about the **Remnant Church.** It starts off with the NT Church, pure, perfect, straight from Jesus and the Disciples. Then began the apostasy, compromise, to the Dark Ages. Then, in 1450, they began to print the Bible, Martin Luther and John Calvin start the Reformation, start new churches, Lutherans, Methodists, Baptists--always put the Adventist Church on top, the Last Church, the Final, Endtime Church, back to the pure-white NT Church. But some are wondering--are we sure we're the last? How do we know, God won't have to have one more step, the Final Church that will finally get it right and the Gospel will go quickly all over the world?

1. **HEBREWS 12--relay race**, OT prophets are the first leg, NT apostles 2nd, spiritual giants 2000 years, 3rd--and we're supposed to be the Final Leg, the Anchor leg, take it home, they are all standing on the side cheering us on, they finished their race, now it is up to us. But if we aren't? The US men lost this week, first time in 10 years. Last guy couldn't finish it. US girls, Katie Ledecky, 18 years old, did it. **What if God has to go find one more, because we just don't get it done?**

I. THE CHURCH IS GOING TO MAKE IT. Turn to **REVELATION 12.** A. John sees a Woman, Who's the Woman? The Church. The woman has a child, Jesus, The dragon tries to kill the Son, God takes the Son to heaven, The Dragon goes after the Church, knows, if he hurts the Church, hurts Jesus. God protects the Church all through the Dark Ages. Finally we come down to **REVELATION 12:17 "And the Dragon was angry at the Woman, and went to make her with the REMNANT of her seed, who keep the Commandments of God and have the Testimony of Jesus."**

B. I think every single one of us believes--the Church is going to win that final war. The Church is going to make it. Satan the Accuser of the Brethren has been cast down. Satan knows it, why he's fighting so hard, take as many down with him as possible. Jesus said I will build My Church, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it. The Church is not going to die, it is not going to fade away. Everywhere in REVELATION there is the church, 144,000, the Great Multitude, standing on the Sea of Glass.

C. **BUT**--here's the problem--everyone agrees--that is not talking about the Adventist Church. That is all talking about the Christian Church, the Church of Jesus Christ, Capital C. The Kingdom of God.

D. When Ellen White is talking about the Church appears to falter, but then becomes the final Church Triumphant--she's not talking about the Adventist Church, but the Christian Church,

The **Invisible Church**, all true believers in Jesus, nobody knows who they are, not the buildings, the membership lists, the schools and hospitals and Ted Wilson and the General Conference. This is where Jesus says, **JOHN 10:16 "Other sheep have I, not of this fold."** True believers everywhere, even some non-Christians, living up to all the light they know.

E. That Capital C Church is the one that is going through to the End, because Jesus is the **Author Finisher of our Faith, the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End**. The Same One who opened up the Red Sea and the Jordan River and made fire come down from heaven for Elijah and rose from the grave is going to come back and take the Church to heaven. The Church is never going to die.

II. BUT WHAT ABOUT THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH? A. Will *IT* go through to the end? And the Adventist Church has pointed to **REVELATION 12:17 "And the Dragon was angry at the Woman, and went to make her with the REMNANT of her seed, who keep the Commandments of God and have the Testimony of Jesus."** And we have said, because **REVELATION 19:10 "The Testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of Prophecy"**, We are the only church down here at the end of the world that keeps all ten of the Commandments, and we have a Prophet, therefore God has called us to be the Final Remnant Church, to give God's final message to the world. And many have believed that you have to be baptized into the Adventist Church as the Remnant Church if you want to be saved.

B. But there have been many questions, I read many, many pages about this this week. Can't cover it all. How can the whole Church be the Remnant, when many not going to make it? And what about all the fantastic people, like Hilda's family over there, not Adventists, not going to church? And isn't it a little arrogant to claim that our little 19-million church is the whole focus, at the end of the world?

C. I believe in EGW, absolutely, but not sure that is the First Interpretation--First Interpretation--God's Final Last-Day, Endtime Church--will be totally focused on Jesus. **REVELATION 14:12 "Here are they who keep the Commandments of God and have the Faith of Jesus."** **JOHN 12:32 "And I, if I be lifted up, will draw all men unto Me."** **Everyone at the end will have the Name of the Lamb on their foreheads, be singing the Song of the Lamb.** **GALATIANS 2:16 "Justified by the faith of Jesus Christ alone."** No one will be in the Remnant Church by anything they do, what day they keep, what they aren't wearing, what they eat, how many hospitals we have, missionaries, nothing. All Jesus. EGW, famous quote I read again in a book yesterday, if you try to sneak anything you do as any part of your salvation, the angels reject it as TREASON against God. (FW24)

D. **Second Interpretation--Testimony of Jesus.** Most say--this is Jesus' Testimony. What is Jesus' Testimony about? About the Father. **JOHN 1:18 "No one has seen God, except the One who is at the Father's side, makes Him known."** **JOHN 14:6-9 "If you've seen Me, you've seen the Father."** **2 CORINTHIANS 4:6 "We have seen the Light of the glory of God in the Face of Christ."** What Pastor Sara preached about last week, Rev. 4 & 5, the scroll nobody could open, John begins to cry, angel says, Don't weep, there is One who can read it, the Lion and the Lamb. Whole choir begins to sing.

E. So whoever wants to be the final, Last Day Endtime Remnant Church--is going to have to give the Final, Last-Day, Best, Clearest picture of God. The Jesus picture of God. If the Adventist Church has the clearest picture of God, then it will be us. If we don't, then God will have to find someone else

III. THE FINAL PICTURE OF THE CROSS: A. Now look at this, quickly--new book to me--Brian McClaren--God's justice requires that we all be sent to hell forever, but that God punished His perfect Son Jesus in our place, which means we can go to heaven. Derek Flood, became a young Christian, went out witnessing. **Jesus died for you!** Why did Jesus have to die? **Because of our sin.** What if we haven't sinned. **All have sinned. No one can keep the law.** But if no one can keep it how can we be blamed for that? **Because the wages of sin is death, and so justice requires that you be sent to be tormented in Hell for all eternity.** That's awful. **Yes, but there's good news, God has provided a way out by sacrificing His Son.** God kills His own son? **Yes, that's how much he loves you.** Why would that make anything better? **Because it satisfies God's need for punishment. Sin must be paid for with blood because "without blood there is no forgiveness."** **Don't you want to open your heart and let Him into your life.** I think I have to go now.

B. And one by one, preachers and writers are deciding, That just cannot be the Final, Last-Day, Endtime Message that the Remnant Church is going to take all over the world. The final message is the

Testimony of Jesus about God, that God is exactly like Jesus, we can't have one part of God killing the other part of God. God has to be Good news, from beginning to End.

C. I brought just a few of the books that are out now, in the Church AND outside--questioning the old view. So Pastor Tony and I are planning for next year to bring them all here. Get donors to pay for each plane ticket, put them up in a nice hotel, have each of them present their best 25 minutes, then we will have a panel discussion, then print it all in a book. Ty Gibson. Herb Montgomery. Tim Jennings. Jon Henderson. Jean Sheldon. Brian McClaren. Derek Flood. Richard Rice. Alden Thompson. Randy Roberts.

D. Because if we want to be the Remnant church, we have to have the best and last picture of God, the Testimony of Jesus.

IV. "AND KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS OF GOD." A. And they will keep the Commandments of God. All Ten. That's why we believe our Church has a special message at the end of the world. Only main church that has gone back to the Original Sabbath. So proud Thursday, we have a nephew starting medical school, had a ceremony, giving them their white coats, so we drove over, only family he has here. Speaker, young doctor, LL, said--4 years in medical school--never studied on Sabbath. 24 hours--for God, for family. Half the class not Adventist. Church full. The Sabbath is true--makes sense, life better.

B. And so I'm proud to be an Adventist. Best picture of God. Keeps all Ten Commandments. Stand for health, live 10-12 years longer, missions all over the world, ADRA projects all over the world. Do we have things to work on, yes. Are there things that disappoint us, YES. BUT in the big picture--as long as they let us live by our conscience here--I'm proud to be an Adventist. Not leaving. We have as much right to define the church as anybody else does.

C. And we will have a church that will only be people who are willing to die for this. Not just a nice idea. I do premarital counseling for couples getting married, one's an Adventist, one isn't, and I tell the one who isn't, we want you to be so committed to this, makes so much sense, if for some reason they're gone, you're still here. Locked in. Die for this. Willing to go anywhere, fight in the Final War.

V. QUESTIONS: A. #1--Do we believe that the Adventist Church is the Remnant Church today? Most of us believe that the Remnant Church is not formed until nearly the end of the world. We have the Remnant Message, we hope we can be the charter members, the first to sign up. In all these war sites we have been to, story after story, the battle is going terrible, people are starting to give up, run away--somebody has to take a stand, hold up the flag, and say, Follow Me. (Iwo Jima). We are not going to die here, we are going to get to the top of the cliff. We hope that we can be something like, call out Remnant.

B. #2--Do we believe that everybody will have to be a baptized member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church at the end of the world? Doubt that there will still be a Denomination, with offices in Silver Spring and General Conference Sessions and policy books. It will be a **Movement**, led by the Holy Spirit. Jesus says, I have sheep not of My fold, I must call them, My Sheep know My Voice. They will hear the Call, and come out of Babylon, and come into this One Fold. We call this the shaking Time. People in the Church will be shaken out, just don't want to do it anymore, but millions of others will be shaken in. There are thousands in Bangladesh right now, look like Muslims, but love Jesus and keep the Sabbath. Someday it will be what everybody is talking about, this will be the debate on Fox News, and it will go all over the world on Facebook and Twitter. And people will say, Now, that makes sense.

APPEAL: A. We were on a boat cruise down the Seine river in Paris one night, all of a sudden at 10 o'clock, the whole Eiffel tower began to twinkle, lights flashing all over. The lights were there all the time--but then someone threw a switch--and millions of lights start to flash. Now, God's stringing Christmas lights. One by one, church by church. Stringing Christmas lights.

B. Two years ago, when the new Pope was elected, emails began to go around--how the Pope loved Ellen White, his favorite book was a little red book by Ellen White, that he was going to make her a saint. People sent it around, thought it was true. All an April Fools joke. But someday--it will not be humor. Someday the Church's message is going to go around the world. It's going to catch fire.