

# CHRIST OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS:

## A STUDY OF THE LATTER RAIN AND THE LOUD CRY IN ADVENTIST HISTORY

PART 1

### THE GREAT CONTROVERSY

MICHIGAN MINISTRY MEETINGS

JANUARY 22, 2018

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# CHRIST OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS

PART 1



## The Great Controversy

RON DUFFIELD

# ORIGIN OF THE GREAT CONTROVERSY

## NO EXCUSE FOR SIN



“It is impossible to explain the origin of sin so as to give a reason for its existence. Yet enough may be understood concerning both the origin and the final disposition of sin **to make fully manifest the justice and benevolence of God in all His dealings with evil....** Sin is an intruder, for whose presence no reason can be given. It is mysterious, unaccountable; to excuse it is to defend it. Could excuse for it be found, or cause be shown for its existence, it would cease to be sin”

Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, pp. 492-493.

# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH

## GOD'S PLAN FROM THE BEGINNING



“Heaven pitied man, and the plan of salvation was devised. When the curse was pronounced upon the race, in connection with the curse there was given the promise of pardon through a Saviour who was to come. This promise was the star of hope that lighted up the gloom, that, like the pall of death, hung over the future of man, and of the world which was given him as his dominion. **The gospel was first preached to Adam and Eve in Eden.**”

Ellen G. White, *Signs of the Times*, April 22, 1886.

# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH

## GOD'S PLAN FROM THE BEGINNING



“Though they must suffer from the power of their mighty foe, still through the merits of Christ they could look forward to victory. **The mystery of the gospel was spoken in Eden** when God said to the serpent: "I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.”

Ellen G. White, *Bible Echo*, July 15, 1893.

# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH

## IRREPRESSIBLE CONFLICT



“Between righteousness and sin, love and hatred, truth and falsehood, there is an irrepressible conflict. When one presents the love of Christ and the beauty of holiness, he is drawing away the subjects of Satan's kingdom, and the prince of evil is aroused to resist it.... The character of the persecution changes with the times; but the principle--the spirit that underlies it--is the same that has slain the chosen of the Lord ever since the days of Abel.”

Ellen G. White, *Sons and Daughters of God*, p. 307.

# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH

## IRREPRESSIBLE CONFLICT TO THE VERY END



“Cain and Abel represent two classes of men that have existed from generation to generation, and **will continue to exist to the close of time.** One availed himself of the promised sacrifice for sin; the other ventured to depend upon his own merits. His was the sacrifice of a sinner without the virtue of divine mediation, which is alone able to bring him into favor with God.

(Cont)

# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH IRREPRESSIBLE CONFLICT TO THE VERY END

“It is only through the merits of Jesus that our transgressions of the law can be pardoned. Those who feel that they can be moral without divine help, who feel no need of the blood of Christ, are betrayed into grievous sins. If they do not gladly, gratefully, accept the cleansing blood, they are under condemnation. There is no other provision made whereby they can be released from sin's terrible thralldom. There must be repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Ellen G. White, *Signs of the Times*, Sept. 11, 1884.

# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH

## TWO CLASSES OF WORSHIPERS

“The class of worshipers who follow the example of Cain includes by far the greater portion of the world; **for nearly every false religion has been based on the same principle**--that man can depend upon his own efforts for salvation. It is claimed by some that the human race is in need, not of redemption, but of development--that it can refine, elevate, and regenerate itself. (cont.)



# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH

## TWO CLASSES OF WORSHIPERS

“As Cain thought to secure the divine favor by an offering that lacked the blood of a sacrifice, so do these expect to exalt humanity to the divine standard, independent of the atonement. The history of Cain shows what must be the results. It shows what man will become apart from Christ. **Humanity has no power to regenerate itself.** It does not tend upward, toward the divine, but downward, toward the satanic. Christ is our only hope.”

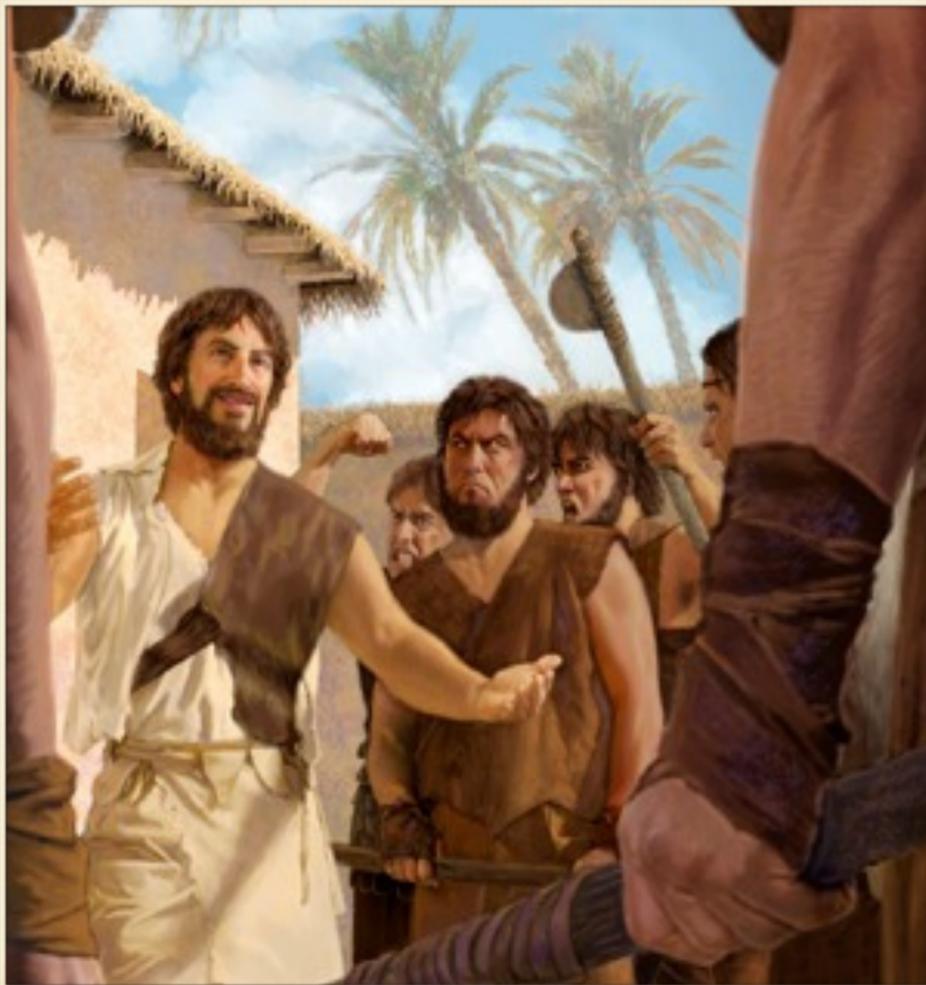
Ellen G. White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 73.

# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH

## PREACHERS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

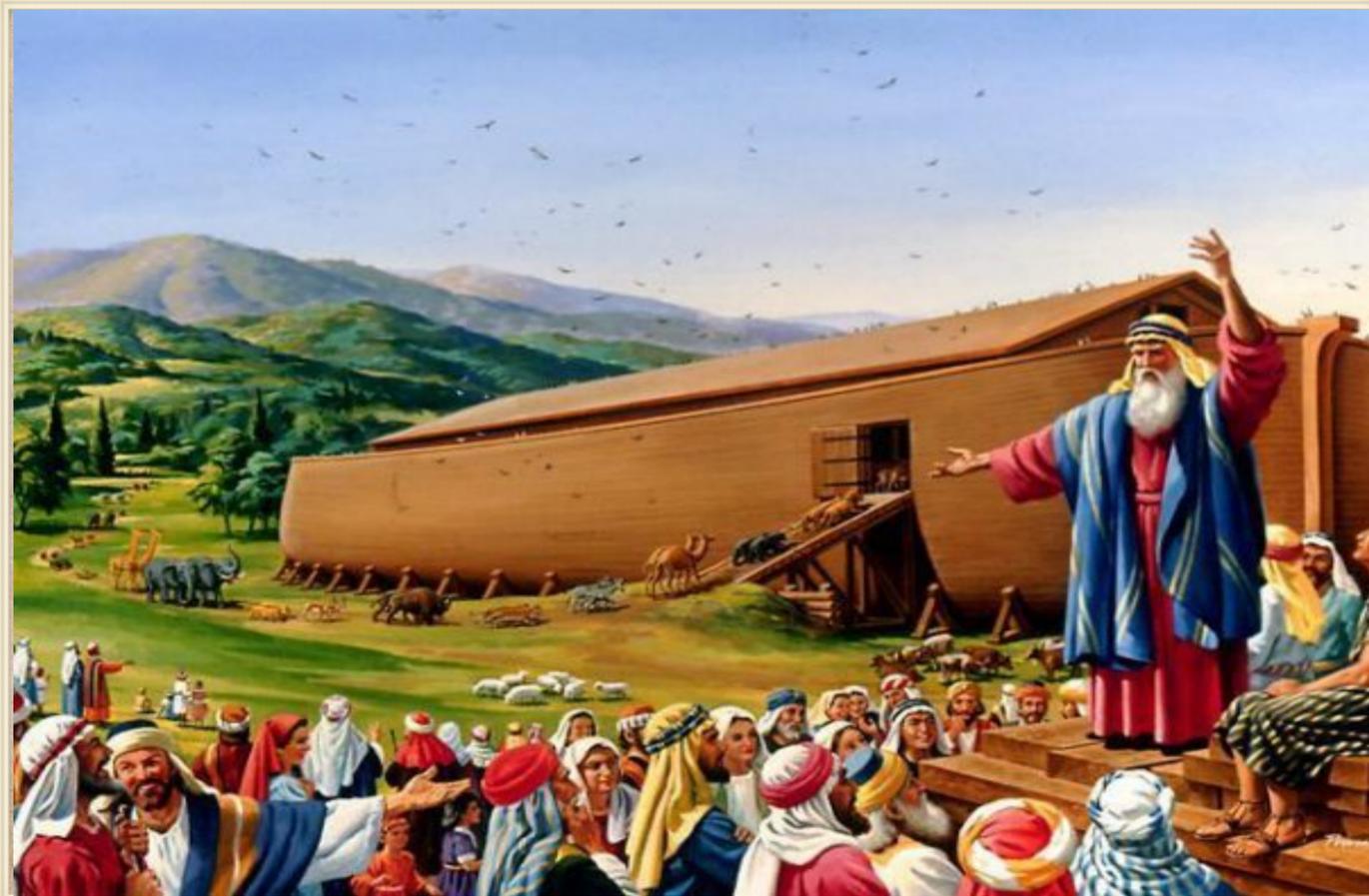
**“Enoch also was a preacher of righteousness,** and sought to turn men from their evil ways. For three hundred years he walked with God, giving to the world the example of a pure and spotless life, one which was in marked contrast with the lives of the men of that self-willed and perverse generation, who openly disregarded God's holy law, and boasted of their freedom from its restraints.”

Ellen G. White, *Signs of the Times*, April 22, 1886.



# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH

## PREACHERS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS



“One hundred and twenty years of probation was granted to the inhabitants of the world, and Noah was to live through that generation.... Amid world-wide contempt of God, **he was a faithful preacher of righteousness**, exemplifying to the world what a man's life could be by reposing confidence in the sure word of God, by rendering obedience to all his commandments.”

(Cont.)

# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH

## PREACHERS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

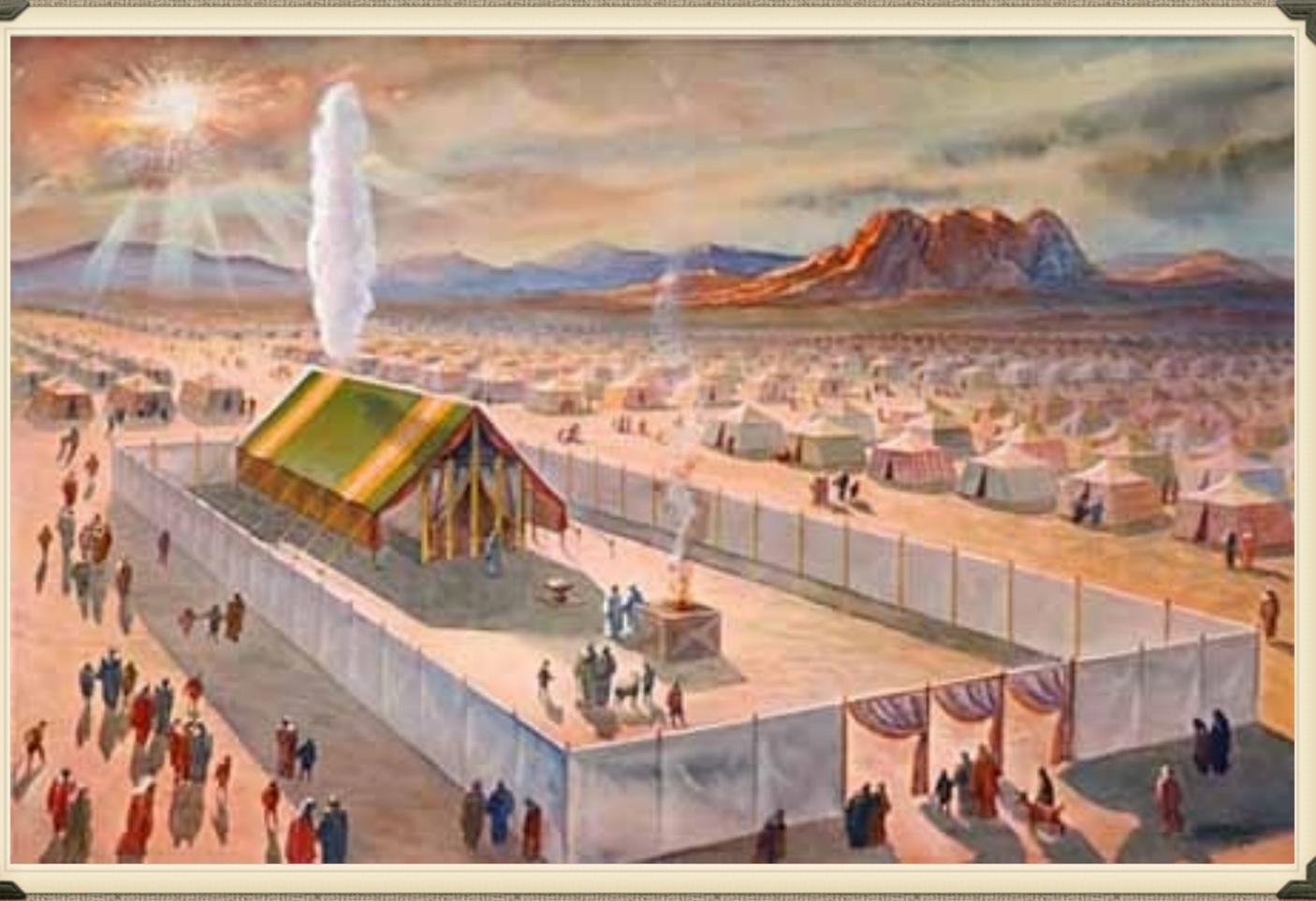


“Nearly the whole world was against Noah; yet there were many who had not had light in regard to the redemption that had been promised to our first parents. **The significance of the sacrificial offerings had been perverted,** and they no longer shadowed forth to the people the method of the atonement.”

Ellen G. White, *Signs of the Times*, April 18, 1895.

# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH

## LET THEM MAKE ME A SANCTUARY



“If man had kept the law of God, as given to Adam after his fall, preserved by Noah, and observed by Abraham, there would have been no necessity for the ordinance of circumcision. And if the descendants of Abraham had kept the covenant, of which circumcision was a sign, they would never have been seduced into idolatry, nor would it have been necessary for them to suffer a life of bondage in Egypt; (cont.)

# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH LET THEM MAKE ME A SANCTUARY

“they would have kept God's law in mind, and there would have been no necessity for it to be proclaimed from Sinai or engraved upon the tables of stone.

“And had the people practiced the principles of the Ten Commandments, there would have been no need of the additional directions given to Moses. **The sacrificial system, committed to Adam, was also perverted by his descendants.** Superstition, idolatry, cruelty, and licentiousness corrupted the simple and significant service that God had appointed. Through long intercourse with idolaters the people of Israel had mingled many heathen customs with their worship; **therefore the Lord gave them at Sinai definite instruction concerning the sacrificial service.**”

Ellen G. White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 364.

# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH

## PERVERTED CONCEPTIONS OF DIVINE ATTRIBUTES



“By perverted conceptions of divine attributes, heathen nations were led to believe human sacrifices necessary to secure the favor of their deities; and the most horrible cruelties have been perpetrated under the various forms of idolatry. Among these was the practice of causing their children to pass through the fire before their idols.... In times of great apostasy these abominations prevailed, to some extent, among the Israelites.”

Ellen G. White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 337.

# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH

## CONTENDING AGAINST FALSE TEACHINGS



“The position that it is of no consequence what men believe is one of Satan's most successful deceptions. He knows that the truth, received in the love of it, sanctifies the soul of the receiver; therefore he is constantly seeking to substitute false theories, fables, another gospel. **From the beginning the servants of God have contended against false teachers, not merely as vicious men, but as inculcators of falsehoods that were fatal to the soul.** Elijah, Jeremiah, Paul, firmly and fearlessly opposed those who were turning men from the word of God.”

Ellen G. White, *Great Controversy*, p. 520.

# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH

## HE CAME UNTO HIS OWN....



“Through heathenism, Satan had for ages turned men away from God; but he won his great triumph in perverting the faith of Israel. By contemplating and worshiping their own conceptions, the heathen had lost a knowledge of God, and had become more and more corrupt. So it was with Israel. **The principle that man can save himself by his own works lay at the foundation of every heathen religion;** it had now become the principle of the Jewish religion. Satan had implanted this principle. **Wherever it is held, men have no barrier against sin.** (cont.)

# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH

## HE CAME UNTO HIS OWN....

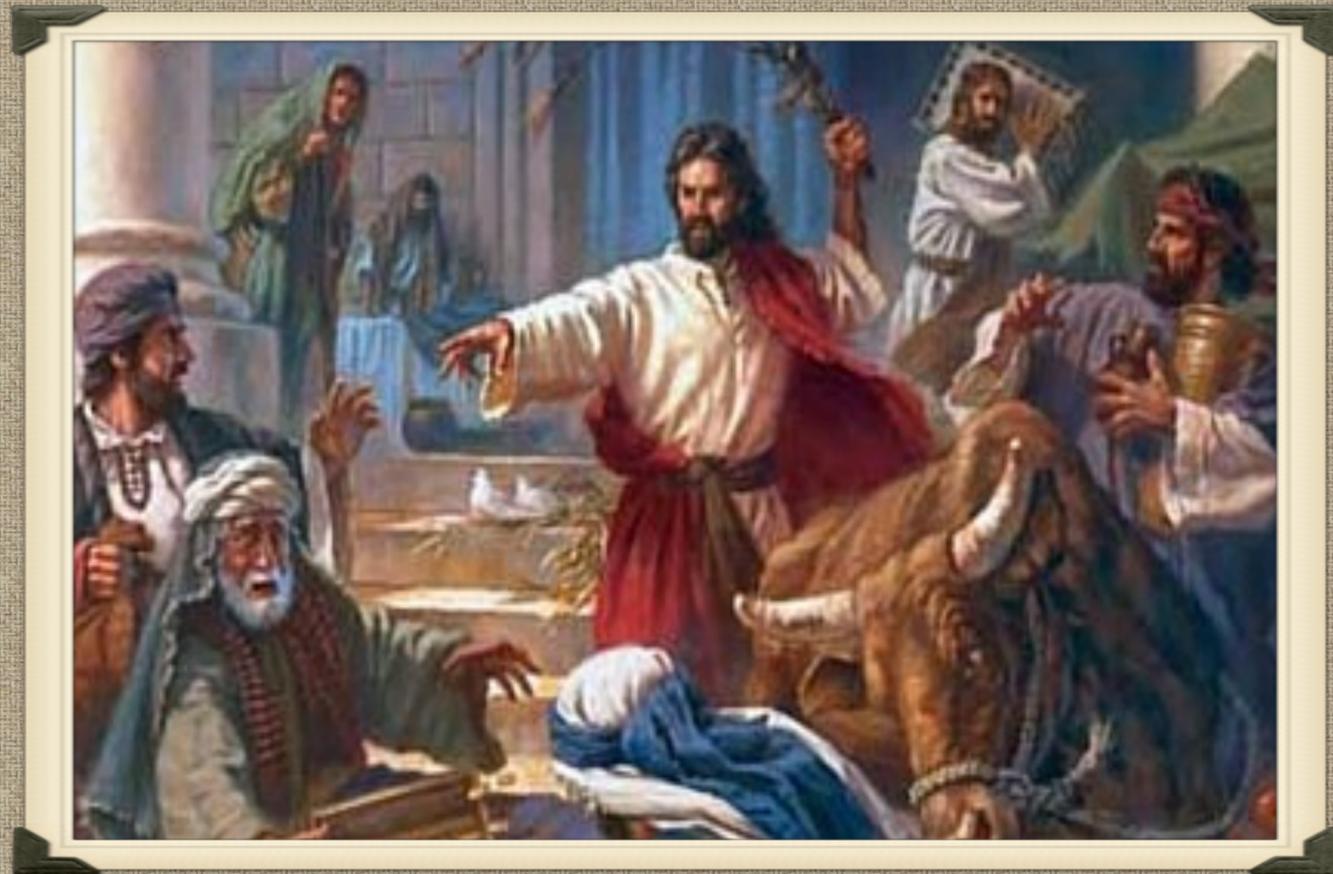


“The message of salvation is communicated to men through human agencies. But the Jews had sought to make a monopoly of the truth which is eternal life. They had hoarded the living manna, and it had turned to corruption. The religion which they tried to shut up to themselves became an offense. They robbed God of His glory, and defrauded the world **by a counterfeit of the gospel**. They had refused to surrender themselves to God **for the salvation of the world**, and they became agents of Satan for its destruction.”

Ellen G. White, *Desire of Ages*, p. 35.

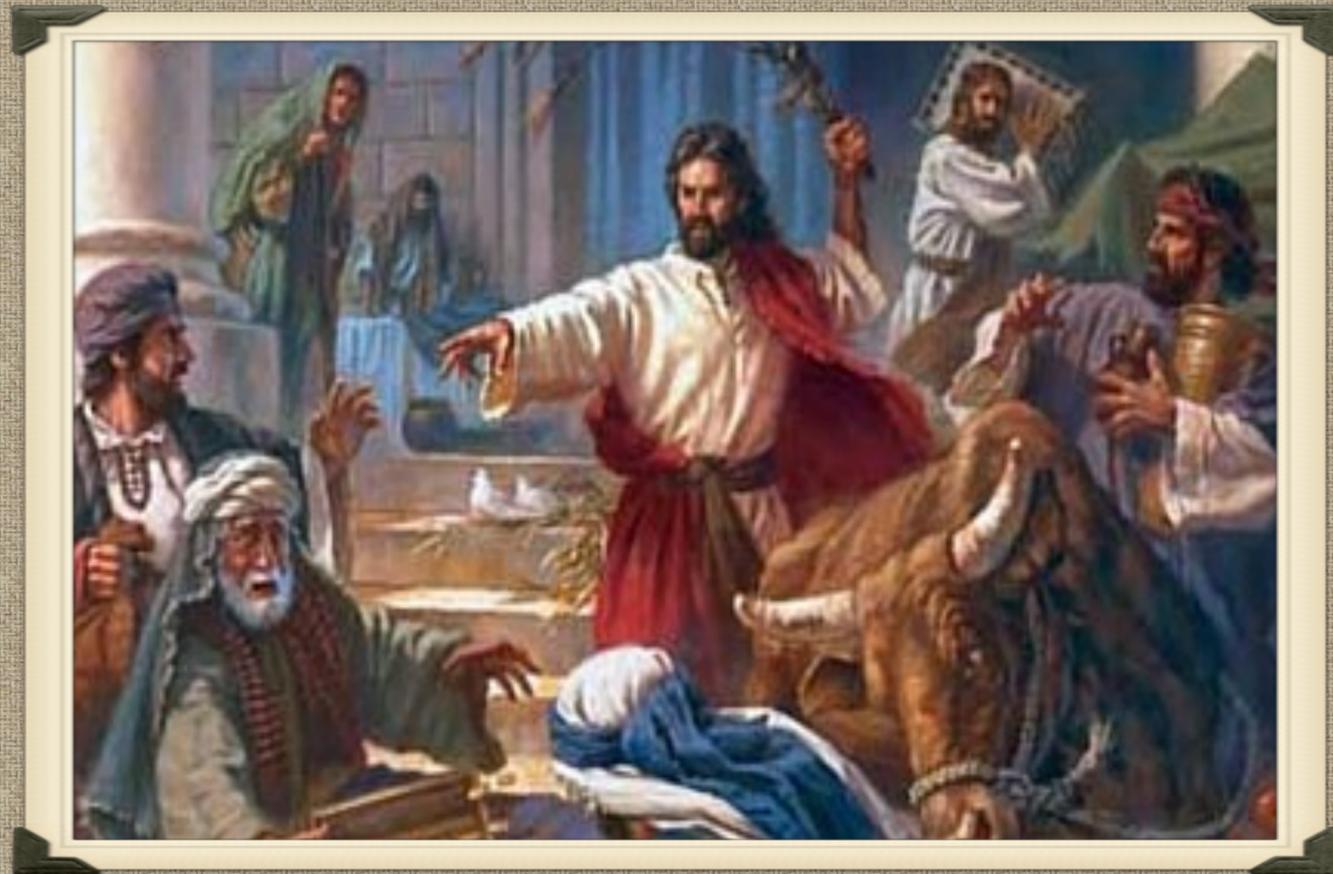
# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH

## WHOLE SYSTEM MUST BE SWEEPED AWAY



“The people whom God had called to be the pillar and ground of the truth had become representatives of Satan. They were doing the work that he desired them to do, taking a course to misrepresent the character of God, and cause the world to look upon Him as a tyrant. The very priests who ministered in the temple had lost sight of the significance of the service they performed. (cont.)

# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH WHOLE SYSTEM MUST BE SWEEPED AWAY



“They had ceased to look beyond the symbol to the thing signified. In presenting the sacrificial offerings they were as actors in a play. The ordinances which God Himself had appointed **were made the means of blinding the mind and hardening the heart.** God could do no more for man through these channels. **The whole system must be swept away.**”

Ellen G. White, *Desire of Ages*, p. 36.

# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH

## CHRIST TAUGHT THE ORIGINAL TRUTHS



“The principles presented by Christ, the manner of observing feasts, of praying to God, could not be properly united to the forms and ceremonies of Phariseeism.... In this familiar illustration [new wine into old bottles] Jesus presented the impossibility of making those who are satisfied with a legal religion the depositaries of the living truth of heaven. (cont.)

# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH

## CHRIST TAUGHT THE ORIGINAL TRUTHS



“Those who would not receive the light and grace of Christ, who rejected the truth he came to bring them, were compared to old bottles, to worthless and worn-out garments. Rejecting the truth themselves, they were ever seeking to sow the seed of doubt and questioning in the mind of the disciples, in order that the truth unfolded to them by Christ should not make its impression on heart and spirit. (cont.)

# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH

## CHRIST TAUGHT THE ORIGINAL TRUTHS



“They exalted ceremonies, human exactions, and the commandments of men, as more essential than the teachings of Christ. The difference between the fresh, pure doctrines of heaven and the lifeless teaching of the Pharisees made manifest the fact that **the vital truth of God could find no place for expansion in the old religious rites that were ready to vanish away.** (cont.)

# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH

## CHRIST TAUGHT THE ORIGINAL TRUTHS



**“To the Pharisees the teaching of Jesus was new in almost every respect, was unrecognized and unacknowledged as truth.** They professed to have respect for the religion of Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, and Moses. **But, although Christ taught the original truths that had been committed to the fathers, his teaching was new to the Pharisees,** because they had perverted, and misinterpreted, and burdened down the requirements of God, until the truth had lost its original significance and beauty.”

Ellen G. White, *Signs of the Times*, Sept. 19, 1892.

# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH

## THE DISCIPLES NOT FREE OF PHARISAISM



“While they had been attracted by the love of Jesus, the disciples were not wholly free from Pharisaism. They still worked with the thought of meriting a reward in proportion to their labor. They cherished a spirit of self-exaltation and self-complacency, and made comparisons among themselves. When one of them failed in any particular, the others indulged feelings of superiority. Lest the disciples should lose sight of **the principles of the gospel**, Christ related to them a parable.”

Ellen G. White, *Christ Object Lessons*, p. 396.

# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH

## TYPE MEETS ANTITYPE



“As with holy boldness Paul **proclaimed the gospel** in the synagogue at Thessalonica, a flood of light was thrown upon **the true meaning of the rites and ceremonies connected with the tabernacle service**. He carried the minds of his hearers beyond the earthly service and the ministry of Christ in the heavenly sanctuary, to the time when, having completed His mediatorial work, Christ would come again in power and great glory, and establish His kingdom on the earth.”

Ellen G. White, *Acts of the Apostles*, p. 229.

# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH?

## THE GREAT “FALLING AWAY”



“The man of sin was to arise, and do his work of exaltation and blasphemy, before the brethren could look for the coming of Christ. That great event was to be preceded by a falling away. There would be revealed a form of Antichrist, and the leaven of apostasy was to work with increasing power to the end of time.”

Ellen G. White, *Review and Herald*, July 31, 1888.

# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH? TRUE CHARACTER OF THE PAPACY



“A prayerful study of the Bible would show Protestants the real character of the papacy and would cause them to abhor and to shun it; but many are so wise in their own conceit that they feel no need of humbly seeking God that they may be led into the truth. Although priding themselves on their enlightenment, they are ignorant both of the Scriptures and of the power of God. (cont.)

# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH? TRUE CHARACTER OF THE PAPACY

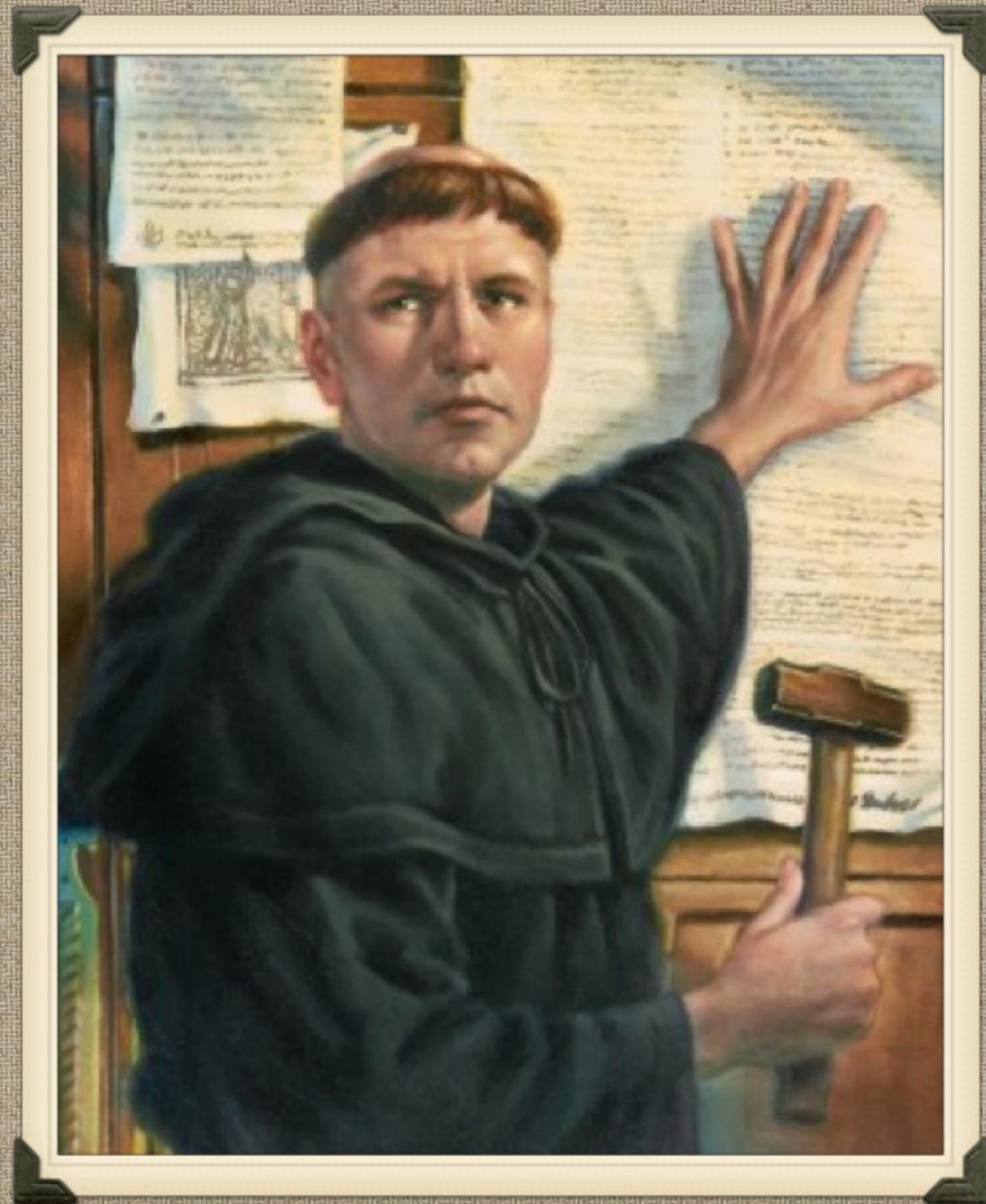


“They must have some means of quieting their consciences, and they seek that which is least spiritual and humiliating. What they desire is a method of forgetting God which shall pass as a method of remembering Him. **The papacy is well adapted to meet the wants of all these. It is prepared for two classes of mankind, embracing nearly the whole world--those who would be saved by their merits, and those who would be saved in their sins. Here is the secret of its power.**”

Ellen G. White, *Great Controversy*, p. 572.

# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH

## MARTIN LUTHER AND THE REFORMATION



“There was a present truth in the days of Luther,—a truth at that time of special importance; there is a present truth for the church today. ... But truth is no more desired by the majority today than it was by the papists who opposed Luther.”

Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, 1888 ed. pp. 143-144.

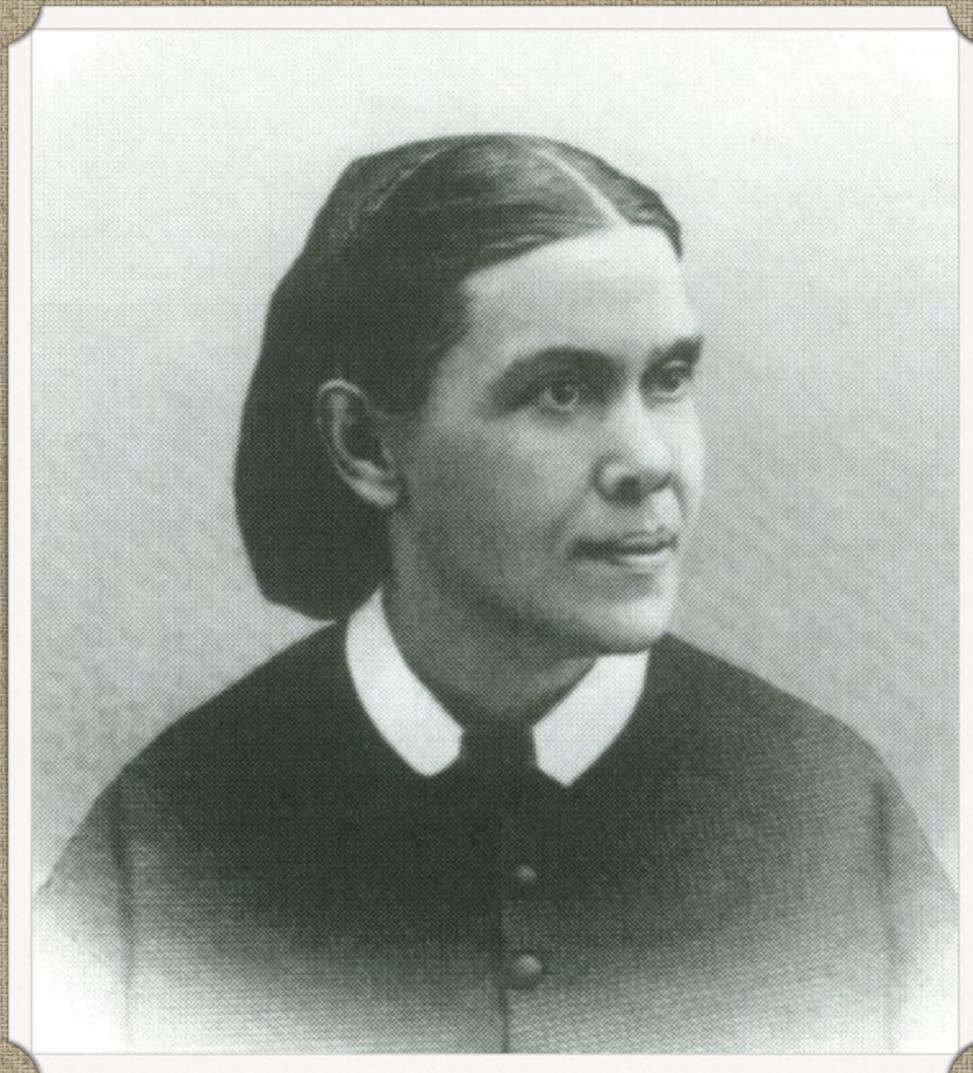
# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH REFORMATION NEEDS TO CONTINUE

“Unfortunately, Luther followed Augustine rather than Paul in his teaching of predestination, freedom of the will, and kindred doctrines. ... The middle of the sixteenth century found, therefore, two dominant Protestant schools of thought in Europe—Lutheranism and Calvinism. **Both were serving to emancipate thousands from the bondage of mediaeval Catholicism, and both were defending valiantly certain scriptural doctrines.** Both systems, however, **possessed glaring weaknesses.**”

Norval F. Pease, “Justification and Righteousness by Faith in the Seventh-day Adventist Church Before 1900,” pp. 17, 19, 22, 26.

# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH

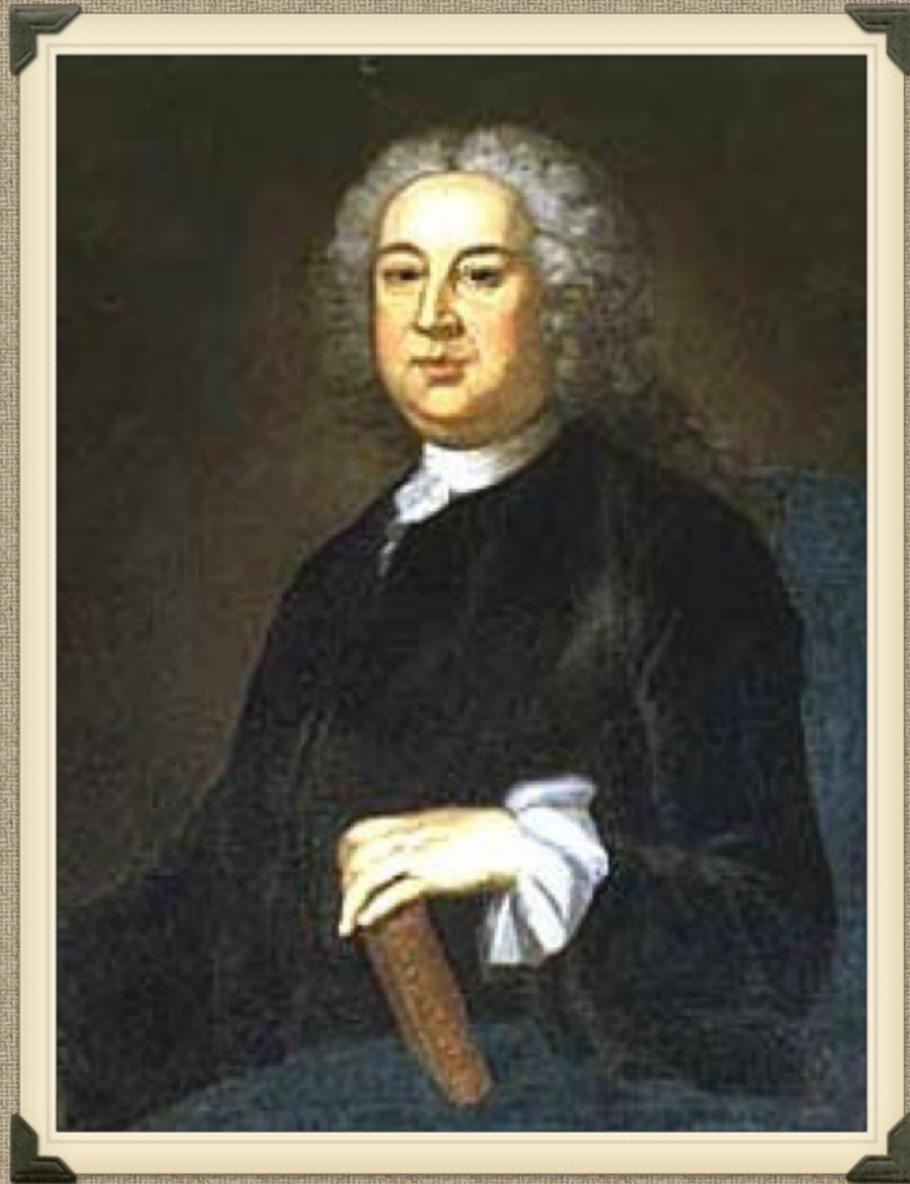
## REFORMATION TO CONTINUE TO THE END



“The Reformation did not, as many suppose, end with Luther. **It is to be continued to the close of this world’s history.** Luther had a great work to do in reflecting to others the light which God had permitted to shine upon him; **yet he did not receive all the light which was to be given to the world.** From that time to this, **new light** has been continually shining upon the Scriptures, and **new truths** have been constantly unfolding.”

Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, 1888 ed. pp. 148-149.

# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH REFORMATION BECOMES STAGNANT



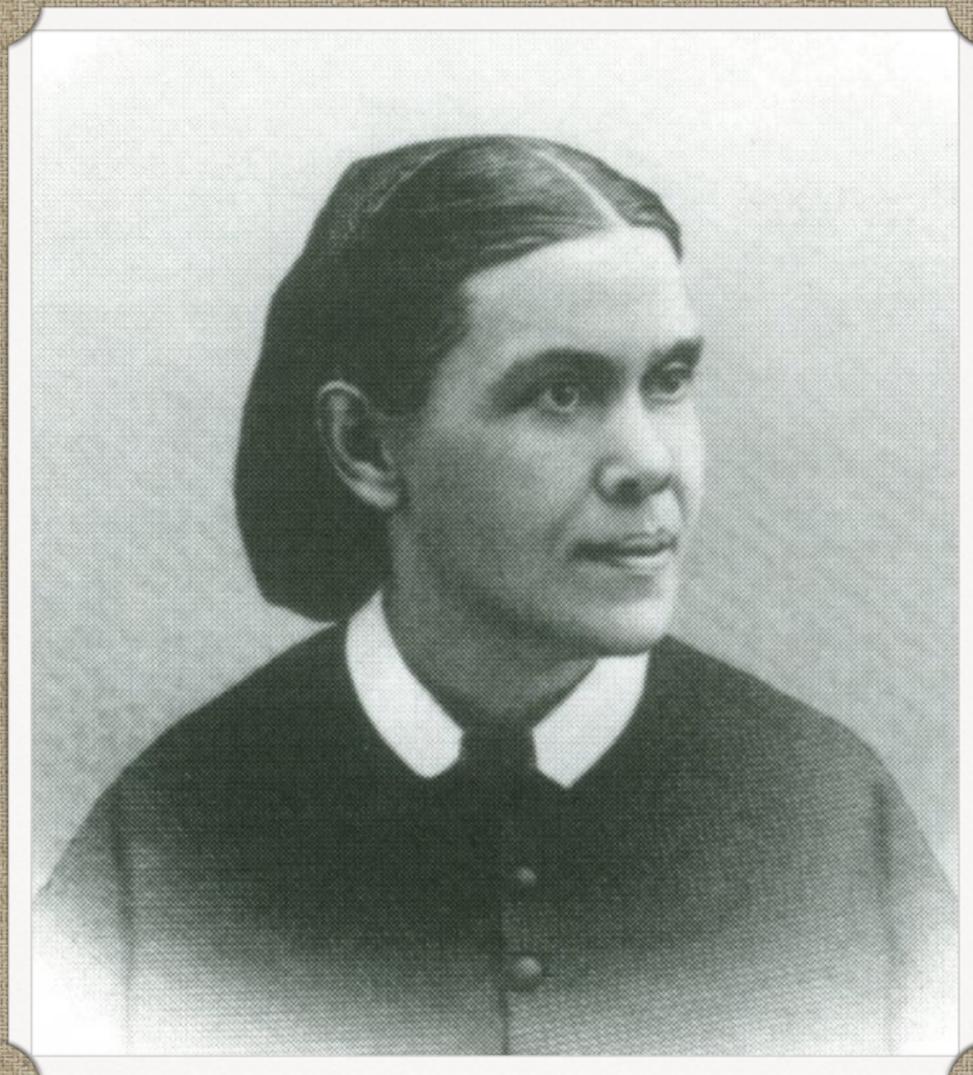
John Robinson

“I cannot sufficiently bewail the condition of the reformed churches, who are come to a period in religion, and will go no farther than the instruments of their reformation. The Lutherans cannot be drawn to go any farther than what Luther saw, and the Calvinists, you see, stick fast where they were left by that great man of God, who yet saw not all things.”

John Robinson; in Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, 1888 ed. pp. 291-292.

# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH

## MARTIN LUTHER AND THE REFORMATION



“**The great doctrine of justification by faith, so clearly taught by Luther**, had been almost wholly lost sight of, and the Romish principle of trusting to good works for salvation, had taken its place. Whitefield and the Wesleys, who were members of the established church, were sincere seekers for the **favor of God**, and this they had been taught **was to be secured by a virtuous life and an observance of the ordinances of religion.**”

Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, 1888 ed. p. 253.

# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH

## JOHN WESLEY: REFORMATION CONTINUES



John Wesley

“Through long years of wearisome and comfortless striving-- years of rigorous self-denial, of reproach and humiliation-- Wesley had steadfastly adhered to his one purpose of seeking God. Now he had found Him; and he found that the grace which he **had toiled to win by prayers and fasts, by almsdeeds and self-abnegation, was a gift, ‘without money and without price.’** (cont.)

# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH

## JOHN WESLEY: REFORMATION CONTINUES

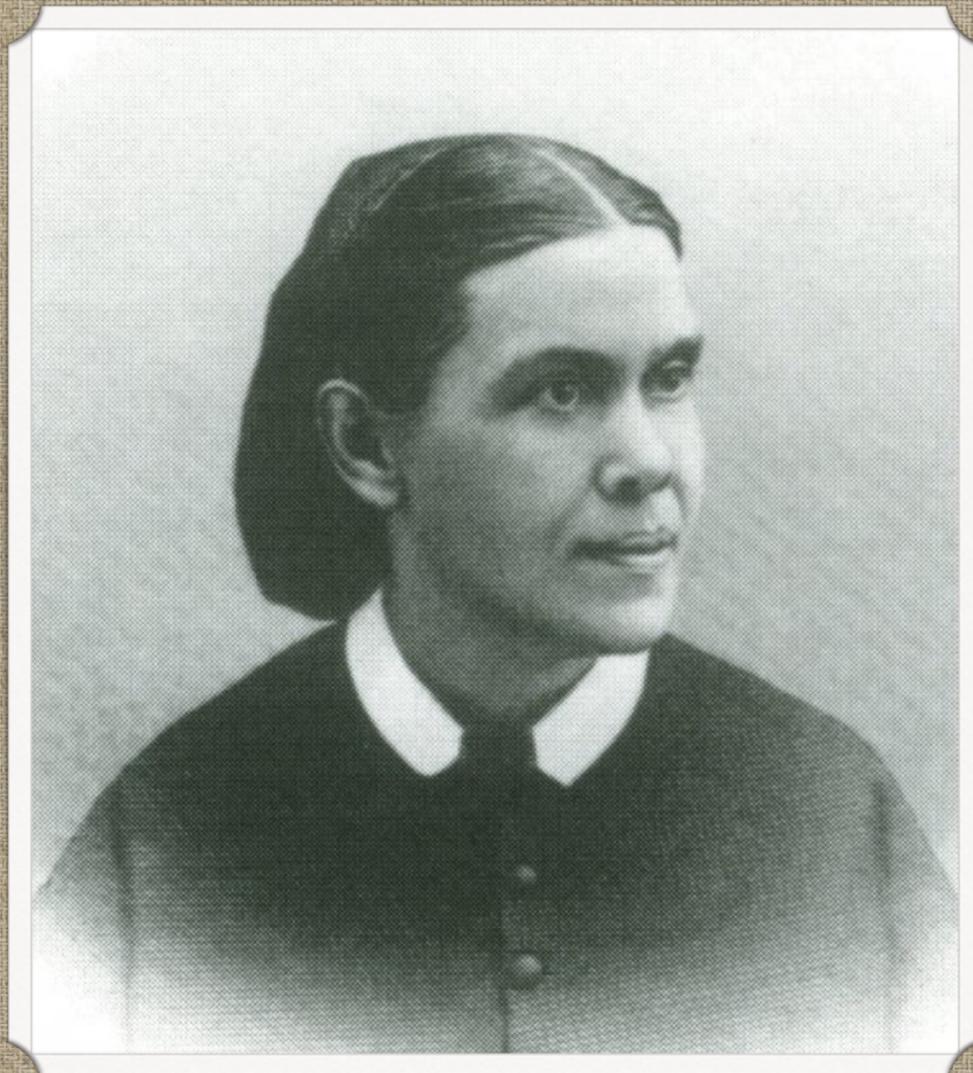
“Once established in the faith of Christ, his whole soul burned with the desire to spread everywhere a knowledge of the glorious gospel of God's free grace. ...

“He continued his strict and self-denying life, not now as the ground, but the result of faith; not the root, but the fruit of holiness. The grace of God in Christ is the foundation of the Christian's hope, and that grace will be manifested in obedience. Wesley's life was devoted to the preaching of the great truths which he had received—**justification through faith in the atoning blood of Christ, and the renewing power of the Holy Spirit upon the heart**, bringing forth fruit in a life conformed to the example of Christ.”

Ellen G. White, *Great Controversy*, p. 256.

# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH

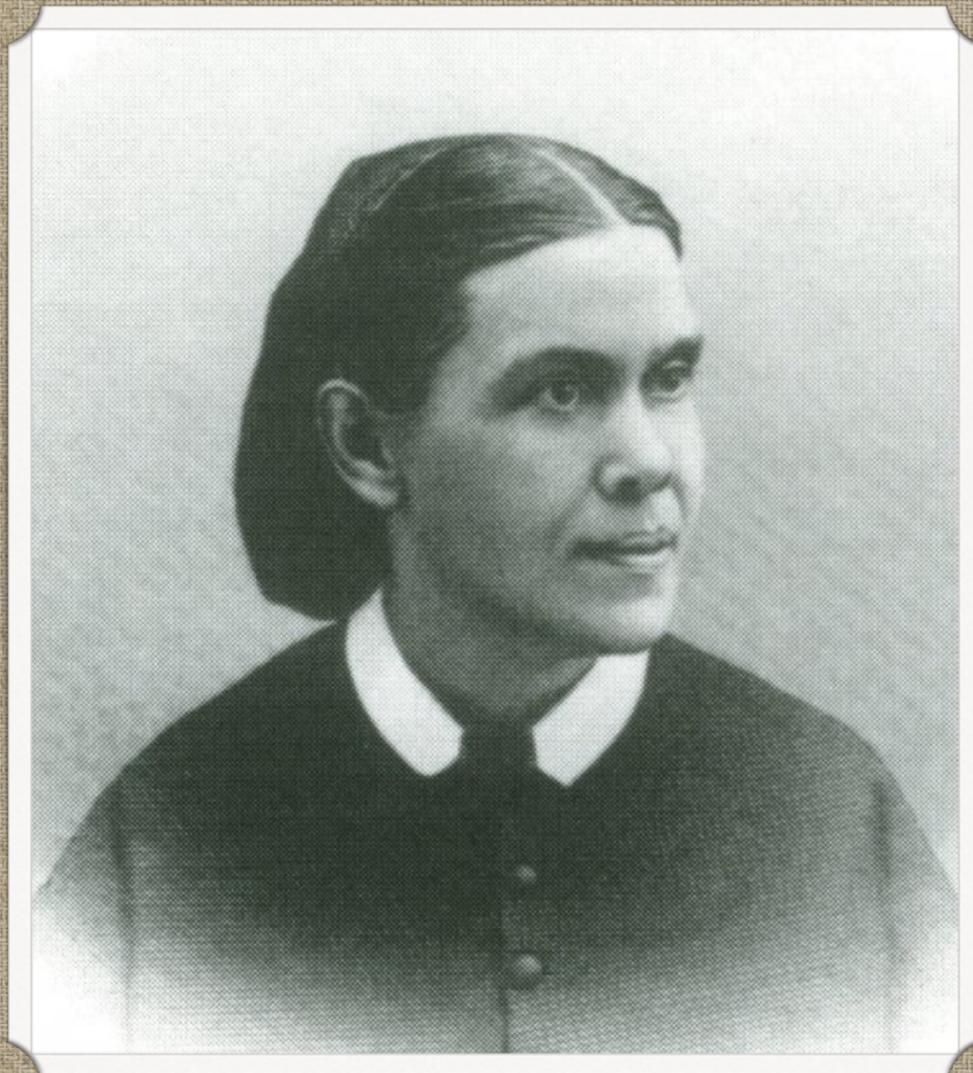
## BUILDING OF THE TEMPLE CONTINUES TO THE END



“The enemy of righteousness left nothing undone in his effort to stop the work committed to the Lord’s builders. ... Workers were raised up who ably defended the faith once delivered to the saints. ... Like the apostles, many of them fell at their post, **but the building of the temple went steadily forward.** ... The Waldenses, John Wycliffe, Huss and Jerome, Martin Luther and Zwingli, Cranmer, Latimer, and Knox, the Huguenots, John and Charles Wesley, and a host of others **brought to the foundation** material that will endure throughout eternity. (cont.)

# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH

## BUILDING OF THE TEMPLE CONTINUES TO THE END



“And in later years those who have so nobly endeavored to promote the circulation of God’s word, and those who by their service in heathen lands have **prepared the way for the proclamation of the last great message**—these also have helped to rear the structure. Through the ages that have passed since the days of the apostles, **the building of God’s temple has never ceased.**”

Ellen G. White, *Acts of the Apostles*, p. 598-599.

# THE WAY HE HAS LED US IN THE PAST



# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH

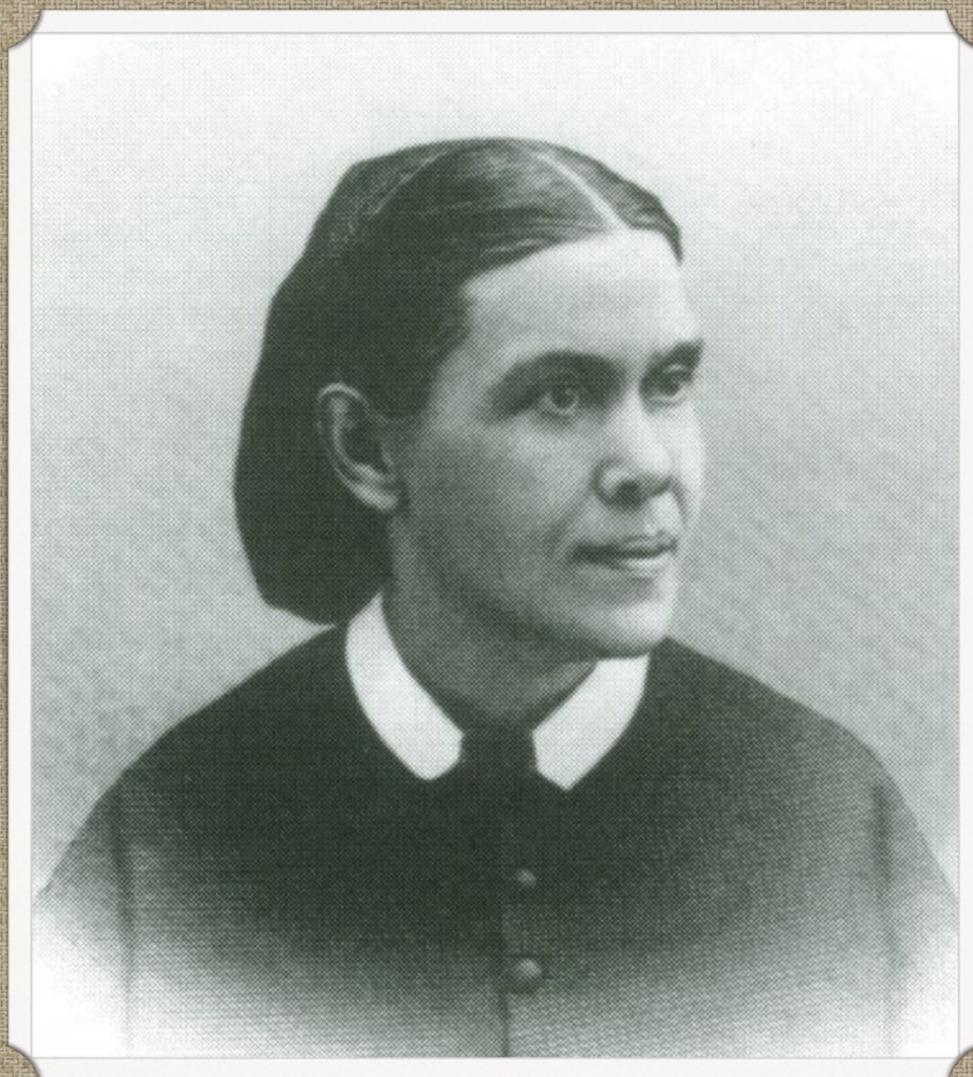
## THE WAY HE HAS LED US IN THE PAST

“The end of the 2300 years in 1844 indicates a change in Christ’s priestly ministry in the heavenly sanctuary. Rather than signifying a change in the way a person is saved, the investigative judgment announces the culmination of the plan of salvation—the judgment hour message—which is to help prepare those living for the return of Christ. This understanding is established within the context of the great controversy theme and matured in the setting of the three angels’ messages.”

Ron Duffield, *The Return of the Latter Rain*, p. 13.

# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH

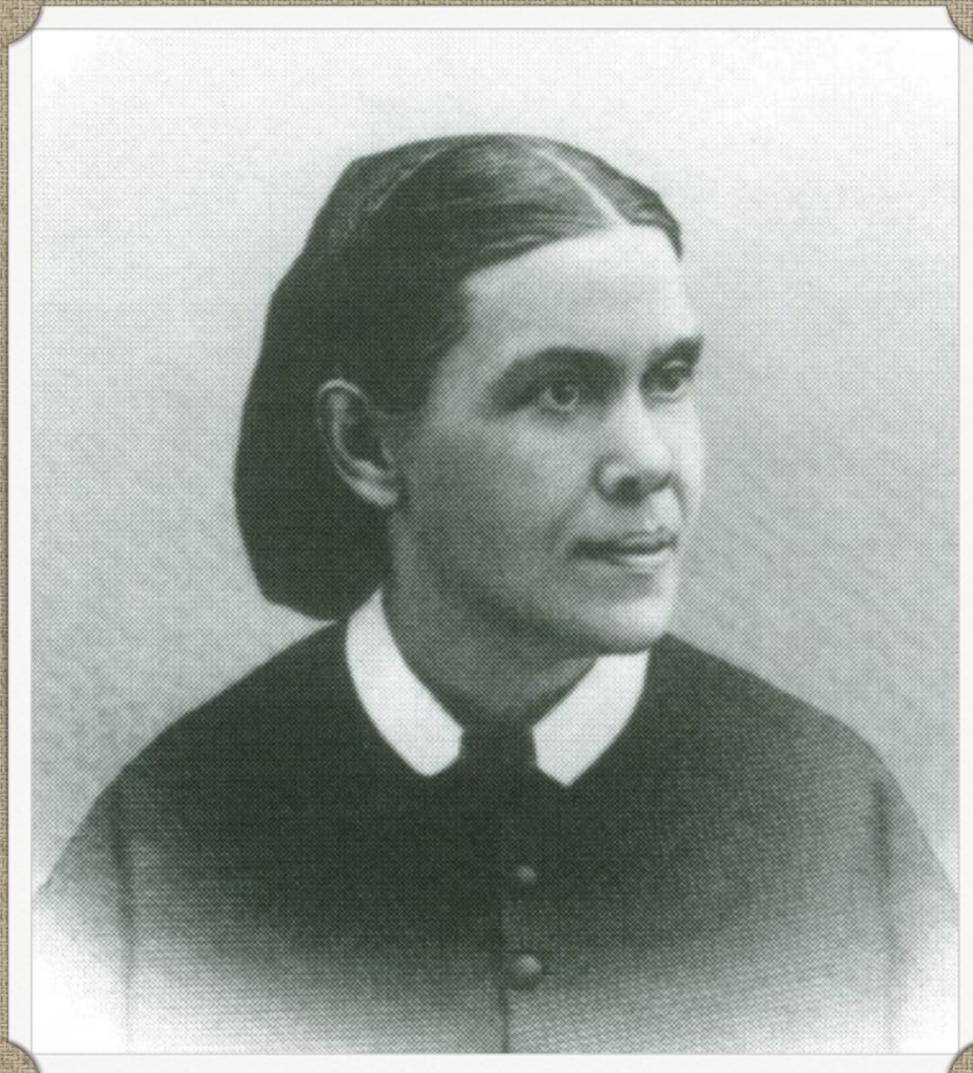
## 1844 MOVEMENT/LOUD CRY OF 4<sup>TH</sup> ANGEL



**“The Advent movement of 1840-44 was a glorious manifestation of the power of God:** The first angel's message was carried to every missionary station in the world, and in some countries **there was the greatest religious interest which has been witnessed in any land since the Reformation of the sixteenth century;** but these are to be **far exceeded by the mighty movement under the last warning of the third angel.”**

Ellen G. White, *Spirit of Prophecy*, vol. 4 [1884], pp. 429-430.

# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH MORE THAN THE REFORMERS TAUGHT



“A Great religious awakening under the proclamation of Christ's soon coming, is foretold in the prophecy of the first angel's message of Revelation 14.... The message ... is declared to be a part of the ‘everlasting gospel;’ and it announces the opening of the Judgment. The message of salvation has been preached in all ages; **but this message is a part of the gospel which could be proclaimed only in the last days**, for only then would it be true that the hour of Judgment had come. (cont.)

# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH

## MORE THAN THE REFORMERS TAUGHT.

“The prophecies present a succession of events leading down to the opening of the Judgment. This is especially true of the book of Daniel. But that part of his prophecy which related to the last days, Daniel was bidden to close up and seal “to the time of the end.” **Not till we reach this time could a message concerning the Judgment be proclaimed, based on a fulfillment of these prophecies....** The coming of Christ could not take place before that time....

“**No such message has ever been given in past ages.** Paul, as we have seen, **did not preach it**; he pointed his brethren into the then far-distant future for the coming of the Lord. **The reformers did not proclaim it.** Martin Luther placed the Judgment about three hundred years in the future from his day.”

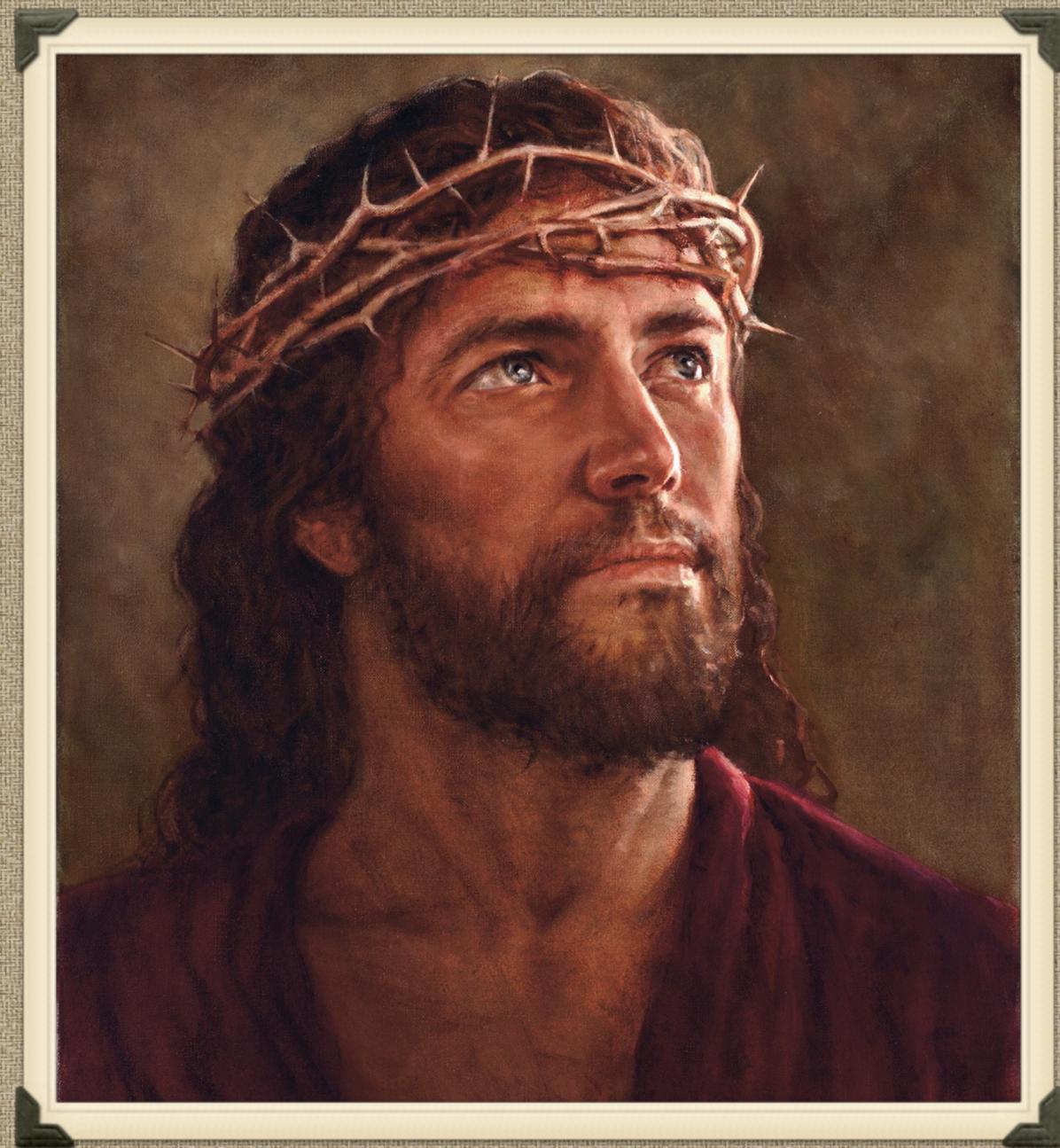
Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, 1888 ed. pp. 355-356.

# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH: A MOST PRECIOUS MESSAGE



# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH

## MOST PRECIOUS MESSAGE SUMMARIZED



“The Lord in His great mercy sent a **most precious message** to His people through Elders Waggoner and Jones. This message was to bring more prominently before the world the **uplifted Saviour**, the **sacrifice for the sins of the whole world**. It presented **justification through faith in the Surety**; it invited the people to receive the **righteousness of Christ**, which is made manifest in **obedience to all the commandments of God....**”

# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH

## MOST PRECIOUS MESSAGE SUMMARIZED

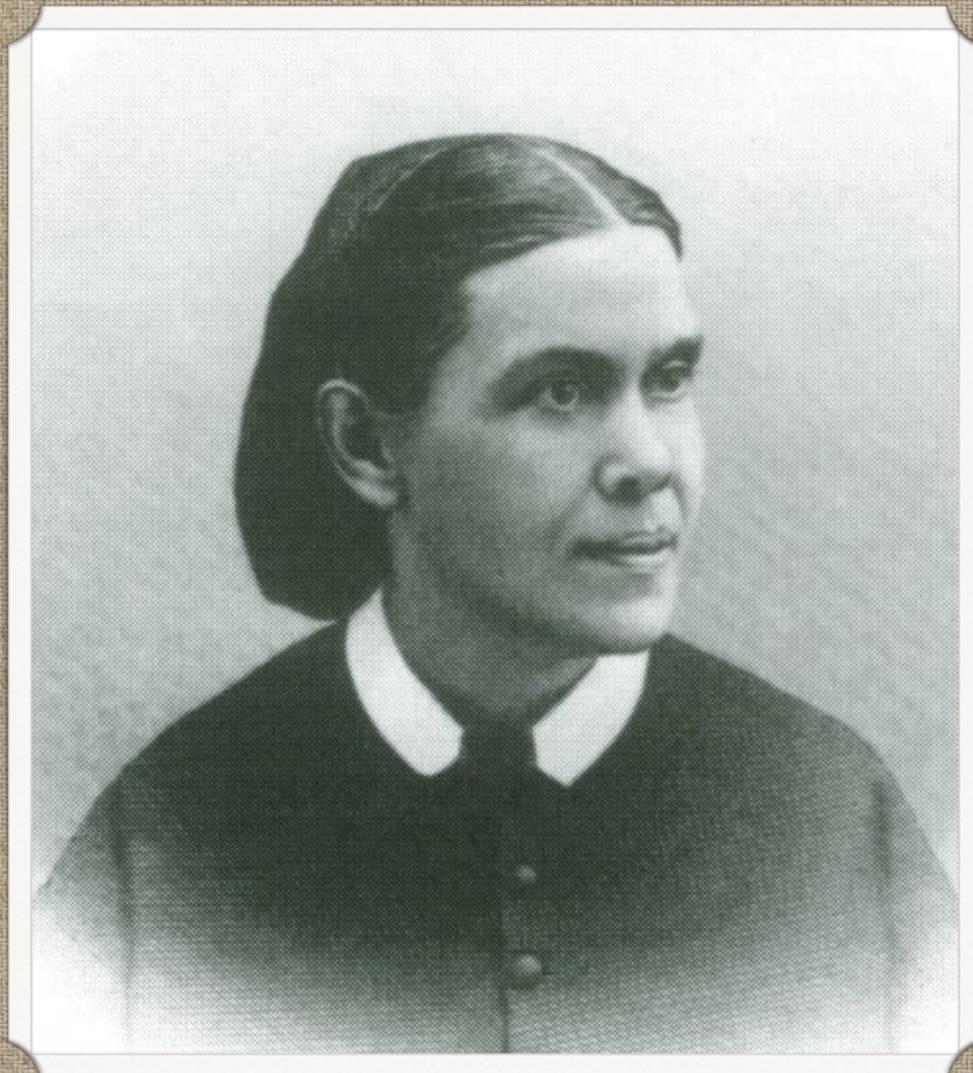


**“This is the message that God commanded to be given to the world. It is the third angel's message, which is to be proclaimed with a loud voice [Loud Cry], and attended with the outpouring of His Spirit in a large measure [Latter Rain].”**

Ellen G. White to O. A. Olsen, Letter 57, May 1, 1895; in *1888 Materials*, pp. 1336-1337.

# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH

## MINNEAPOLIS MESSAGE: PRESENT TRUTH

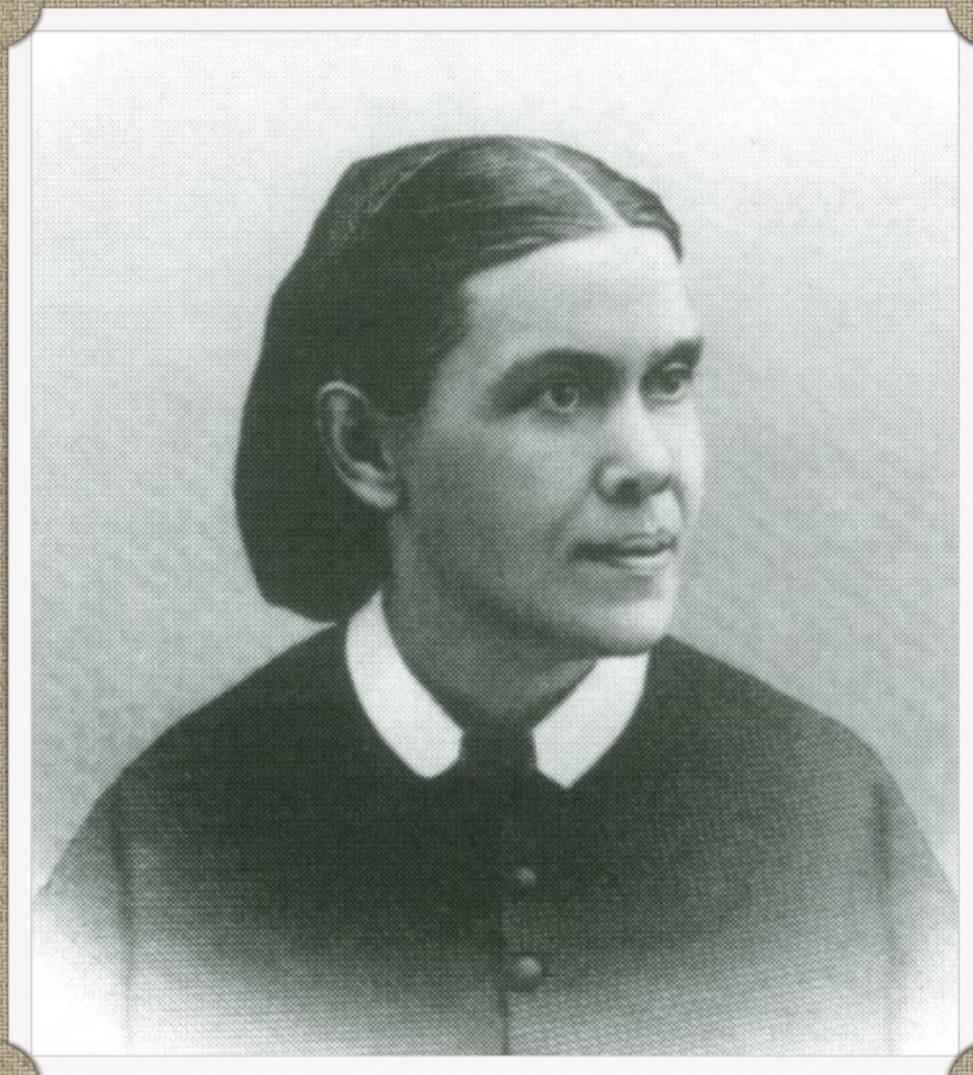


“That which God gives His servants to speak today would not perhaps have been **present truth twenty years ago**, but it is God’s message for this time”

Ellen G. White, Oct. 21, 1888; *1888 Materials*, p. 133.

# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH

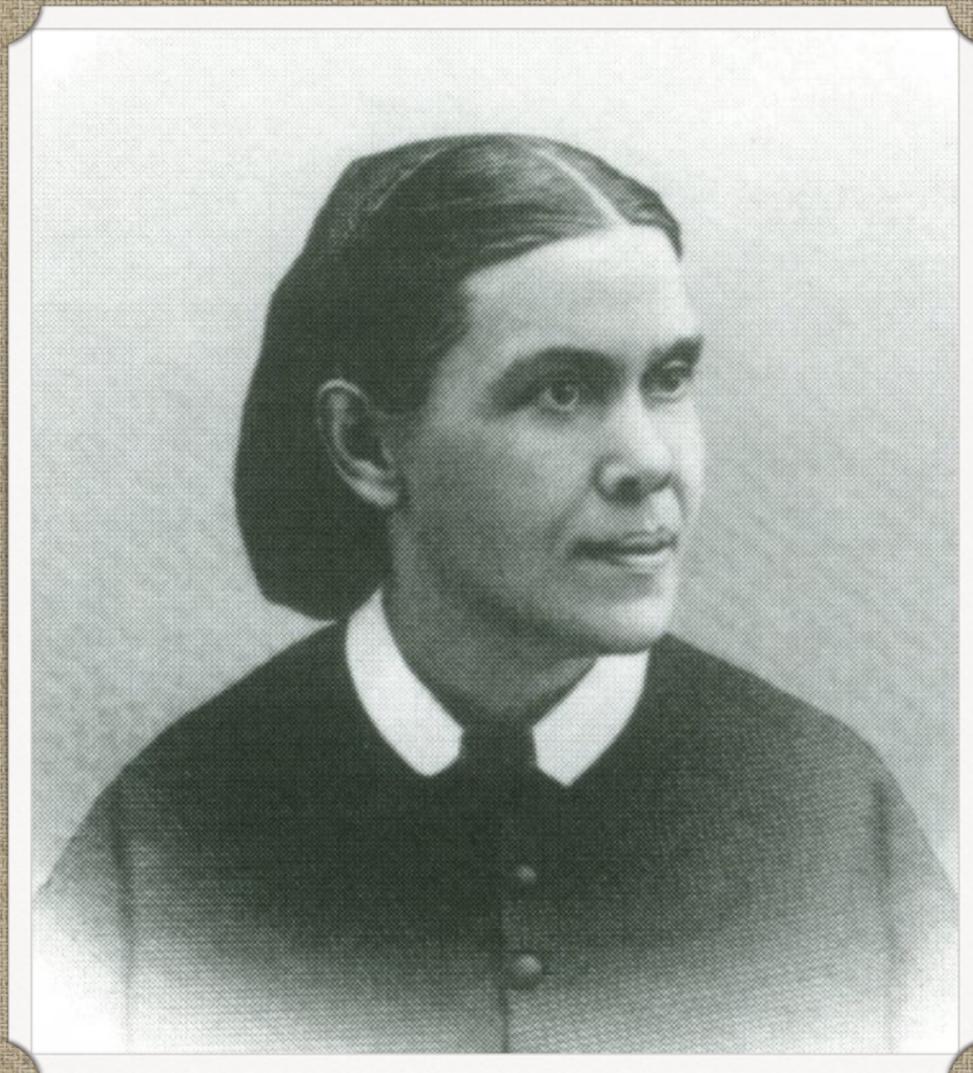
## MINNEAPOLIS MESSAGE: PRESENT TRUTH



“God will ever give them to know He has given these men [A. T. Jones and E. J. Waggoner] a work to do, and a message to bear **which is present truth for this time**. They knew that wherever this message comes its fruits are good.”

Ellen G. White, Manuscript 24, 1888; *1888 Materials*, p. 228.

# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH MORE THAN THE REFORMERS TAUGHT



“Great truths that have lain unheeded and unseen since the day of Pentecost, are to shine from God’s word in their native purity. To those who truly love **God the Holy Spirit will reveal truths that have faded from the mind, and will also reveal truths that are entirely new.**”

Ellen G. White, *1888 Materials*, p. 1651.

# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH TODAY?



# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH? CATHOLICS AND LUTHERANS TOGETHER



## *JOINT DECLARATION ON THE DOCTRINE OF JUSTIFICATION*

*by the Lutheran World Federation  
and the Catholic Church*

### **Preamble**

1. The doctrine of justification was of central importance for the Lutheran Reformation of the sixteenth century. It was held to be the "first and chief article"<sup>[1]</sup> and at the same time the "ruler and judge over all other Christian doctrines."<sup>[2]</sup> The doctrine of justification was particularly asserted and defended in its Reformation shape and special valuation over against the Roman Catholic Church and theology of that time, which in turn asserted and defended a doctrine of justification of a different character. From the Reformation perspective, justification was the crux of all the disputes. Doctrinal condemnations were put forward both in the Lutheran Confessions<sup>[3]</sup> and by the Roman Catholic Church's Council of Trent. These condemnations are still valid today and thus have a church-dividing effect.

2. For the Lutheran tradition, the doctrine of justification has retained its special status. Consequently it has also from the beginning occupied an important place in the official Lutheran-Roman Catholic dialogue.

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“The ceremony took place in Augsburg, Germany, on October 31, 1999, Reformation Sunday —the anniversary of Martin Luther nailing his 95 thesis of protest to the church door in Wittenburg, Germany.”

Signed October 31, 1999.

# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH? CATHOLICS AND LUTHERANS TOGETHER



## JOINT DECLARATION ON THE DOCTRINE OF JUSTIFICATION

by the Lutheran World Federation  
and the Catholic Church

### Preamble

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“40. The understanding of the doctrine of justification set forth in this Declaration shows that a **consensus** in basic truths of the **doctrine of justification** exists between Lutherans and Catholics. ... Therefore the Lutheran and the Catholic explications of justification are in their difference open to one another and do not destroy the consensus regarding the basic truths.”

Signed October 31, 1999.

# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH? CATHOLICS AND LUTHERANS TOGETHER



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“41. Thus the doctrinal condemnations of the 16th century, in so far as they relate to the doctrine of justification, appear in a new light: The teaching of the Lutheran churches presented in this Declaration does not fall under the condemnations from the Council of Trent. The condemnations in the Lutheran Confessions do not apply to the teaching of the Roman Catholic Church presented in this Declaration.”

Signed October 31, 1999.

# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH?

## CATHOLICS AND LUTHERANS TOGETHER



### *JOINT DECLARATION ON THE DOCTRINE OF JUSTIFICATION*

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“15. ... Together we confess: By grace alone, in faith in Christ's saving work and not because of any merit on our part, we are accepted by God and receive the Holy Spirit, who renews our hearts while equipping and calling us to good works.”

Signed October 31, 1999.

# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH? CATHOLICS AND LUTHERANS TOGETHER



## *JOINT DECLARATION ON THE DOCTRINE OF JUSTIFICATION*

*by the Lutheran World Federation  
and the Catholic Church*

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“25. ...By the action of the Holy Spirit in baptism, they are granted the gift of salvation...

“27. ...Persons are justified through baptism...

“30. Catholics hold that the grace of Jesus Christ imparted in baptism takes away all that is sin...”

Signed October 31, 1999.

# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH?

## CATHOLICS AND LUTHERANS TOGETHER



### *JOINT DECLARATION ON THE DOCTRINE OF JUSTIFICATION*

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“38. According to Catholic understanding, good works, made possible by grace and the working of the Holy Spirit, contribute to growth in grace, so that the righteousness that comes from God is preserved and communion with Christ is deepened. When Catholics affirm the ‘meritorious’ character of good works, they wish to say that, according to the biblical witness, a reward in heaven is promised to these works.”

Signed October 31, 1999.

# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH? CATHOLICS AND METHODIST TOGETHER



## *JOINT DECLARATION ON THE DOCTRINE OF JUSTIFICATION*

*by the Lutheran World Federation  
and the Catholic Church*

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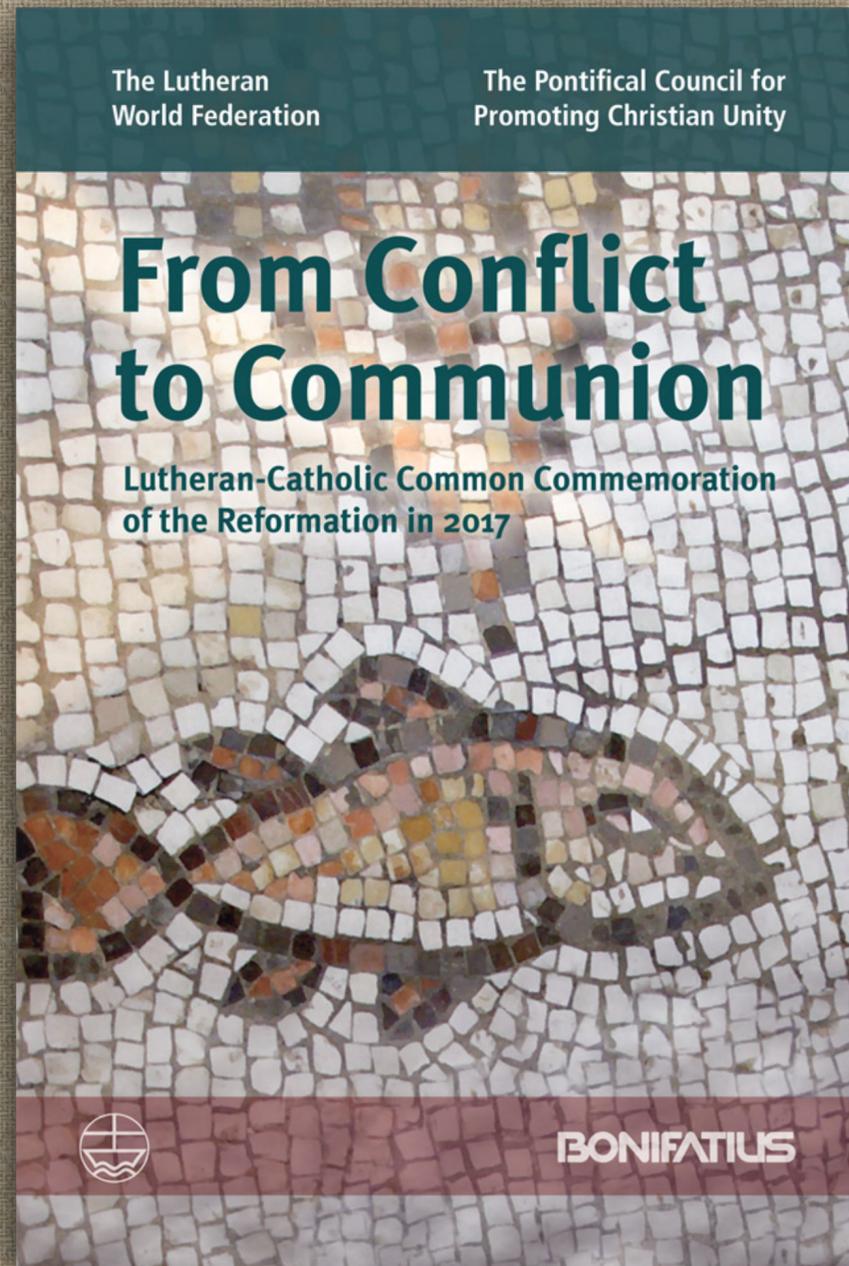
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“We, the Churches joined together in the World Methodist Council, welcome this agreement with great joy. We declare that the common understanding of justification as it is outlined in the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification corresponds to Methodist doctrine.”

Signed July 23, 2006.

# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH?

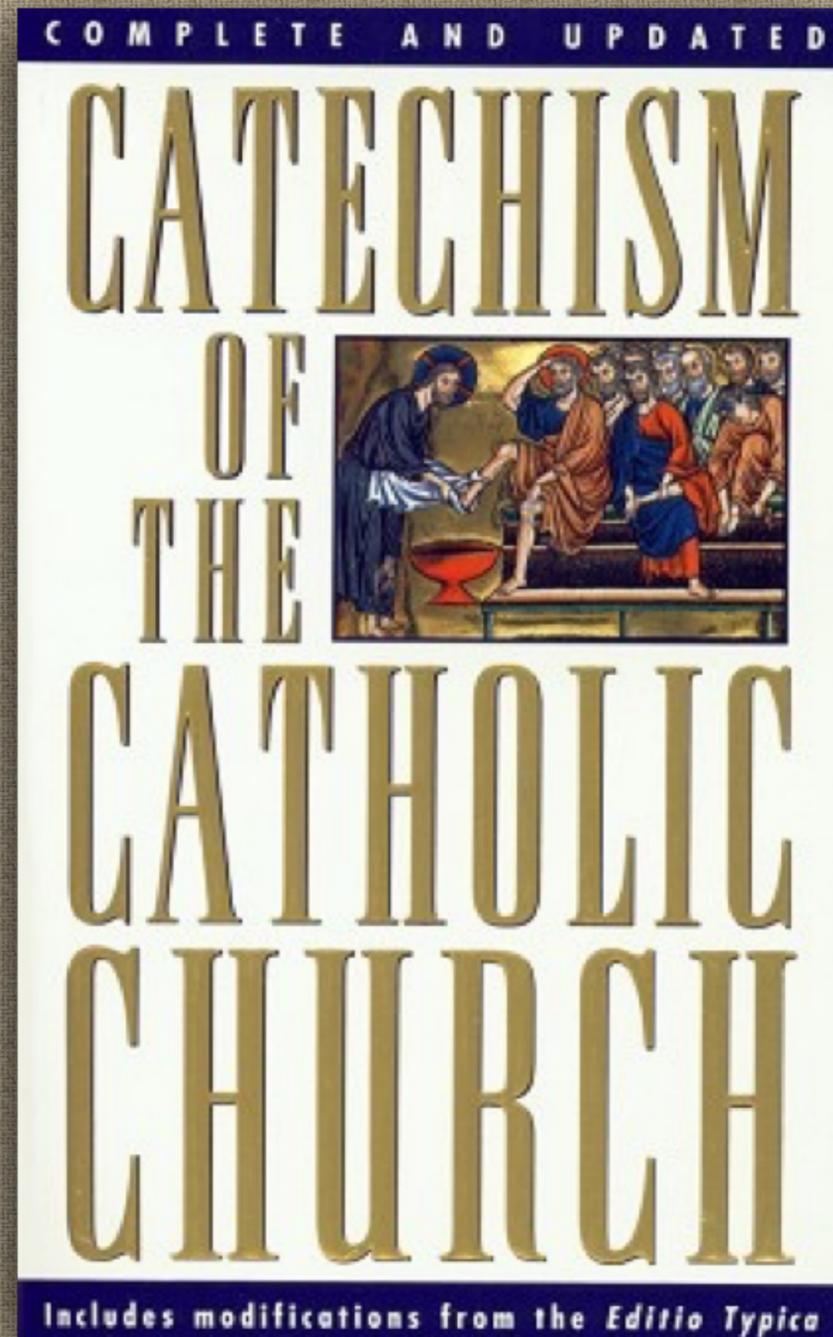
## COMMEMORATION OF THE REFORMATION



“In 2017, Lutheran and Catholic Christians commemorate together the five hundredth anniversary of the Reformation. On this occasion, Lutherans and Catholics will, for the first time, have opportunity to keep one and the same global ecumenical commemoration, not in the form of a triumphalist celebration, but rather to confess our common faith in the Triune God.”

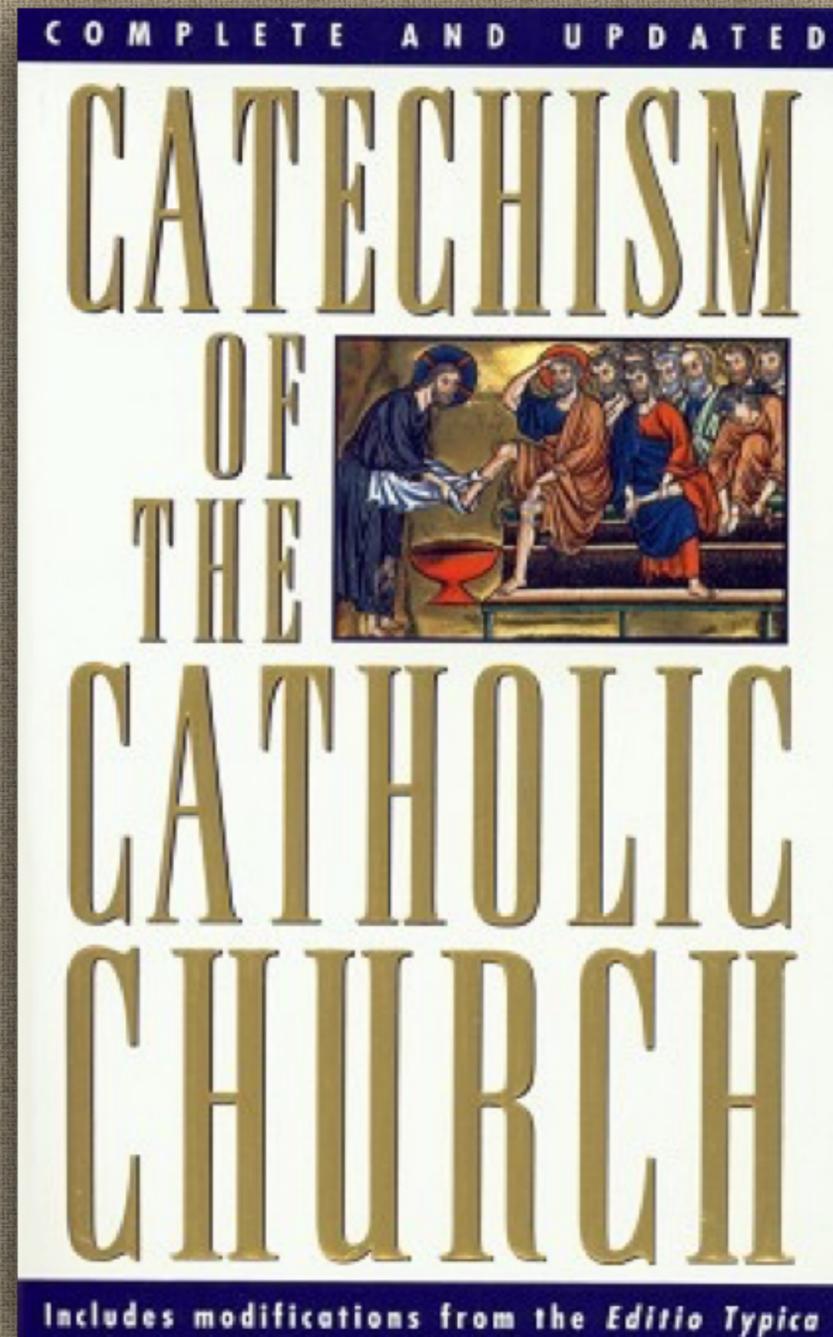
Pope Francis, December, 2014.

# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH?



“**2010** Since the initiative belongs to God in the order of grace, *no one can merit the initial grace* of forgiveness and justification, at the beginning of conversion. Moved by the Holy Spirit and by charity, *we can then merit* for ourselves and for others the graces needed for our sanctification, for the increase of grace and charity, and for the attainment of eternal life. Even temporal goods like health and friendship can be merited in accord with God’s wisdom. These graces and goods are the object of Christian prayer...”  
*Catechism of the Catholic Church, Article 2010.*

# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH?

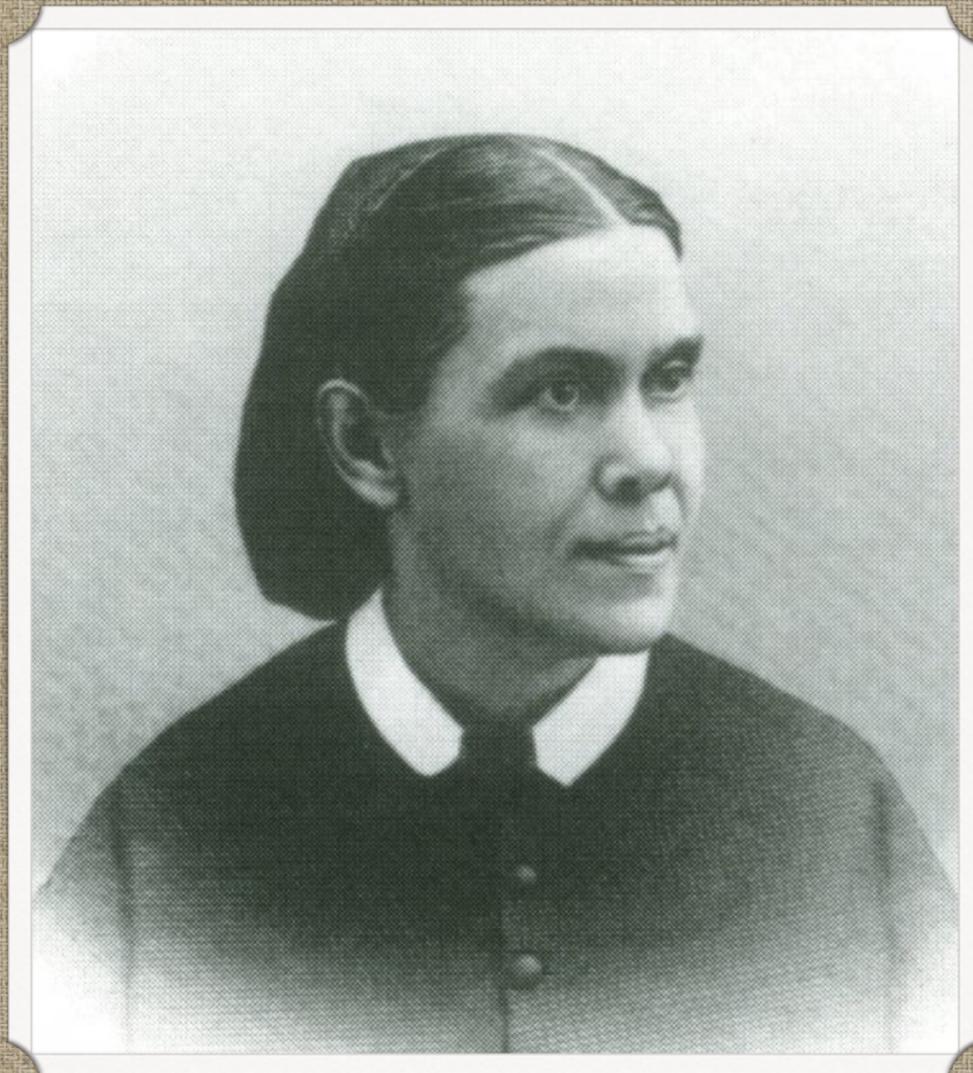


“**1459** Absolution takes away sin, but it does not remedy all the disorders sin has caused. Raised up from sin, the sinner must still recover his full spiritual health **by doing something more to make amends for the sin:** he must make ‘satisfaction for’ or ‘expiate’ his sins. This satisfaction is also called ‘**penance.**’”

*Catechism of the Catholic Church, Article 1459.*

# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH

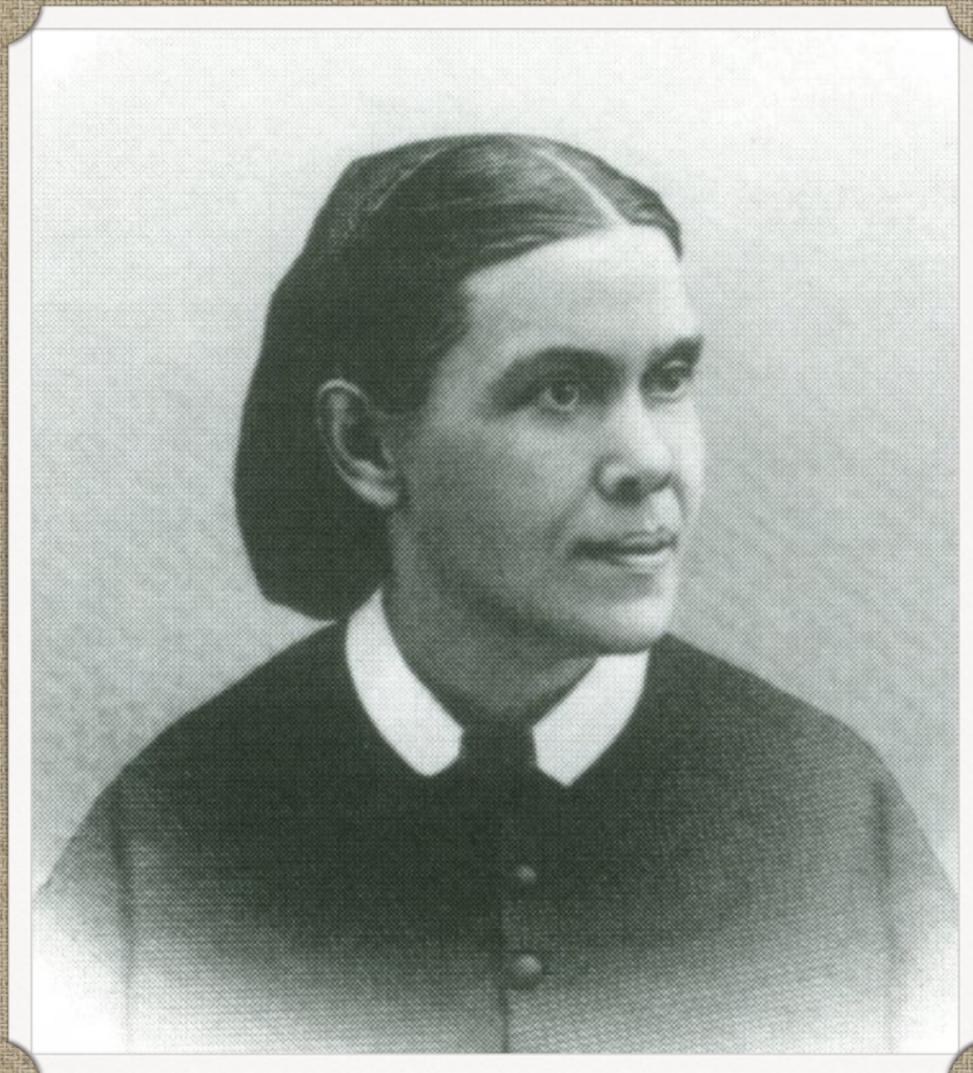
## CHRIST'S MERITS ALONE



“Let the subject be made distinct and plain that it is not possible to effect anything in our standing before God or in the gift of God to us through creature merit. Should faith and works purchase the gift of salvation for anyone, then the Creator is under obligation to the creature. Here is an opportunity for falsehood to be accepted as truth. (cont).

# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH

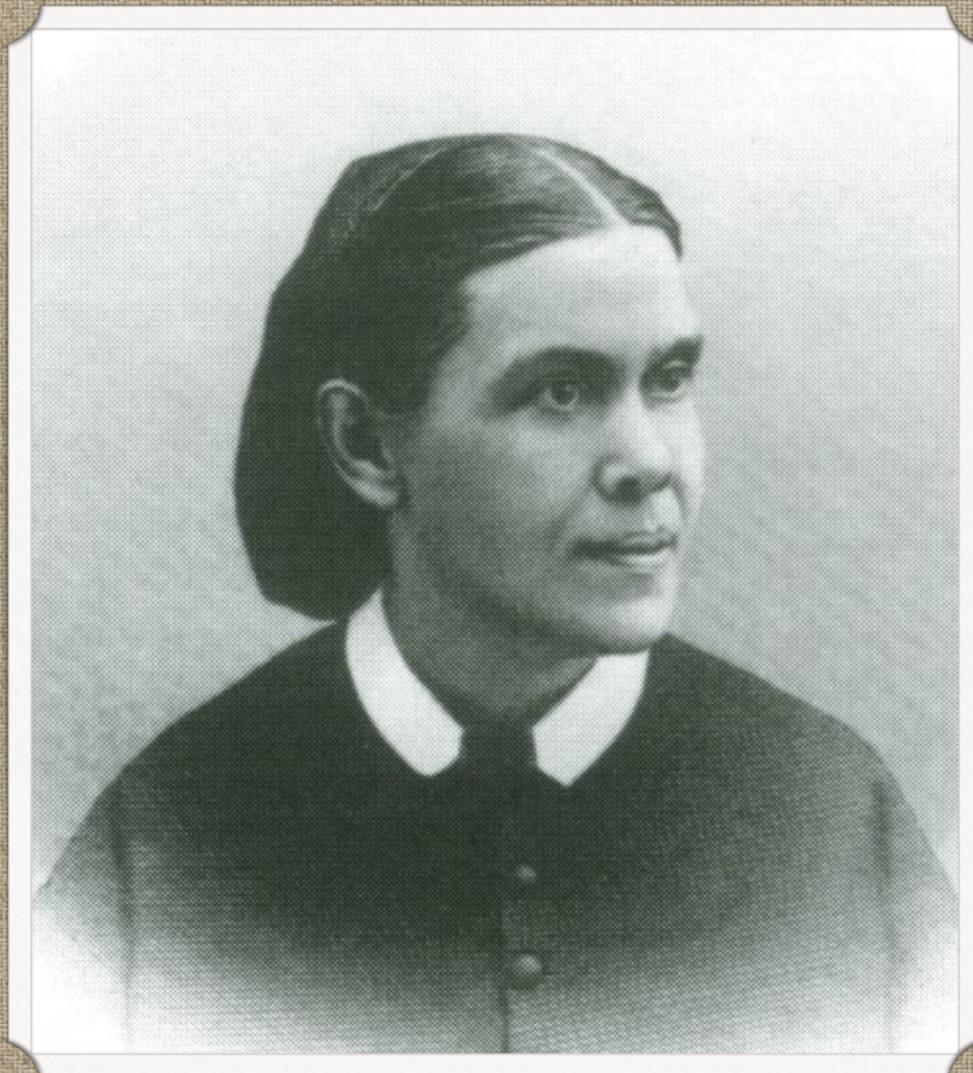
## CHRIST'S MERITS ALONE



“If any man can merit salvation by anything he may do, then he is in the same position as the Catholic to do penance for his sins. Salvation, then, is partly of debt, that may be earned as wages. If man cannot, by any of his good works, merit salvation, then it must be wholly of grace, received by man as a sinner because he receives and believes in Jesus. (cont.)

# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH

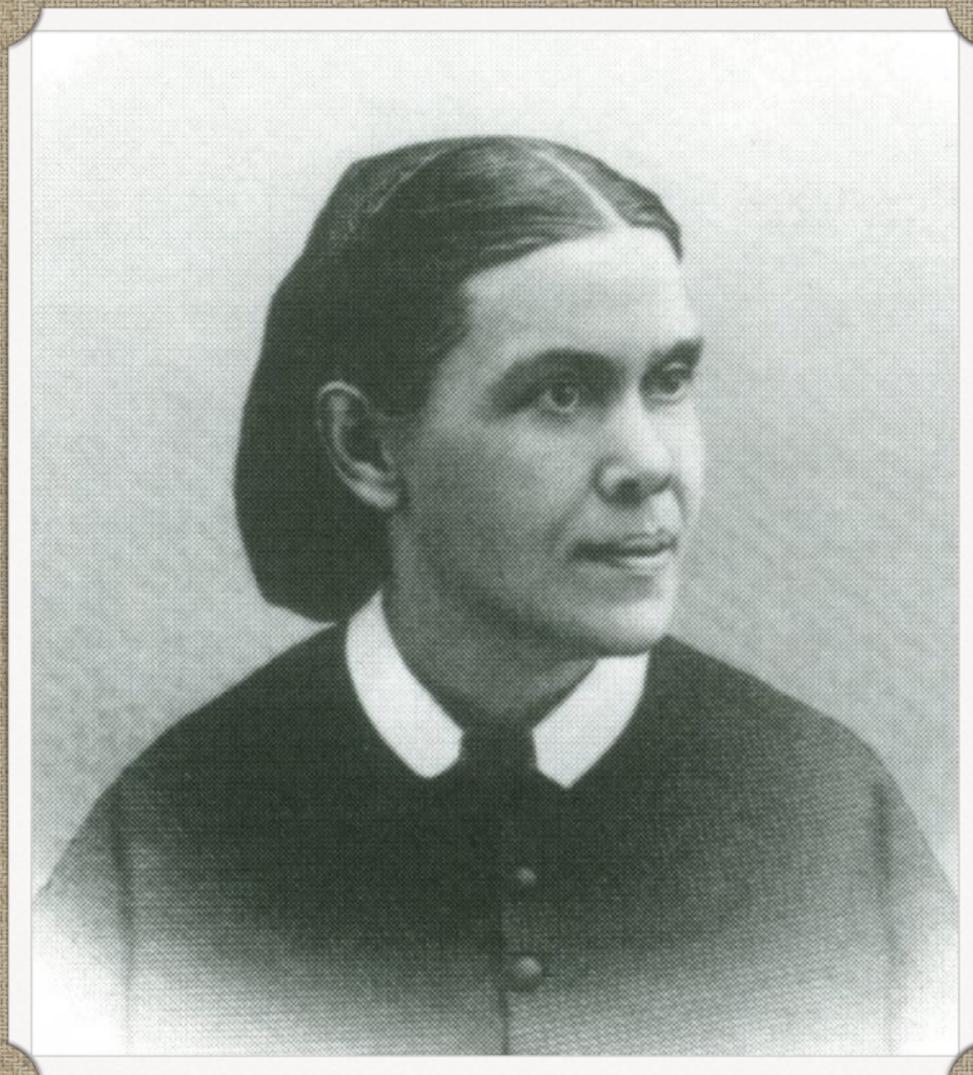
## CHRIST'S MERITS ALONE



“It is wholly a free gift. Justification by faith is placed beyond controversy. And all this controversy is ended, as soon as the matter is settled that the merits of fallen man in his good works can never procure eternal life for him.”  
Ellen G. White, *Faith and Works*, p. 19.

# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH?

## UNITING UPON COMMON POINTS OF DOCTRINE



“When the leading churches of the United States, **uniting upon such points of doctrine as are held by them in common**, shall influence the state to enforce their decrees and to sustain their institutions, then Protestant America will have formed an image of the Roman hierarchy, and the infliction of civil penalties upon dissenters will inevitably result.”  
Ellen White, *Great Controversy*, p. 445.

# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH?

## COUNTERFEIT RESEMBLES THE TRUE

“The last great delusion is soon to open before us. Antichrist is to perform his marvelous works in our sight. **So closely will the counterfeit resemble the true** that it will be **impossible to distinguish** between them **except by the Holy Scriptures**. By their testimony every statement and every miracle must be tested.”

Ellen White, *Great Controversy*, p. 593.

# RE-WRITING HISTORY



“This is not to undertake an impracticable correction of all that happened five hundred years ago, but rather **‘to tell that history differently’** free of any lingering trace of the resentment over past injuries that has distorted our view of one another.”

Pope Francis, March 31, 2017.

# IMPORTANCE OF HISTORY

“LEST WE FORGET”

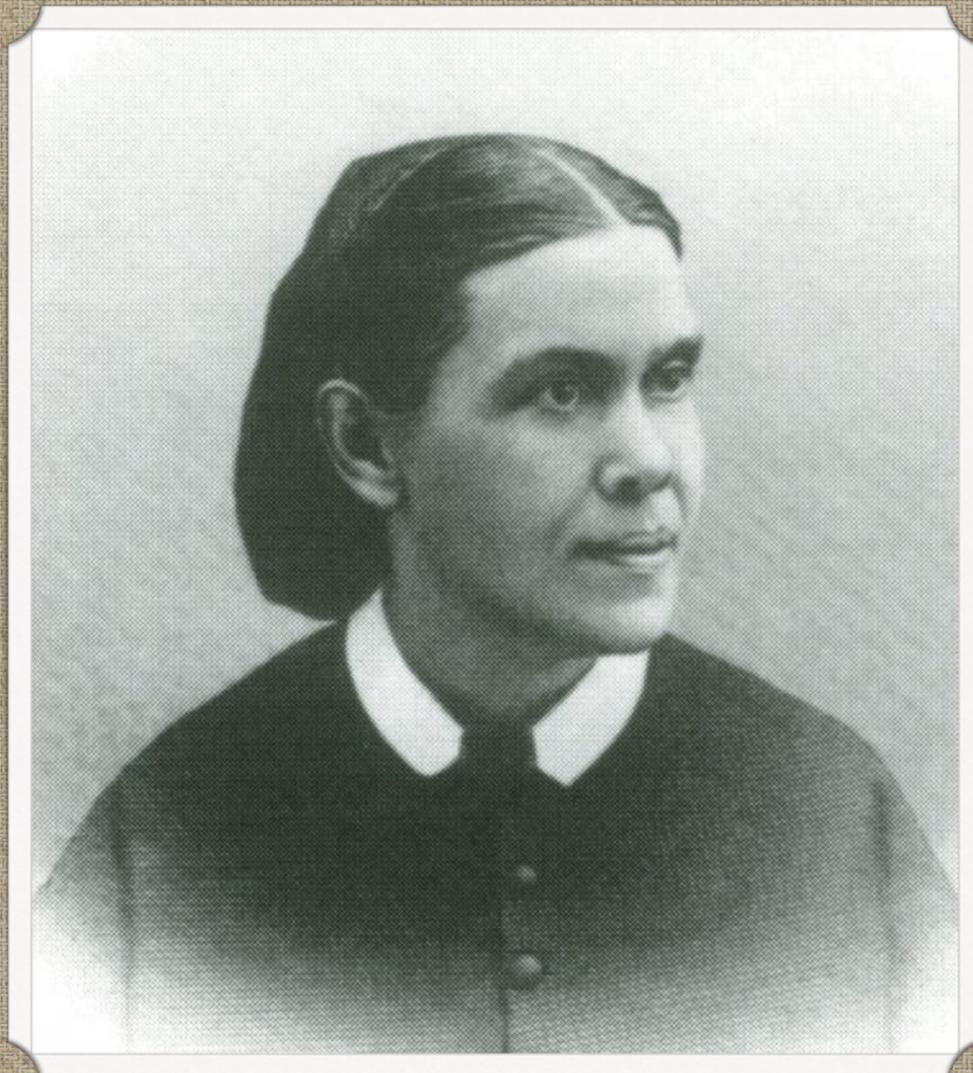
“We have nothing to fear for the future,  
except as we shall forget the way the  
Lord has led us, and His teaching in our  
past history.”

Ellen G. White, Letter 32, 1892; in *Life Sketches*, p. 196.



# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH

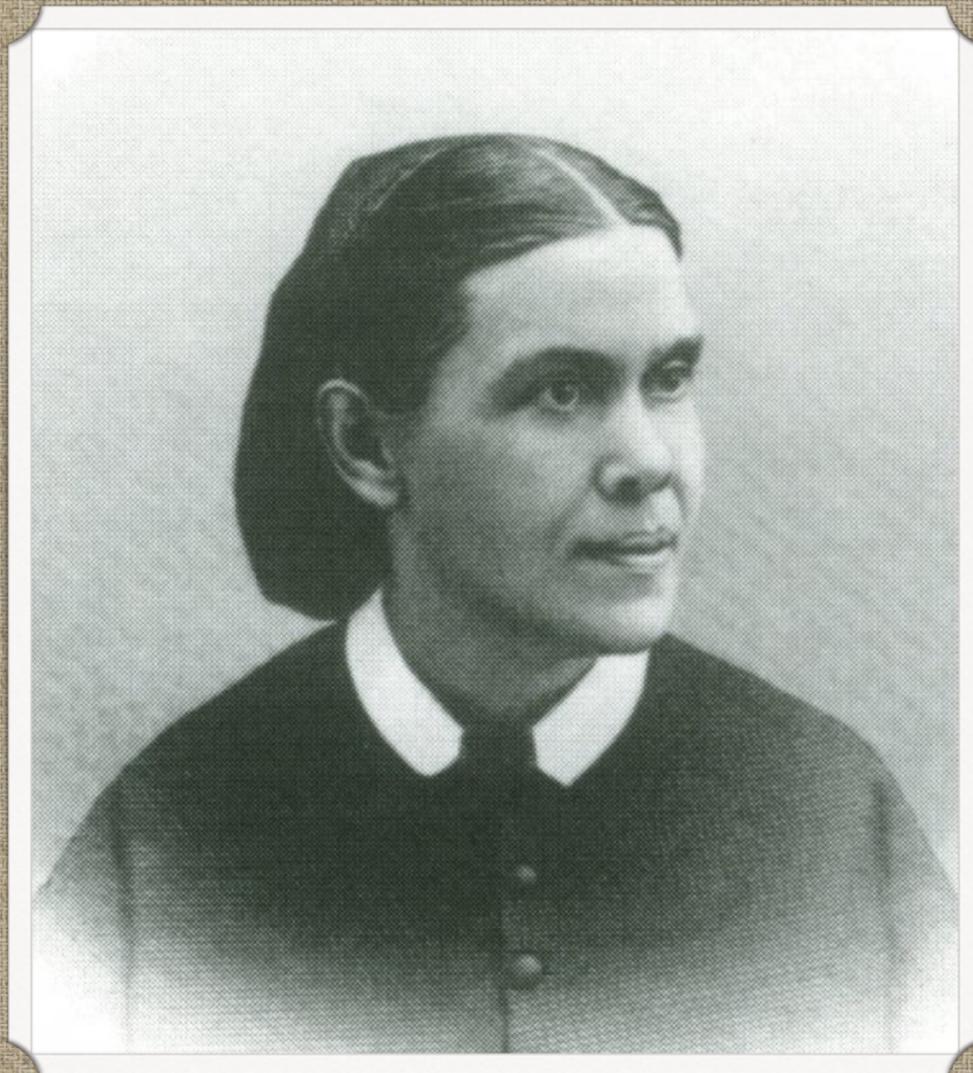
## CHRIST'S MERITS ALONE



“In His divine arrangement, through His unmerited favor, the Lord has ordained that good works shall be rewarded. We are accepted through **Christ's merit alone**; and the acts of mercy, the deeds of charity, which we perform, are the **fruits of faith**; and they become a blessing to us; for men are to be rewarded according to their works.  
(cont).

# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH

## CHRIST'S MERITS ALONE



“It is the fragrance of the **merit of Christ** that makes our good works acceptable to God, and it is **grace that enables us to do the works** for which He rewards us. Our works in and of themselves have **no merit**. When we have done all that it is possible for us to do, we are to count ourselves as unprofitable servants. We deserve no thanks from God. We have only done what it was our duty to do, and our works could not have been performed in the strength of our own sinful natures.”

Ellen G. White, *Selected Messages*, Book 3, p. 200.

# GALATIANS 5:5-6



“For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.

“For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.”

# REVELATION 14:9, 12



“And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand,

“Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.”

# EZEKIEL 20:12



“Moreover also I gave them my sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the LORD that sanctify them.”

# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH

## MORE THAN THE REFORMERS TAUGHT

“God has opened to us our strength, and we need to know something about it and be prepared for the time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation. But here is our strength, Christ our righteousness. Let us ask Isaiah who is to be our strength. Well, he answers, and it comes echoing down along the lines to our time: ‘For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given...his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.’ (Isaiah 9:6.) Is not that enough for us? Cannot we cover ourselves all over with it? Do we need any of our own self esteem? No, we cannot have that. We must hide in Christ, and we can hide in the mighty strength of Israel's God.”

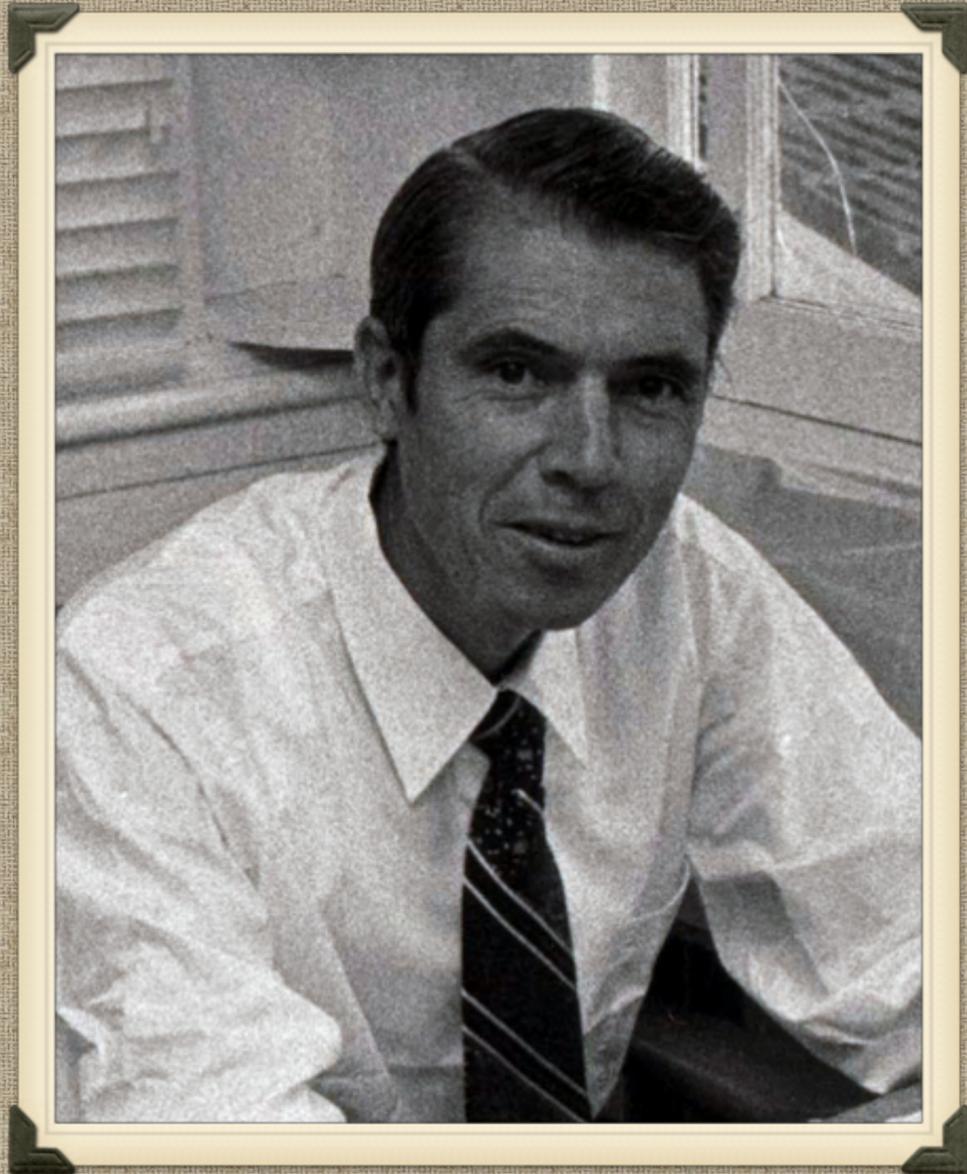
Ellen White, *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 6, p. 9.

# TWO RIVERS OF THOUGHT FLOWING OUT FROM THE 1888 ERA



# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH

## ONLY WHAT THE REFORMERS TAUGHT?



Desmond Ford

“Desmond Ford “[Question:] Some have affirmed that the theology of preachers E. J. Waggoner and A. T. Jones of the nineteenth century was an advance upon Reformation theology. Do you agree? ... [Answer:] Preachers Waggoner and Jones at the famous Minneapolis Conference of 1888 had the first gleamings of the light which irradiated the Roman world in the first century, Europe in the sixteenth, ... **Unfortunately, neither man was clear on other important points such as the distinction between justification and sanctification**”

Desmond Ford, *Australian Signs of the Times*, Feb. 1978, p. 30.

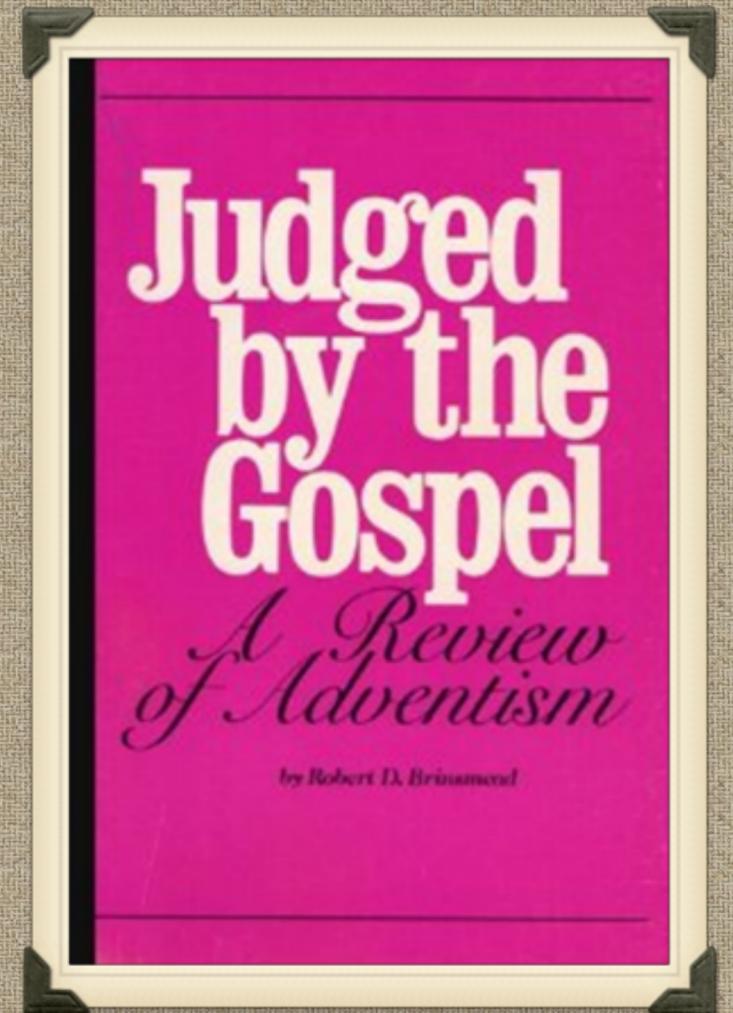
# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH ONLY WHAT THE REFORMERS TAUGHT?

“At special periods in our history the gospel has struggled to break through to the Adventist community. The year 1888 marked such a period. ... Waggoner had light on justification for the Adventist community. **But better material on justification by faith could be found among Protestant scholars of his day**”

Robert Brinsmead, *Judge by the Gospel: A Review of Adventism* [1980], pp. 14-15.

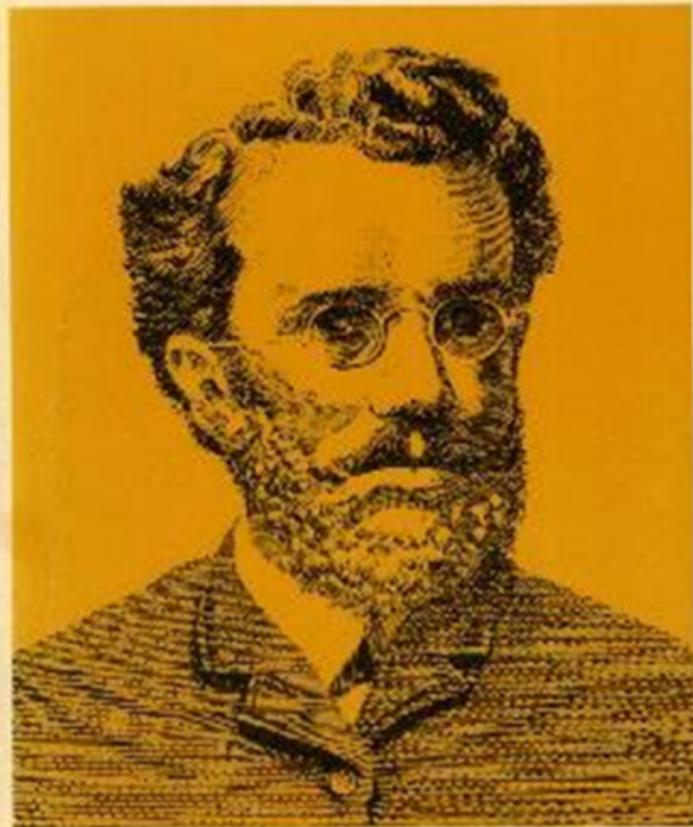


Robert Brinsmead



# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH ONLY WHAT THE REFORMERS TAUGHT?

## ELLET JOSEPH WAGGONER: The Myth and the Man



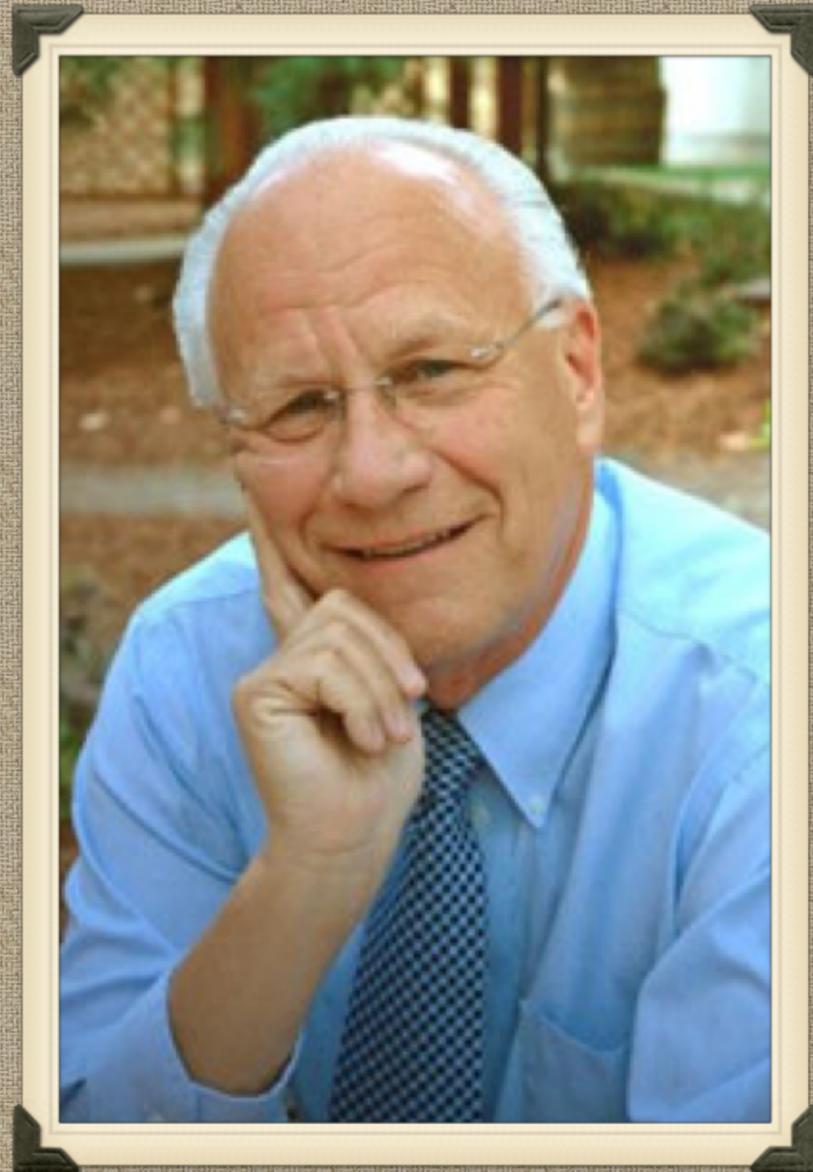
by David P. McMahan

“E. J. Waggoner had not fully recovered the Protestant message of justification by faith by 1886. Much less had he recovered Paul’s message of justification . . . . If God used Waggoner to bring light on the gospel to the church, then God was not shining the full blaze of **even the imperfect Reformation light on the Adventist community**. Those who compare Waggoner’s early gropings after the gospel with the **clear doctrine of justification propounded by the best nineteenth-century Protestant scholars** will be startled.”

David McMahan, *Ellet Joseph Waggoner: The Myth and the Man* [1979], p. 63.

# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH

## ONLY WHAT THE REFORMERS TAUGHT?



George R. Knight

“The genius of [Jones’ and Waggoner’s] 1888 message was that they had combined the two halves of Revelation 14:12. They not only taught the commandments of God but they preached the **doctrine of faith that the holiness preachers had proclaimed.** Thus, from Ellen White’s perspective, the importance of the 1888 message was not some special Adventist doctrine of justification by faith ... rather it was the reuniting of Adventism with **basic Christian beliefs on salvation.** (cont.)

# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH

## ONLY WHAT THE REFORMERS TAUGHT

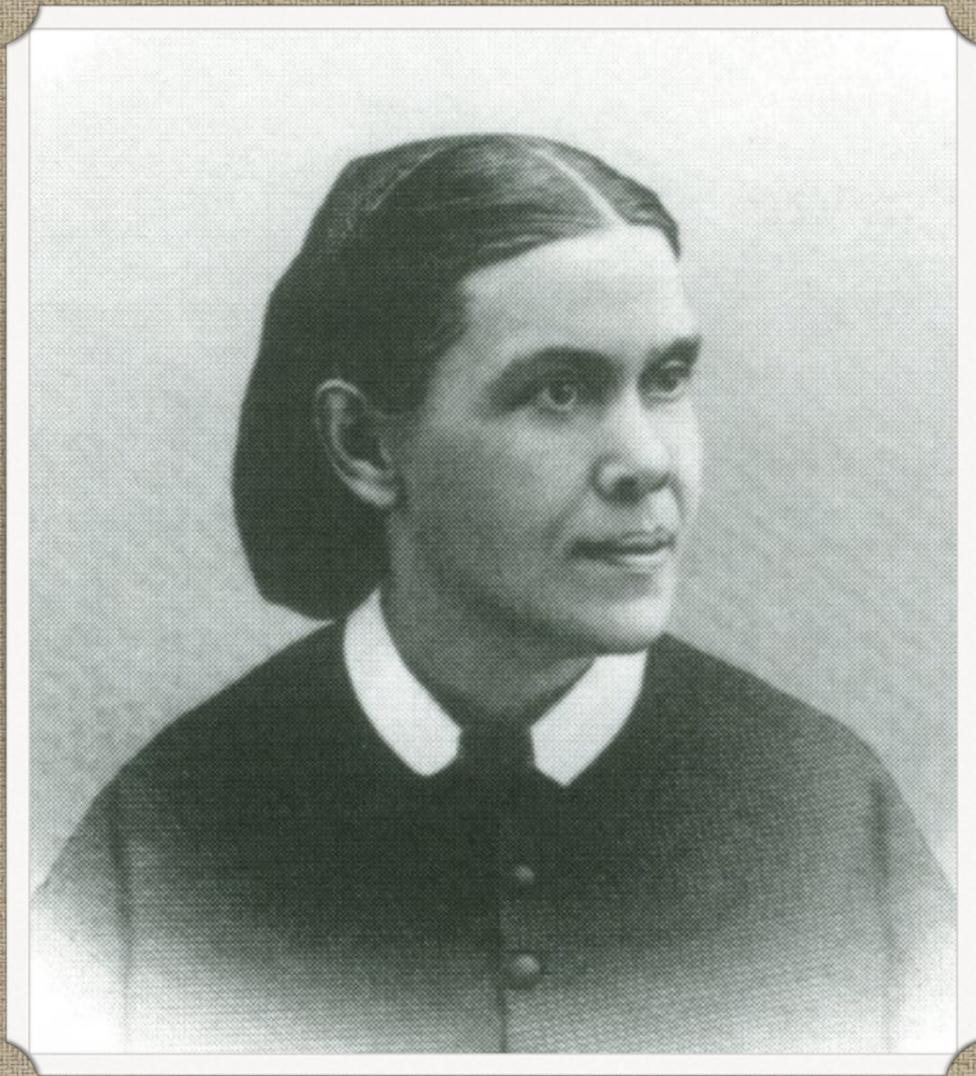
“[J]ustification by faith (an evangelical belief that Adventists have not been able to improve upon).” “Thus Waggoner and Mrs. White were in harmony on the fact that the doctrine of justification by faith he set forth, far from being some new understanding of justification, was the belief in justification neglected by Adventists but quite in harmony with ... **the nineteenth-century holiness preachers.** ... The two men had brought together the great truths of Adventism centering on the commandments of God and **the great truth of evangelical Christianity centering on salvation by faith in Jesus.** ...” (cont.)

# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH ONLY WHAT THE REFORMERS TAUGHT

“In essence, Mrs. White was claiming that Seventh-day Adventists at last had a complete understanding of the third angel’s message. ... That is, they had united those aspects of Adventist theology that were distinctively Adventist **to the great theme of justification by faith that, as Ellen White put it, was being taught by the holiness preachers** (RH, Aug. 13, 1889). The result was that Adventists since 1888 had finally been in a position to present the third angel’s message in all of its fullness and balance.”

George R. Knight, *A User-Friendly Guide to the 1888 Message*, pp. 108, 110, 113, emphasis original.

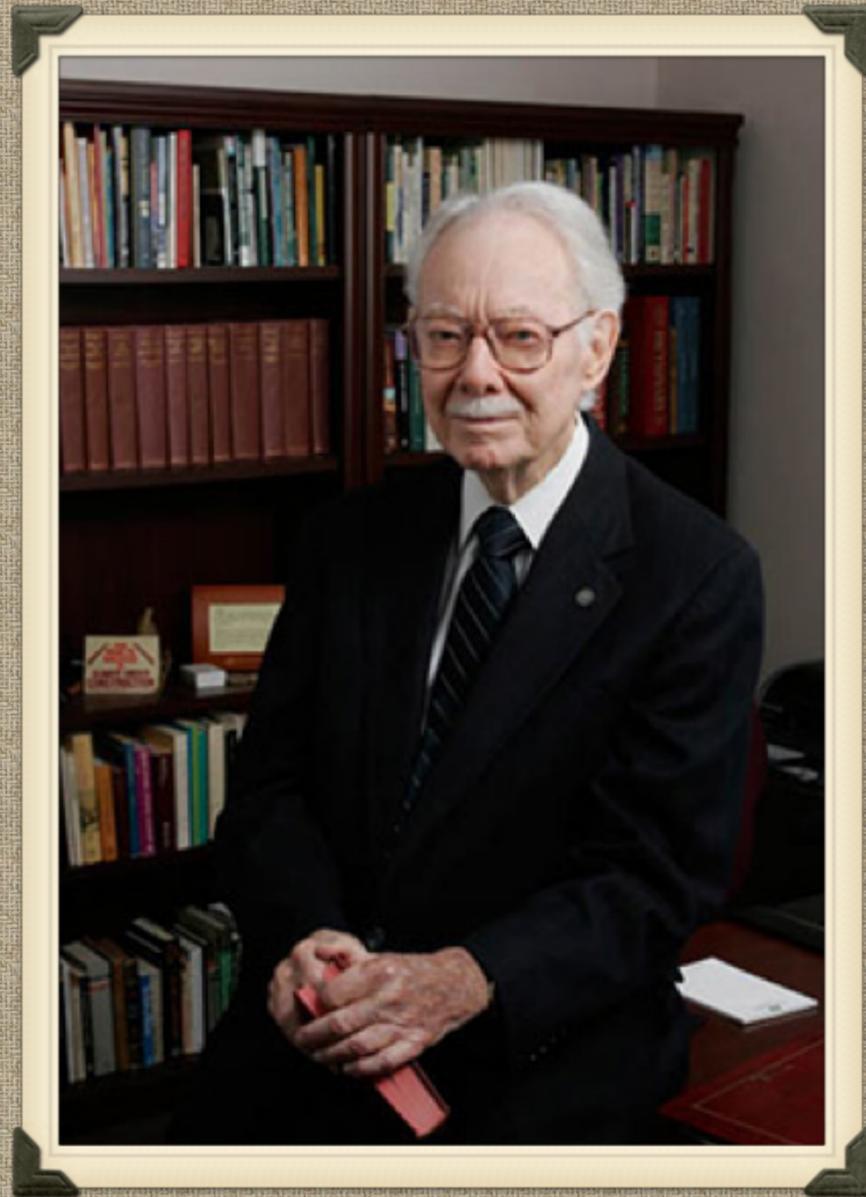
# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH MORE THAN THE REFORMERS TAUGHT



“There are grand truths, long hidden under the rubbish of error, that are to be revealed to the people. **The doctrine of justification by faith has been lost sight of by many who have professed to believe the third angel’s message.** The Holiness people have gone to great extremes on this point. With great zeal they have taught, ‘Only believe in Christ, and be saved; but away with the law of God.’ **This is not the teaching of the word of God. There is no foundation for such a faith. This is not precious gems of truth that God has given to his people for this time.** This doctrine misleads honest souls.”

Ellen G. White, “Camp-Meeting at Williamsport, PA.,” *Review and Herald*, Aug. 13, 1889, pp. 513-514.

# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH MORE THAN THE REFORMERS TAUGHT



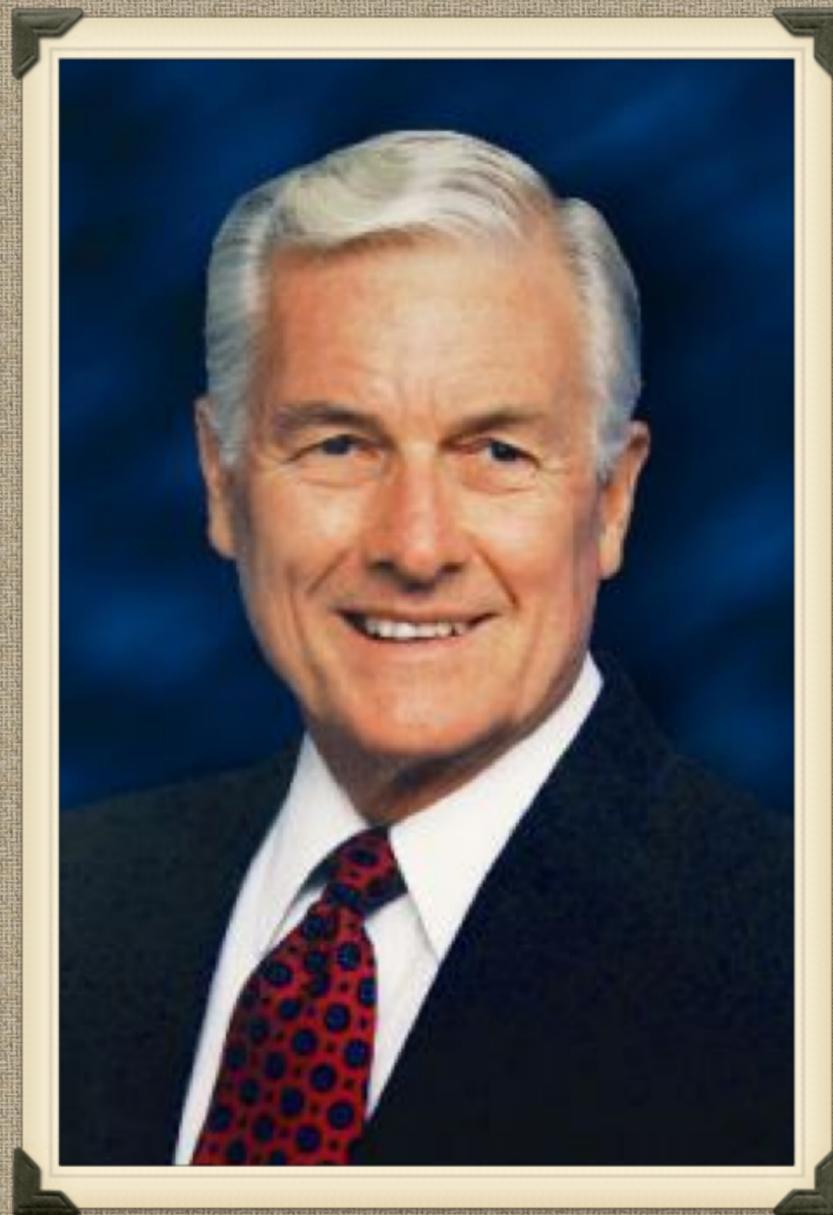
Kenneth H. Wood

“In our opinion the 1888 message was distinctive, and **included far more than Luther’s gospel of ‘justification by faith.’** It had a strong eschatological emphasis. It was designed to prepare a people for translation at the second coming of Christ. It called attention to the heavenly sanctuary. It emphasized the humanity of Christ, and declared Jesus to be not only our Saviour but our Example—One who lived the life of faith and showed us how to live that same kind of life.”

Kenneth H. Wood, “Editor’s Viewpoint,” *Review and Herald*, Nov. 18, 1976, p. 2.

# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH

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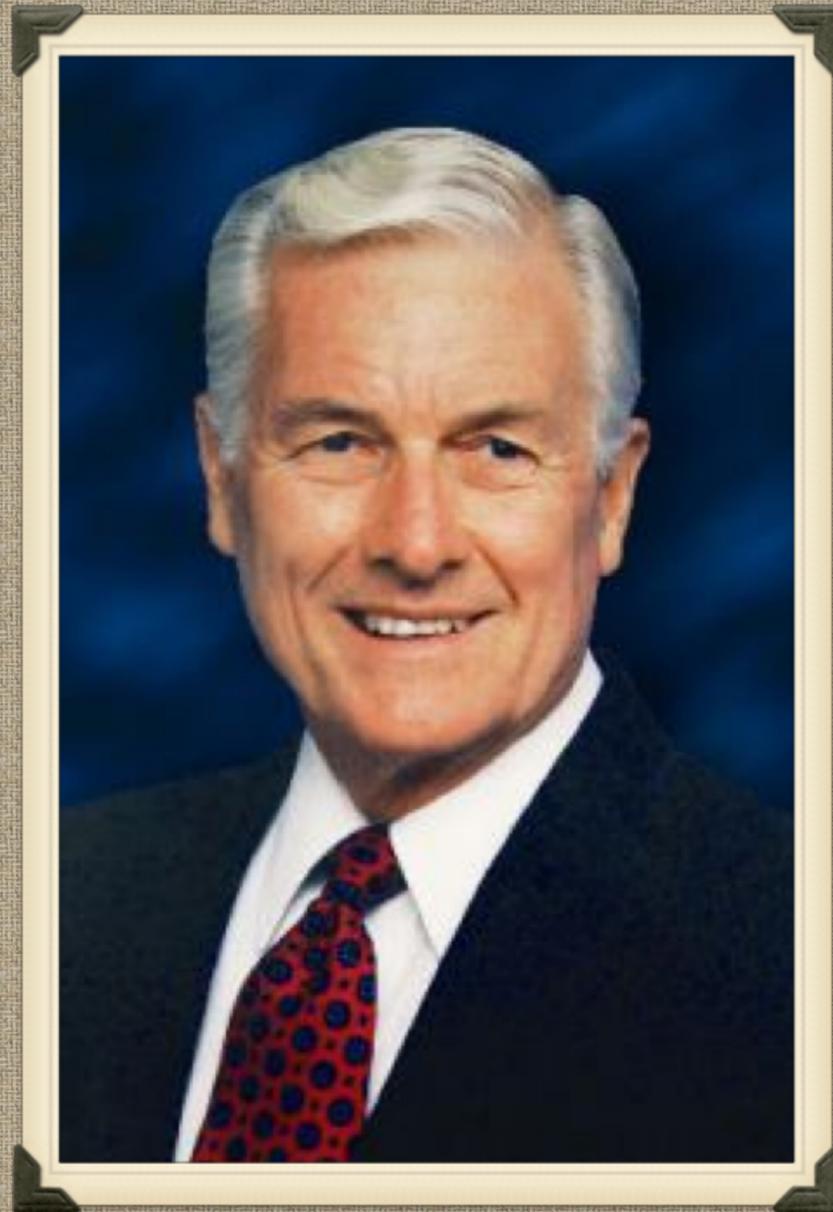


Herbert E. Douglass

“[Ellen White’s] messages clearly demonstrated that this ‘most precious message’ **was not a mere recovery of a sixteenth-century emphasis, nor a borrowing of a nineteenth-century Methodist accent, such as represented by Hannah Whitall Smith’s *The Christian’s Secret of a Happy Life*.**”

Herbert E. Douglass, *Messenger of the Lord*, p. 197.

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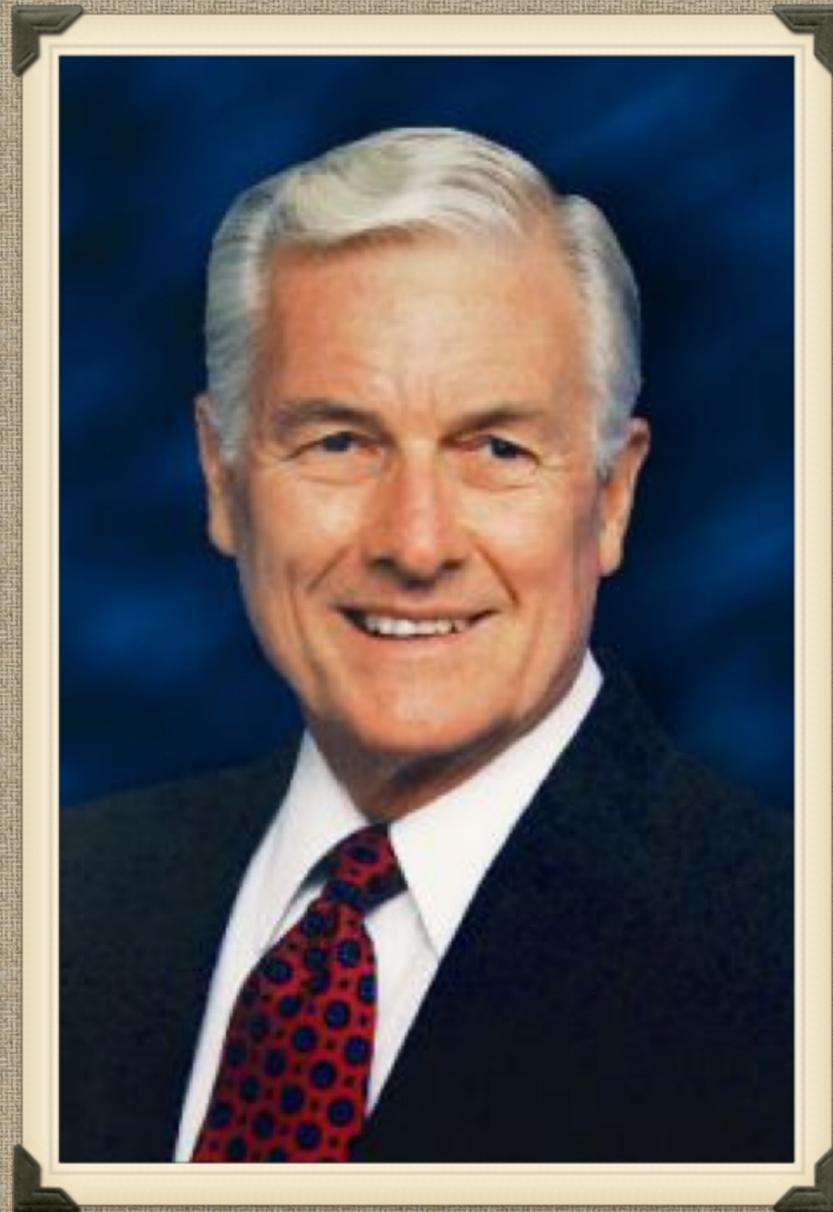


Herbert E. Douglass

“In the 1888 emphasis, linkage was further made between the results of a **personal application of salvation by faith and the closing work of Christ in the Most Holy Place.** ... The 1888 ‘revelation of the righteousness of Christ’ was only the ‘beginning of the light of the angel whose glory shall fill the whole earth’ (Rev. 18:4)”

Herbert E. Douglass, *Messenger of the Lord*, [1998], pp. 197, 198.

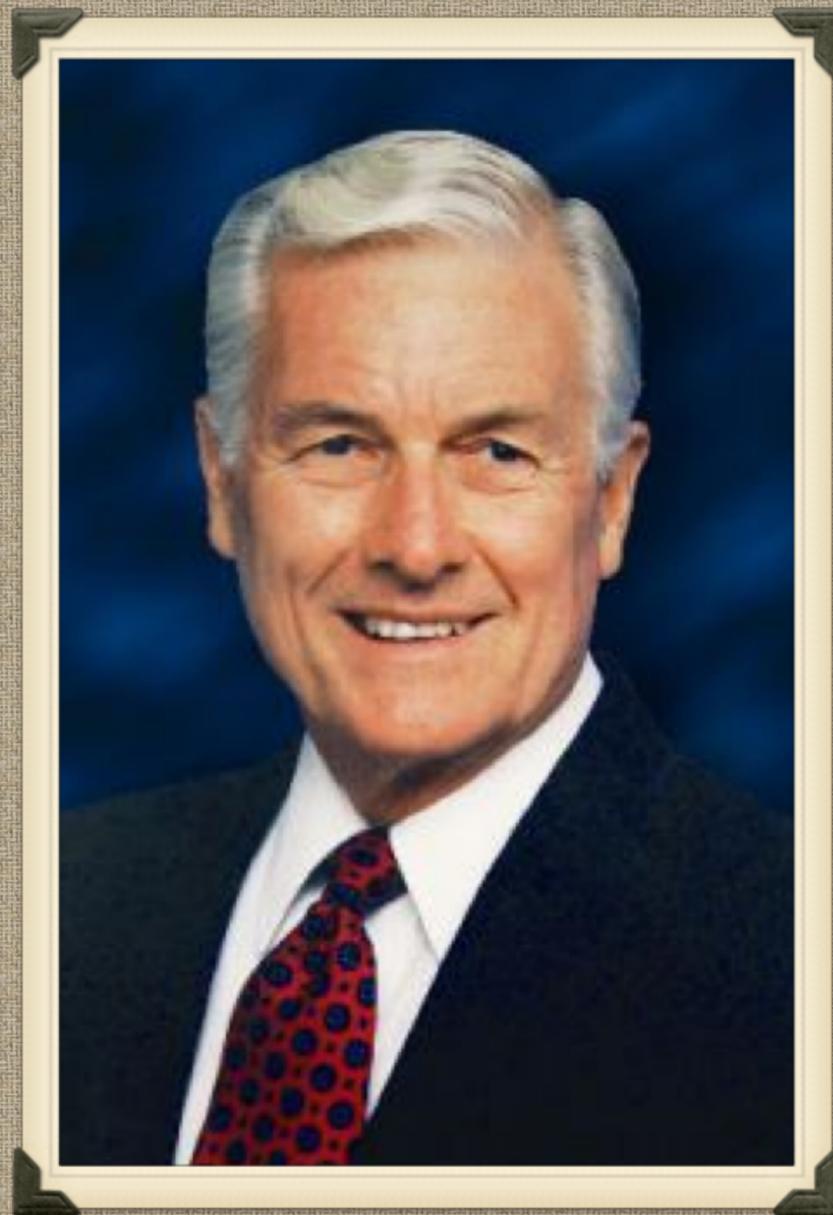
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Herbert E. Douglass

“The other rewrite has been the concurrent reluctance to review the theological detour that occurred [since the 1950s], when denominational publications and academic classrooms opined that the key contribution of the 1888 General Conference was to recognize that Adventists had **finally recovered the so-called emphasis of the Protestant Reformers regarding ‘righteousness by faith.’** (cont.)

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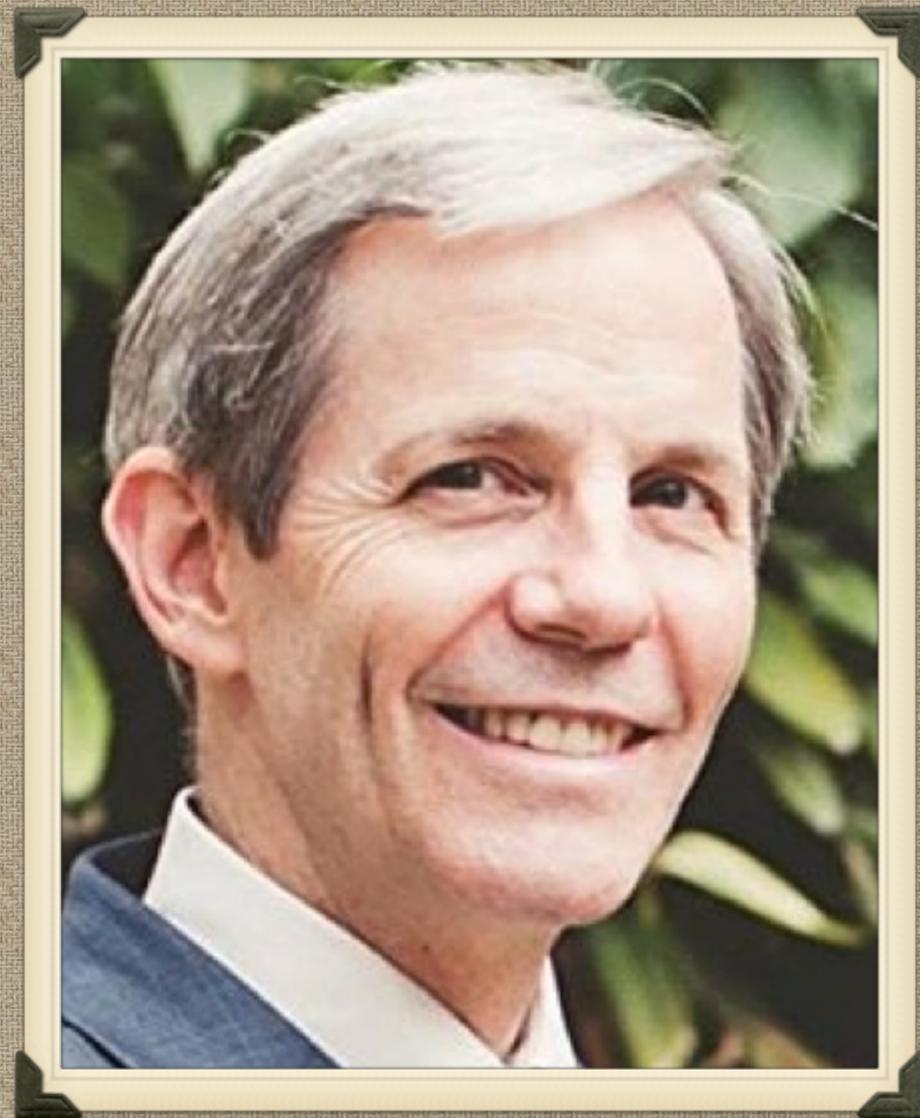


Herbert E. Douglass

**“Nothing could be farther from the truth!** This line of reasoning, wherever taught or preached, poisons any genuine study of that remarkable conference. Further, it has locked the door on what Ellen White called ‘a most precious message’—**a message that would prepare a people for translation.** Some day that door will be unlocked”

Herbert E. Douglass, *A Fork in the Road*, [Coldwater, MI: Remnant Publications, Inc., 2008], p. 85.

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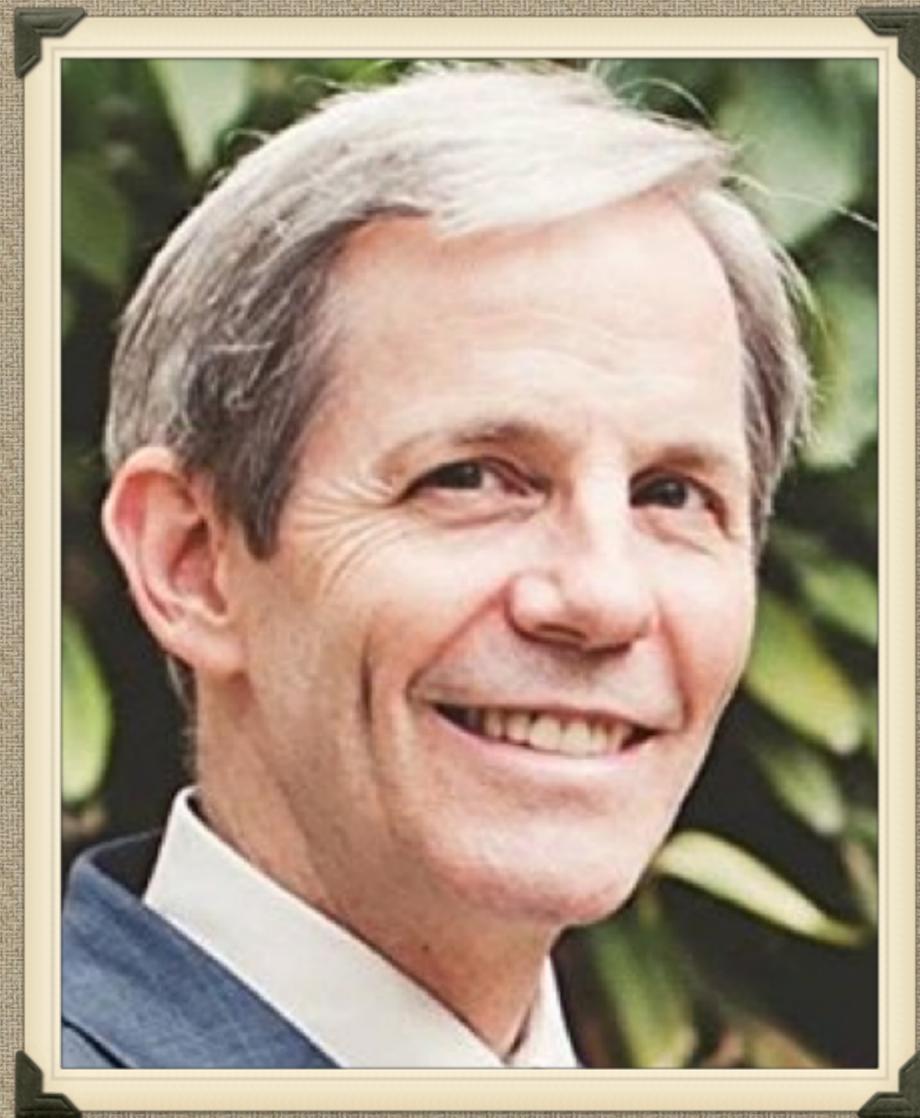


Clinton Wahlen

“While EJW accepted the fundamental principles of the Reformation, including justification by faith and the Bible as the final authority for Christians, he viewed ‘the Third Angel’s Message’ (which of course, included his own teachings) **as an advance beyond the days of the Reformation.**”

Clinton Wahlen, “What Did E. J. Waggoner Say at Minneapolis?” *Adventist Heritage*, Winter 1988, p. 36.

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Clinton Wahlen

“In addition, attempts to trace EJW’s theology to Reformation figures like Luther is also **without tangible support.**”

Clinton Wahlen, “What Did E. J. Waggoner Say at Minneapolis?”  
*Adventist Heritage*, Winter 1988, p. 63.

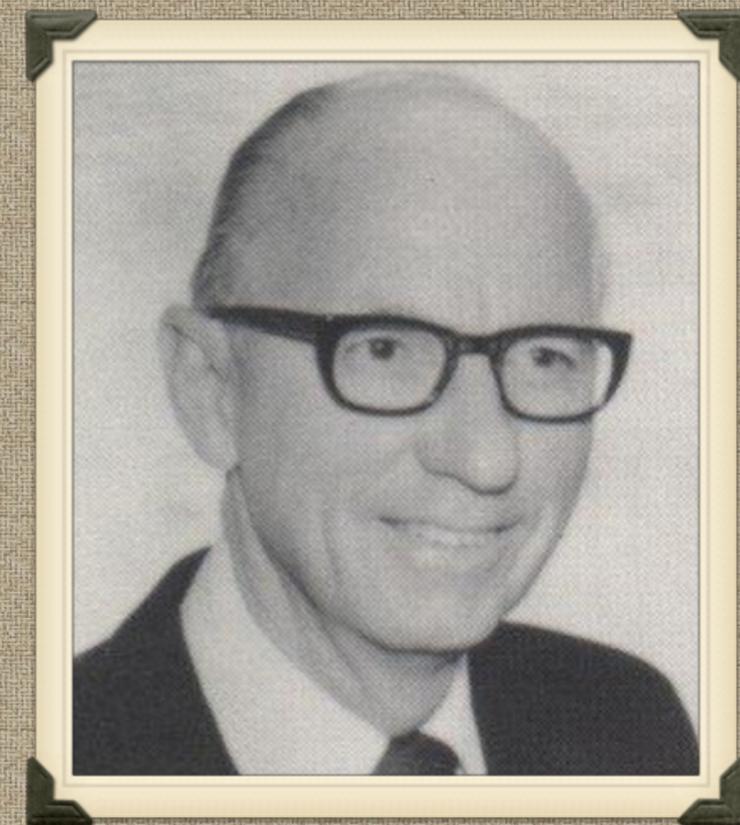
# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH MORE THAN THE REFORMERS TAUGHT



Donald Short

“Righteousness by faith since 1844 is ‘the third angel’s message in verity.’ **Thus it is greater than what the reformers taught and the popular churches understand today.** It is a message of abounding grace consistent with the **unique Adventist truth of the cleansing of the heavenly sanctuary, a work contingent on the full cleansing of the hearts of God’s people on earth.**”

Robert Wieland & Donald Short, *1888 Re-Examined*, [1987], p. iv.



Robert Wieland

# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH: GOD'S MESSAGE FOR A DYING WORLD



# RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH FOREMOST AMONG SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS



“Of all professing Christians, Seventh-day Adventists should be foremost in uplifting Christ before the world. The proclamation of the third angel's message calls for the presentation of the Sabbath truth. This truth, with others included in the message, is to be proclaimed; but the great center of attraction, Christ Jesus, must not be left out. It is at the cross of Christ that mercy and truth meet together, and righteousness and peace kiss each other. The sinner must be led to look to Calvary; with the simple faith of a little child he must trust in the merits of the Saviour, accepting His righteousness, believing in His mercy.”

Ellen G. White, *Gospel Workers*, p. 156.

**CHRIST OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS:  
A STUDY OF THE LATTER RAIN AND  
THE LOUD CRY IN ADVENTIST HISTORY**

PART 2

**THE KEY THAT UNLOCKS THE  
FUTURE**

MICHIGAN MINISTRY MEETINGS  
JANUARY 23, 2018

RON DUFFIELD