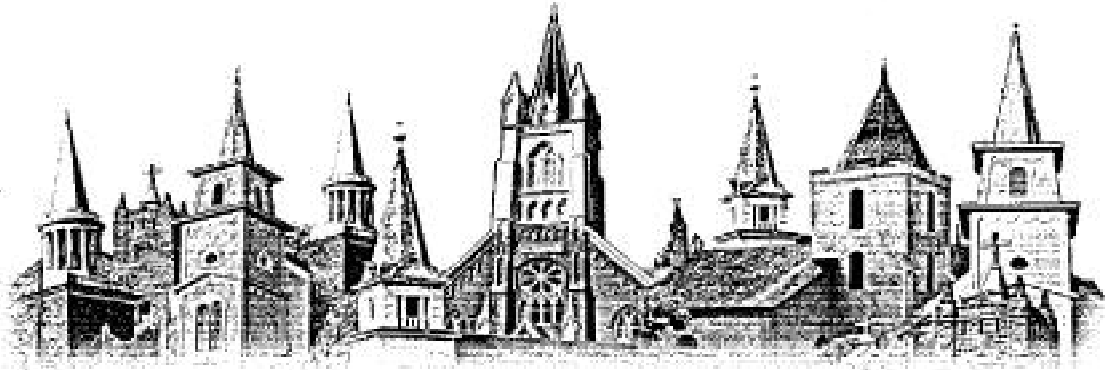


Jesus' Other Sheep (People)



SABBATH—AUGUST 14

READ FOR THIS WEEK'S STUDY: John 13:34, 35; 1 Corinthians 13; 2 Peter 1:12; Revelation 14:1-12.

MEMORY VERSE: "I [Jesus] have other sheep [people] that do not belong to this sheep pen [church]. I must bring them in too. They also will listen to my [Jesus'] voice. Then there will be one flock [church] and one shepherd [Jesus]" (John 10:16, NlrV).

WE SHOULD BE DEDICATED TO PREACHING THE ADVENTIST MESSAGE. But we must not add more to the message than what is there. For example, we should not think that only Seventh-day Adventists will be saved. The Seventh-day Adventist Church has never taught that Seventh-day Adventists will be the only people saved. "We recognize other churches that lift up Jesus. These churches are also part of God's plan for preaching the gospel to the world. We honor Christian men and women in other churches who are working to win souls to Jesus."—Adapted from *General Conference Working Policy* (1999-2000), p. 494, Policy O 100, article 1. The question for us this week is: How should we relate to other Christians who are not Seventh-day Adventists?

A LOOK AT THIS WEEK'S LESSON: People do not need to be Adventists to be saved. So why should we try to reach other Christians with our *special* beliefs? How do our beliefs help us over people who are members of another church? How should we relate to Christians in other churches?

*Study this week's lesson to prepare for Sabbath, August 21.

SUNDAY—AUGUST 15

OTHER SHEEP (PEOPLE)
(John 10:16).

What point is Jesus making in John 10:16? (Keep in mind the people He was speaking to.) What principle¹ can we learn from Jesus' words based on this week's lesson?

We are pretending to be God when we say that a person is or is not saved. Only God has the right to say if someone is saved or not saved. God alone knows the heart. God alone can judge a person's motives.² He alone knows those people who are His. As Seventh-day Adventists, we are called to preach our message to the world. We are not responsible for saying who is or is not saved.

"God has many people in Protestant churches³ and many people in Catholic churches. These people are more obedient to the truth they have than many Sabbath-keeping Adventists who do not obey the truth they have."—Adapted from Ellen G. White, *Selected Messages*, book 3, p. 386.

What do the following verses say that support the point Jesus makes in John 10:16?

Mark 9:38-40 _____

Acts 10:35 _____

2 Timothy 2:19 _____

All over the world, God has many faithful people who are following the truth they have. Our job is to give these people more truth that points more directly to Jesus and His return. People of different faiths need to hear what we have to say. How people accept our message is between them and God. All we can do is preach, teach, and show people the love and grace of God in our lives.

If we do not have to be an Adventist to be saved, then what is the purpose of sharing our message? How is Revelation 14:12 important to your answer?

MONDAY—AUGUST 16

PRESENT TRUTH
(Revelation 14:1-12).

Salvation comes only from Jesus and what He did for humanity⁴ at the

¹principle—a basic rule that is the basis for a more specific rule.

²motives—the reasons why we do what we do.

³Protestant churches—churches that broke away from the Catholic Church during the Reformation (1500s). Protestant churches include churches that came after the Reformation, such as the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

⁴humanity—all the people of the world.

Cross. Salvation does not come from joining any special religious group such as the Seventh-day Adventist Church. So should we try to share the Seventh-day Adventist message with Christians in other churches?

What does 2 Peter 1:12 teach us about the need of spreading the Seventh-day Adventist message around the world?

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is preaching a very special message. No other church is preaching this message. This message is important for the last days. During the last days, the world will be divided into people who “keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus” (Revelation 14:12, KJV) and people who do not.

What is the issue in Revelation 14:1-12?

As Seventh-day Adventists, we are responsible for preaching the three angels' messages of Revelation 14. Jesus' other sheep (people) need to know these messages. They need to understand how the issues of the great controversy (war) between Jesus and Satan will be answered at the close of time. God has called us to point people to the “faith of Jesus” and the “commandments of God,” including the Sabbath commandment (Exodus 20:8-11). We do not know the hearts of anyone. For this reason, we must tell everyone in other churches the truth in Revela-

tion 14. This truth is especially for the end of time. The end of time is very near.



God's people will have the faith of Jesus and will keep the Ten Commandments.

Whom is God calling out of Babylon? Why? Revelation 18:4. How does this verse help us better understand how we are to relate to faithful Christians of other churches?

TUESDAY—AUGUST 17

**THE ADVENTIST DIFFERENCE—
PART 1 (Malachi 3:8-10).**

The issues about the mark of the beast are important (Revelation 14). But our message is not just limited to warnings about suffering during the time of the end. There is so much more truth that can be a blessing to us and to

other people. That is why we must share these truths with Christians of other churches.

Below are some verses connected with our message. List the blessings we have to share that are in these verses:

Exodus 20:8-11 _____

Ecclesiastes 9:10 _____

Malachi 3:8-10 _____

Romans 8:34; Hebrews 8:1, 2 _____

1 Corinthians 6:19 _____

Other Christians in different churches understand parts of these truths. But the Adventist Church ties these truths into a complete package. These truths do not just show small differences between other Christians. These truths represent important Bible principles. People who do not know these principles are missing something. These truths can make a big difference



When we pay our tithe God will pour out so many blessings, we will not have room for all of them.

in their Christian experience. The Adventist message helps us to know where we are in human history. It pictures the great controversy (war) between Jesus and Satan. It shows us the larger picture of what God is doing for our rebellious planet. It tells us about the work of Jesus as our High Priest in heaven. It offers the hope Jesus presents for sinners.

The Adventist message also helps us to put our Christian beliefs into practice: (1) We find physical and spiritual rest on God's holy Sabbath day. (2) We live a life of faithful stewardship.⁵ (3) We learn how to take care of our bodies while we are on earth.

⁵stewardship—taking care of God's resources (things) on earth.

Suppose a Christian of another church asks you how the Adventist message is different from the message of other churches. What would you say?

WEDNESDAY—AUGUST 18

**THE ADVENTIST DIFFERENCE—
PART 2 (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).**

Being a Christian does not mean there is no more truth to learn. Being a Christian means there is so much more truth to learn! Many of Paul's letters were written to Christians, because he knew they already believed in Jesus. Most of the New Testament was written to people who believed. But that did not stop Paul and the other people from giving these believers a better understanding of God's truths.

How do the following verses help support the fact that Christians will always be learning about Jesus? Romans 1:1-7; Galatians 1:1-5; Ephesians 1:1-4; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.

As we relate to other Christians, we must remember that our work is not to decide who is saved and who is not saved. Our work is to share the special



We will be learning about Jesus even when we are in heaven.

truths of the Bible that God has shown us.

For example, millions of Christians believe dead people go to heaven or to hell right after they die. Other people believe in purgatory. In purgatory, dead people are cleansed of all sins before entering heaven. Beliefs like this lead to spiritualism.⁶ Many people also fear that right now someone they love is suffering the flames of eternal⁷ hell.

Other people believe final events⁸ will happen with a great war in the Mideast. They also believe that in this war, the antichrist⁹ will make an

⁶spiritualism—the false belief that people who have died can still communicate with us.

⁷eternal—lasting forever.

⁸events—things that happen.

⁹antichrist—someone who is against Christ.

agreement with the Jews in Israel. This agreement will begin a seven-year period of trouble before all true Christians are taken to heaven. Most people who believe this way have no understanding about the final events involving Rome, America, and the Sabbath.

Many Christians have no knowledge of health principles. They eat, drink, and live like other people in the non-Christian world.

Millions of other people believe salvation can be found in Jesus only through the mediation¹⁰ of their priest. They believe they must do different works in order to earn forgiveness.

Most Christians do not follow the seventh-day Sabbath. They do not even understand the principle of having a rest day. They miss out on the spiritual blessings of the Sabbath. They also miss out on the rest and renewal that Sabbath keeping offers.

What other things do we as Seventh-day Adventists teach that could be a blessing to Christians in other churches?

THURSDAY—AUGUST 19

**LOVE ONE ANOTHER
(John 13:34, 35).**

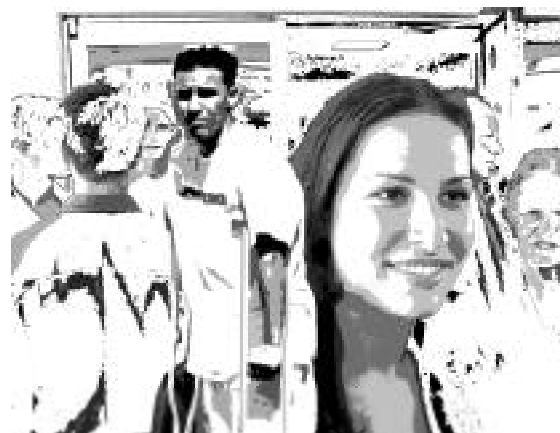
How do people know who Jesus' disciples are? John 13:34, 35. How

well have we followed Jesus' command?

Christians are to show their love to each other. Sadly, we do not always do this. History is filled with examples of hate between different churches. Other churches have even fought against one another.

What does John 13:34, 35 really mean? These verses do not mean that we are to love only people in our own church. We should not love only people who believe the way we believe. The most powerful example for truth is the love that truth brings.

Loving someone is not the same as accepting their beliefs. Instead, love is accepting the fact that all people are important to God and that people in other churches also follow Jesus. It does not matter how different our beliefs might be at the present time.



All people are important to God.

¹⁰mediation—when someone else goes to God for you to ask Him to forgive you. Only Jesus is qualified to be our Mediator.

God has given the Seventh-day Adventist Church a message to share with the world at the end of time. This message is based on God's great love for all people. For this reason, we should be the most loving of all Christians. And because God loves us and gives us so much, we should love and give so much to the world and to our brothers and sisters in other churches. But nothing we can do or give means anything without love.

Examine your relationship with Christians in other churches. Do you look down on them? Or do you think you can learn something from them? Do you feel a need to tell them what we know? Based on what we have studied this week, what changes should you make in how you feel toward Christians in other churches?

FRIDAY—AUGUST 20

ADDITIONAL STUDY: Ellen G. White has a lot to say about our attitude¹¹ toward other Christians. Read *Evangelism*,¹² section 17, "Laboring [Working] for Special Classes [Groups]," pp. 552–586.

"Our ministers should try to get acquainted with the ministers of other churches. Our ministers should pray for and with these ministers. Jesus is work-

ing for them too. They also have a serious responsibility. As Jesus' messengers, we should show a deep, sincere interest in Jesus' ministers from other churches."—Adapted from Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 78.

"You may have opportunity to speak in other churches. When you do speak in other churches, do not make anyone angry by making negative speeches. If you do, you will keep the truth from entering into the minds of honest people who are looking for the truth. Clear messages are to be given. But guard against making people angry with you. There are many people to be saved. Avoid all rough words. In word and deed, be wise in leading people into salvation. Represent Jesus to all people you meet. Let all people see that you come to them with peace and good will. We shall see wonderful results if we enter into the work led by the Holy Spirit. Help will come to us in time of need if we carry the work forward in righteousness (holiness), kindness, and love. Truth will succeed. Truth will win the victory."—Adapted from Ellen G. White, *Evangelism*, pp. 563, 564.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Imagine you are asked to preach in another church. It will be your only opportunity to preach in this church. What will you preach? What will you not preach? And why?

¹¹attitude—how you think and feel about something.

¹²evangelism—the spreading of the gospel to the world.

2. Is it wrong to worship with Christians in their church on Sunday, or not? Explain your answer.

SUMMARY: In all *our* relationships¹³ with other Christians, we should show respect for them as brothers and sisters

in Jesus. But we must also be sure of why we are Seventh-day Adventists. We also must be ready when the right opportunity arises to tell other Christians the things we believe they need to know. Just as important, they need to see Jesus in our lives.

¹³relationships—the connections we have with other people in everything we do.