

## Seventh Day Adventist

### 7<sup>th</sup> Day Adventist – What they believe.

- **Summary Information**
  - Founded in 1844 by William Miller (formally a Baptist) who believed that Christ would return (or “advent”) that year.
    - Later the event was reinterpreted as a heavenly event rather than a physical return on earth.
    - In 1863 the church was officially formed.
  - Over 18mm worldwide and over 1mm in the US
  - Sacraments include immersion Baptism and Communion (which includes foot-washing).
  - Publishes material in 850 languages and dialects
  - Health Food business has annual revenue of \$500mm
  - Church services are performed on Saturday, which is the seventh day of the week.
  - The practice of homosexuality is condemned.
  - Ben Carson is a Seventh Day Adventist.
- **Scriptures** –
  - Considered inspired and without error and trustworthy in matters of faith.
  - Writings of Ellen G. White – an Adventist leader and prophet are considered “continuing and authoritative source of truth.”
- **God** - a belief in the Trinity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit as three co-eternal persons.
- **Jesus** – the eternal Son incarnate who is fully God and fully man, born of a virgin, died on the cross for our sins, rose bodily from the grave, ascended into heaven and will return in glory to judge all.
- **Salvation** – outwardly, Grace alone, Faith alone in Christ alone.
  - However, the church teachings often imply that outward acts of righteousness such as worshiping on Saturday, observe certain dietary laws and the abstinence of alcohol, drugs and tobacco.

### 7<sup>th</sup> Day Adventist – Why what they believe is wrong.

- **Summary Information**
  - There is nothing biblically wrong with foot-washing.
- **Scriptures**
  - Continuing Revelation from God is not supported by Scripture.
    - Rev. 22:19 And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.
- **God** – as stated by Adventists
- **Jesus** - as stated by Adventists
- **Salvation** does not require works. T
  - Salvation is by grace alone faith alone through Christ alone.
    - Salvation is exclusively a gift of God’s called – Grace. No works are involved.

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- The church states that one is saved if one continues to be righteous until the end of their lives.
- From the official web site....
  - “When we accept God's grace and salvation, the Holy Spirit reveals our need for Jesus and recreates us. The Spirit builds our faith and helps us leave our broken lives behind.”
  
- After Physical Death
  - Death is an unconscious state (Soul Sleep). When Christ returns the righteous will be raised to life in Heaven on the new earth. The lost, after a 1000 years will be raised and then annihilated.

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- Salvation is not a process but immediate justification and regeneration through - Faith in ....
- Jesus Christ as the one and only narrow gate to heaven.
  - Acts 4:12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."
- Galatians 2:16 know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified.
- Ephesians 2:8-9 Even in the New World Translation, Salvation through faith not works is clear as follows:
  - “By this undeserved kindness, indeed, YOU have been saved through faith; and this not owing to YOU, it is God’s gift. No, it is not owing to works, in order that no man should have ground for boasting” (emphasis theirs). (NWT)
- Hebrews 9:27 states that man is to die once and then to face judgment. We will not have a second chance during the Millennial reign of Christ.
  
- After Physical Death
  - Soul Sleep is not correct. Upon death we will be with the Lord
    - As Biblical-Christians we are either alive on this earth or at home with the Father. Those that are not destined for Heaven will also be relocated immediately upon death (There is no Soul Sleep. Heaven and Hell are real, literal places.
    - However, our bodies will be resurrected at the end of the age.
  - Heaven is the one place for all who are saved.
    - There is a Heaven in existence now.

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- Hell – There is no such thing as eternal punishment or a lake of fire.
  - Hades and Hell are just the grave (Sheol / Gehenna). Presently everyone who has died is in Soul Sleep.
- Said differently, humans are mortal beings who can receive immortality through God's grace.

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- 2 Cor. 12:2a I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven.
- At the end of the age there will be eternal Heaven on earth.
  - 2 Peter 3:13 But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.
  - Rev. 21:1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.
- Hell is real and literal and is the place for those who are not saved.
  - Jesus spoke of Hell much more than he spoke of Heaven (see below on Scripture references to Hell).
  - Luke 16:22-23 "The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. In hell, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side.
  - There is no evidence for Soul Sleep
    - For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far;
    - 2 Cor. 5:8 We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.
    - Other verses include Luke 16:19-31, Matt. 10:28, 1 Thessalonians 4:14

## **Seventh Day Adventist**

### **Witnessing to a Seventh Day Adventist**

Focus on the aspects of our faith which are in common. Belief in the Trinity, the inerrancy of Scripture, the Sacraments, Jesus Christ, etc. It is very possible that they are our brothers and sisters in Christ, just with different ways of practicing their faith (foot-washing and Saturday worship). However, be watchful of works based theology, and the concept of Annihilationism.