



## The Two Gospels

**"According to your Faith—be it unto You."**

### ***THE TRUE GOSPEL***

Sin is a Choice

Christ came in our fallen human nature

Christ could have sinned but did not

Because He overcame, We can overcome through Him

We can overcome all sin now by God's grace

"Thou shalt call His name Jesus—for He shall save His people **from** their sins." The angel's Promise.

### ***THE NEW GOSPEL***

Sin is a part of us

Christ came in a special unfallen human nature

There is no way Christ could have sinned

We can't overcome even with the power of Jesus and the Holy Spirit

We can never overcome before the second coming

"Don't worry about sinning—Ye shall not surely die!" The serpent's Lie.

## **LAWRENCE NELSON**

The basic difference between the two gospels being taught in our church can be traced to the differing definitions of sin, as found in the Word of God and in the theories developed by men. The popular worldly gospel has crept into our church by, what theologians call the "original sin" dogma. This false gospel teaches that sin is a part of our nature so therefore we are guilty of sin because we were born into this world. Under this false gospel, no one has the freedom to choose to sin or not to sin. This power of sin guilt is so great that when one tries to resist sin, in the power of God, it is impossible.

This devilish philosophy teaches that Jesus could not have had our nature, because He would have been guilty of sin at His birth. Furthermore, it teaches that no one can ever

overcome sin until Jesus comes the second time and changes their human nature. It is impossible to become perfect, because it is impossible to follow God's instructions since people were born with the corruption of sin within them.

If you accept this false gospel, the great sanctuary truth, the investigative judgement, and the Three Angel's Messages of Revelation 14, all become insignificant. This New Theology teaches that everything was completed for man's salvation at the cross, and that all that God now requires of us to be saved is that we receive justification and a covering of our sins. Sanctification, they say, is a slow growth process in one who has no power to overcome sin.

In the light of the truths of the Bible, and the Spirit of Prophecy, if you accept this false gospel you will be eternally lost. God is willing to share His divine power with all that ask for it, making it possible for you to overcome sin and enter heaven where there is no sin.

### *Sin- An Action or Part of the Nature?*

To get a clear understanding of the differences between these two gospels, we need to see how the Bible defines sin. 1 John 3:4 says, "Sin is the transgression of the law." Therefore, sin is the breaking of God's law, which is an action. Since sin is the result of an action, rather than a part of our nature, as taught in the false gospel, we begin to understand the harmony that is expressed by all Bible authors regarding sin.

James says, "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good and doeth it not, to him it is sin." James 4:17. This scripture states that sin comes by knowledge that brings individuals to the realization of their need to make a decision and use the power of free choice that God has given them.

What brings the knowledge of sin? Paul wrote: "What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay I had not known sin. But by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet. For without the law sin was dead. For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died." Romans 7:7-9

Guilt does not come until there is a knowledge of the law, but willful ignorance is no excused. Jesus taught this in John 15: "If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloak for their sin. If I has not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin but now have they both seen and hated both Me and My Father," John 15:22,23.

"If light come, and that light is set aside or rejected, then comes condemnation and the frown of God; but before light comes, there is no sin, for there is no light for them to reject." *Testimonies, vol. 1. 116.*

"None will be condemned for not heeding light and knowledge that they never had." *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, vol. 5 1145.*

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For over one hundred years, the Seventh-day Adventist Church consistently taught that sin was the result of the action of choice; that before we become guilty of sin, our mind must consent to the temptation. This teaching does not disregard the fact that we all have a sinful nature, but that this sinful nature can successfully resist temptation when we come to Jesus and experience a rebirth through the re-creating power of Christ working in and through us.

With a clear understanding of this, we can better understand how Jesus was born with the same flesh and blood that you and I possess, yet He never once sinned. He always made the right choice, through the power of the Holy Spirit, by fully surrendering to this divine agent.

Jesus came to this world as Adam was after his fall. He was born with our sinful flesh, but not our sinning flesh. Because of this, He is our great example and if we follow His pattern of success, we too, may overcome through the divine power which He freely gives to the fully surrendered soul.

To substantiate this, I present to you the following quotations:

"Jesus also told them {the angels} that ... He should take man's fallen nature, and His strength would not even be equal with theirs." *Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 1, 25.

"It was in the order of God that Christ should take upon Himself the form and nature of fallen man, that He might be made perfect through suffering, and endure Himself the strength of Satan's temptations, that he might the better know how to succor those who should be tempted." *Ibid.* vol. 4, 115.

"This was the reception the Saviour met as He came to a fallen world... And took upon Himself man's nature that He might save the fallen race. Instead of men glorifying God for the honor He had conferred upon them in thus sending His Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, by giving Him a place in their affections, there seemed to be no rest nor safety for the infant Saviour. Jehovah could not trust to the inhabitants of the world His Son, who came into the world that through His divine power He might redeem fallen man." *Review and Herald Dec. 24, 1872*

"Through His humiliation and poverty Christ would identify with the weakness of the fallen race... The great work of redemption could be carried out only by the Redeemer taking the place of fallen Adam... The King of glory proposed to humble Himself to fallen humanity. He would take man's fallen nature." *Review and Herald Feb. 24, 1874*

"Christ stooped to take upon Himself human nature, that He might reach the fallen race and lift them up... [He] partook of our human nature, that He might reach humanity." *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 746-747.

But many say that Jesus was not like us, that He was not as we are in the world, that He was divine, and we cannot overcome as He overcame. But Paul writes, 'Verily He

took not on Him the nature of angels; but He took on Him the seed of Abraham. Wherefore it behooved Him to be made like unto His brethren." *Review and Herald* March 1, 1892.

We see from these quotations that over many years the servant of the Lord was consistent, in her writings, that Christ took upon Himself the nature of Adam after his fall.

*"And this is that Spirit of Antichrist"*

### *New Theology and the Antichrist*

In an article written by J. B. Conley, he shows how the teaching that insists that Christ came in the nature of Adam before his fall is connected to the antichrist. He wrote: "The Scriptures have placed the identity of antichrist beyond either guesswork or confusion. The Bible has clearly named the guilty one. John says that he denies Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. 2 John 7. Let this be the first mark of antichrist by which his identity will be placed beyond dispute.

"Far from denying the existence of Christ, the text suggests that antichrist teaches that Christ has come in the flesh if the Catholic Church is guilty as the Protestant Reformers claimed her to be, then her teaching concerning the nature of Jesus in His incarnation into this world as a babe will reveal it.

"Let us examine that teaching in the light of the text before us. The Bible teaches that Jesus was born into the world through Mary who was a direct descendent of Adam. By inheritance she partook of Adam's nature. Adam's nature was mortal and subject to death as a result of the transgression of God's will in Eden. His flesh was by nature that of the children of wrath. Mary partook of this nature in all of its aspects. She was a representative of the whole human race and in no way different from others descendent from Adam's line.

"She was favored among women only because she was the one chosen of God through whom the mystery of godliness was to be made manifest and through whom Jesus was to be born into the human family, there to partake of all the temptations to which Adam's race is subject. This was possible only as He would partake of the nature of Adam's race. Of this Paul says, 'For as much then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He also Himself likewise took part of the same;...Wherefore in all things it behooved Him to be made like unto His brethren.' Hebrews 2:14-17.

"If further evidence were needed, this same writer supplied it. In 1 Timothy 3:16, he records, 'Great is the mystery of Godliness: God was manifested in the flesh.' Here he says is the mystery of godliness. The ability of Jesus to come from heaven, suffer Himself to be manifest in human flesh, and yet to live sinlessly. This latter fact antichrist was to deny. He was to deny that Jesus came in a divine manifestation which brought

Him in all places of His nature to partake of the weakness of Adam's race. He would deny that Jesus came in the flesh, the same flesh as that of mortal men.

"On this first count, the denial that Jesus is come in the flesh, the Catholic Church stands convicted of guilt and thus is identified by the marks of antichrist. Through the teaching of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, that she was preserved from all original sin, they in theory provide a different flesh from that of the rest of Adam's race to be the avenue through which Jesus was incarnated into the plan of salvation.

"To state their teaching with authority it will be best to quote our evidence from Catholic authors. Our first proof will be from the pen of Cardinal Gibbons in his book, 'Faith of our Fathers', 203,204. He says, 'We define that the Blessed Virgin Mary in the first moment of her conception was preserved free from the taint of original sin. Unlike the rest of the children of Adam, the soul of Mary was never subject to sin.'

"Cardinal Gibbons has here clearly stated the teaching of the Roman Catholic Church concerning the sinlessness of the Virgin Mary. It is a teaching not taught in the Bible, but which has been introduced by Catholic teachers who claim to have authority even above that of the Scriptures in matters of doctrine. Here I would ask my readers, both Protestant and Catholic, to ponder carefully what this does to the gospel plan. It means that if Mary were born without sin and was preserved from sin for the express purpose of bringing Jesus into the world, then Jesus was born of holy flesh which was different from that of the rest of Adam's race.

"This means that He did not identify Himself with humanity. It means too, that Paul was all wrong when he wrote the book of Hebrews in which he declares that Jesus also Himself likewise took part of the same flesh as the rest of Adam's race and that in all things He was made like unto His brethren. Hebrews 2:14, 17. But above all this, if the Catholic teaching is true, then Jesus—not having come within reach of humanity by partaking of man's nature—cannot be the one mediator between God and man.

"Nor can we 'come boldly unto the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.' Hebrews 4:16. All this plays into the hands of the Catholic plan of salvation. It opens the door for the intercession of the Virgin Mary and the respective saints who form part of the Papal mediatorial system. And moreover, it places in the hands of the priesthood the power to usurp authority which God in the Scriptures has never delegated to them—that of being controllers of the approaches to the throne of mercy.

"In the Papal claim that Jesus was born of one who had been preserved from every taint of original sin and who, unlike the rest of the children of Adam, was never subject to sin, we find the first antichrist indelibly implanted. The Papacy certainly teaches that Jesus did not come in the flesh." *Australian Signs of the Times*, May 24, 1948, 46, by J. B. Conley.

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This is a most alarming accusation with profound implications for the New Theology that is being preached in Adventism. This is a doctrine of the antichrist that Christ did not come in the flesh. "For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist." 2 John 7.

Is it any wonder then that the servant of the Lord speaks of the Omega apostasy as being startling in its consequences? The New Theology links all of its believers with the antichrist. Dr. Ralph Larson wrote the following: "Since it is common knowledge that Augustine's doctrine of original sin is now being recommended for addition to the theology of the Seventh-day Adventist Church it would appear that a careful examination of that doctrine should be undertaken by all who share a concern for the purity of the Adventist faith, Major changes in our theology would be required by the addition of the doctrine of original sin because of the nature of God, the nature of the incarnate Christ, the nature of man and the nature of salvation itself are all involved in the Augustinian doctrine.

"Significant changes would be required in the cherished doctrine of righteousness by faith. The student may easily verify the close relationship between the concepts of original sin and the doctrine of righteousness by faith by asking advocates of the so-called 'New Theology' two questions:

Why do you believe that it is impossible for Christians to stop sinning, even through the power of Christ?

Why do you believe the incarnate Christ had to take the nature of the unfallen Adam rather than a nature like ours?

"The same answer will be given to both questions: Because of original sin. Since the corruption of original sin remains in all believers until they die, it is impossible for them to ever stop sinning, even through the power of Christ. And since the inherited guilt of original sin would have disqualified Christ from becoming the Saviour of the world, He had to be protected from original sin by assuming the nature of the unfallen Adam.: *The Word Was Made Flesh*, 330, by Dr. Ralph Larson.

We know that God's true gospel has nothing to do with antichrist. It assures us that absolute victory over sin is possible through divine power. "Abundant grace has been provided that the believing soul may be kept free from sin; for all heaven, with its limitless resources, has been placed at our command". *Selected Messages*, vol.1, 394.

Ellen White explains how this can be done. "Christ is willing to take possession of the soul temple, if we will only let Him. He is represented as knocking at the door of our hearts for admission, but Jesus never forces Himself upon us; He will come in only as an invited guest...In order to let Jesus into our hearts, we must stop sinning. The only definition for sin that we have in the Bible is that it is the transgression of the law. The law is far reaching in its claims, and we must bring our hearts into harmony with it." *Signs of the Times*, vol. 2, 363.

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Likewise Peter tells us to follow the example of Christ. "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow in His steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth." 1 Peter 2:21,22.

"Not even by a thought did He yield to temptation. So it may be with us." *The Desire of Ages*, 123.

"Humanity combined with divinity, does not commit sin." *Ministry of Healing* 180.

WE can be perfect in Christ. Christ commanded, " 'Be ye also perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.' Matthew 5:48. This command is a promise," *Desire of Ages* 311.

"None need fail of attaining, in his sphere, to perfection of Christian Character. By the sacrifice of Christ, provision has been made for the believer to receive all things that pertain to life and godliness. God calls upon us to reach the standard of perfection and places before us the example of Christ's character. In His humanity, perfected by a life of constant resistance of evil, the Saviour showed that through co-operation with divinity, human beings may in this life attain to perfection of character. This is God's assurance to us that we, too, may obtain complete victory." *The Acts of the Apostles*, 531.

And here is another precious thought. "The victory is not won without much earnest prayer, the humbling of self at every step. Our will is not to be forced into cooperation with divine agencies, but it must be voluntarily submitted...The will must be placed on the side of God's will. You are not able, of yourself, to bring your purposes and desires and inclinations into submission to the will of God; but if you are 'willing to be made willing,' God will accomplish the work for you." *The Mount of Blessing*, 142.

In view of such godly counsel, do not listen to any church leaders who would guide you into a path that leads to the antichrist. Keep your eyes and ears open and be on guard. Do not be surprised to find that this false theology is being promoted by men whom you once honored for their faithfulness to God's last day message. The day is already here when we must stand alone in faithfulness to the pure gospel or follow the crowds to perdition.

The true gospel teaches that:

Men have the power of free choice. God took a risk with His entire universe, to perfect a freedom of choice. This is why sin was permitted to exist. Forced obedience is worthless, and the gospel of Christ is built upon the foundation of free choice.

Man is not born with the guilt of sin within him. We believe the gospel of Christ that states that sin is the transgression of the law. Not until we have joined our will in active opposition to God's will,

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does sin exist in us. It is willful disobedience. The true gospel teaches that sin is our willful choice to exercise our fallen human nature in opposition to God's will.

Christ took the nature of fallen Adam. Since sin is a choice we make, therefore Christ could inherit our fallen nature without becoming a sinner. He could remain sinless because Christ's choice was always to obey God. Never did He allow His fallen nature to control His choice. At the time of Christ's birth, man's condition was not that of sinless Adam, for man had descended to the depths of sin after four thousand years. Christ could become man's Saviour only by assuming his fallen condition so He could bridge the gap between God and fallen man. Thus He can mediate for us before the Father since He has identified Himself with us in our fallen nature.

God loves to forgive and restore the sinner. The nature of God's justification, given to the sinner, because of the mediation of Christ, makes it possible for us to stand righteous in the merits of Christ and to be restored to God's image. But such justification can only take place when the sinner repents. There can be no repentance without conviction of sin, a sorrow for it and a turning away from it.

An individual can be comfortable about Christian perfection, when he is willing to let God work within his heart to overcome sin. This is possible when we trust God's power to overcome. The gospel of Christ makes it possible for sin to become repulsive so that we will have no desire to disobey God's will. Perfection does not do away with our sinful nature, but perfection is possible by the subjection of our nature to Christ as He surrendered to His Father. Thus it is possible to have a sinless character with a sinful nature. Such an experience requires agonizing prayer and unquestioning faith in God's promises.

I have chosen some thoughts to share with you, written by Dennis Preiebe, in this passage, he describes the New Theology, which seems to be an easy path to follow:

"It is an escape route from the daily battle with Satan. You can sit back and relax to enjoy your newfound ease because there is no more hassle, no more struggle. All you have to do is just believe, for Jesus did it all for you on the cross. He kept the law for you; there are no more dos or don'ts. Feel the excitement of this glorious freedom, for you do not even have to think about your sins. You can sin until Jesus comes because He has already forgiven you in advance. Come, celebrate! Express your freedom with rock music. Let the drums beat in celebration of your new discovery. Do not even think of obedience as necessary anymore. Forget that you ever heard of a sanctuary in heaven where Jesus is conducting an investigative judgement. Do not pay any attention to that little old lady called Ellen White who pleads for you to be sanctified as a fitness for heaven. Ignore all those passages of Scripture that warn you of a narrow road to

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heaven and few there be that find it. Keep thinking every moment that you are saved in spite of your unconfessed sins."

My friend, this is the road to eternal loss. If you follow it, you will find in the end only misery and the loss of what you value most—eternal life with Jesus. I must point you to the Saviour of the real gospel of Christ. Look to Jesus as He struggled with human nature just like you and I do every day. Watch Him pray by the hour for the mighty power of God. See Him struggle until His sweat turns to great drops of blood . Hear Him overcome evil with the words, "It is Written." Stand in awe as you see Him die rather than commit one sin. Follow Him into the heavenly sanctuary as He stands before His Father, and tells how He died for you and your sins and justifies you as though you had never sinned. Watch as He sends the mighty Holy Spirit that you have asked that you may be sanctified for heaven. Claim the victory that Jesus now offers as you read in Jude 24, "Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy."

Choose you this day Whom you will serve, as Joshua said in Joshua 24:15. Choose the gospel of the New Theology developed by Satan, which will end in death or choose the everlasting gospel of Christ that provides you with Christ's victory over Satan now and for eternity.