

Present Truth

Joseph Carty / General

Work as He Worked / Noah (builder of ark); Sodom and Gomorrah; Last Judgment;
Evangelism / Acts 17:30–31

There is a process in ministry to others. Jesus Christ first connected with people, then met their needs, then won of their affection, then taught them present truth. What does it look like to teach present truth today and to follow Jesus method?

Apocryphal Story:

There once was an agnostic farmer who wrote to the editor of SDA periodical, Review and Herald. He said; “In defiance of your God I plowed my fields this year on Sabbath, I disked and fertilized them on Sabbath, I planted them on a Sabbath, I cultivated them on Sabbath, and I reaped them on Sabbath. This October I had the biggest crop I have ever had. How do you explain that?” The editor replied: “God does not always settle his accounts in October.”

- Just because
 - Judgment doesn’t
 - occur instantly.
 - Doesn’t mean
 - it won’t come.
- The bible says:

- judgement hour.
- How do we relate to that???

Good News

Journal of Adventist Mission Studies, Vol. 8 [2012], No. 2, Art. 5

Growth Rate SDA vs. World

Growth Rate Graph

Non-SDAs Globally

SDAs Per Million

Growth Percentage By Decade

- Settled Pastors

Past 50 Years Growth Rate

- Satisfied?
- Lull us to sleep
 - secure and sleepy?
- Self-congratulations?
- Nebuchadnezzar

Daniel 4:30 **ESV**

and the king answered and said, “Is not this great Babylon, which I have built by my mighty power as a royal residence and for the glory of my majesty?”

- Dangerous times

Bad News

“There are more people on earth today who are not Adventists than there were a hundred years ago”

- Growth Rate better
- But still losing
- Maybe 2045
 - 1% total Population

Worst News

- Our Mission Field
 - US

11% Adventist in US.

- World Growth Rate 1%
- Global SDA Growth Rate
 - From 2.2% to 1%
- US Population Growth Rate 2.5 %
- SDA Growth Rate in US
 - 2.5%
- Good news
 - fastest growing church
 - in US.
- Bad News
 - we are not gaining ground.
- Our growth
 - mostly immigration
 - Both US Population

- And SDA growth
- Natural Born Citizens
 - Not producing children
 - Not producing souls

What hope is there of “finishing the work”?

Zechariah 4:6 **ESV**

Then he said to me, “This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the LORD of hosts.

Movement vs. Church

- The reason
 - such high growth rates.
- WE ARE NOT A CHURCH!

- We are a MOVEMENT!
- What?
- Churches:
 - Good Music
 - Good Food
 - Good Fellowship
 - Good Entertainment
 - Good Mood
 - Good Vibes
- Movement
 - Special Message
 - Must Share Truth
 - Must Grow
 - Must Evangelize
- Why?

Present Truth

- We have PRESENT TRUTH.
- What is that?
 - I'm glad you asked...
- Bible Study:
- Different Periods of Time
 - Present truth:

Matthew 24:37 **ESV**

For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

Luke 17:28 **ESV**

Likewise, just as it was in the days of Lot—they were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building,

- What was it like?

- Yes
 - Wickedness
 - Unprepared
- More...
- **Judgement Time**

Noah

- Serious Judgment
 - Do or Die
- Get on the boat
 - boat of faith
 - die in flood.
- Present Truth
 - you don't accept

- you are lost.
 - Physically
 - Eternally

Lot

- Fire Coming
 - Repent
 - Get out of city
- Leave or Die
 - don't look back.

Minority

- 8 people on ark
- 3 left Sodom

- Who is among minority here?
 - Who will
 - change priorities
 - seek and save lost?
- Not popular message.
 - Not many receive.
 - Not many preached.

An umpire named Babe Pinelli once called Babe Ruth out on strikes. When the crowd booed with sharp disapproval at the call, the legendary Ruth turned to the umpire with disdain and said, "There's 40,000 people here who know that the last pitch was a ball." Suspecting that the umpire would erupt with anger, the coaches and players braced themselves for Ruth's ejection. However, the cool headed Pinelli replied, "Maybe so, Babe, but mine is the only opinion that counts."

- God's Judgments here
 - May not be popular
 - But it matters.

Last Days

- Judgment Time

Revelation 14:7 **ESV**

And he said with a loud voice, “Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water.”

- Judgment HAS come.
 - Present truth message.
- You have a message
 - of life.
- World is dying
 - for what you have!

Amos 8:11 **ESV**

“Behold, the days are coming,” declares the Lord God,

“when I will send a famine on the land—

not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water,
but of hearing the words of the LORD.

- There is a famine
 - Biblical Illiteracy.
- Spiritual Blindness
 - Blind Guides
 - leading the blind.

Hosea 4:6 ESV

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge;

because you have rejected knowledge,

I reject you from being a priest to me.

And since you have forgotten the law of your God,

I also will forget your children.

- The message for this time
 - **PRESENT TRUTH!**

- World is ignorant
 - carnal security
- What will you do about it?
- Moments of Truth
 - Noah
 - Lot
 - Cain and Able
 - true worship
 - Passover
 - blood on door post
 - Mount Carmel
 - Yaweh or Baal?
 - Joshua
 - “Choose this day”
 - Jesus
 - “His blood be upon us and or children”

- **Today**
 - **3 Angels Messages**
- Never Comfortable moment
 - Never easy messages
- Messages of Warning
 - Appeals of Mercy

Testimonies for the Church, Volume 5 Number Thirty-Two—Testimony for the Church

The work which the church has failed to do in a time of peace and prosperity she will have to do in a terrible crisis under most discouraging, forbidding circumstances.

It happened that a fire broke out backstage in a theater. The clown came out to inform the public. They thought it was a jest and applauded. He repeated his warning; they shouted even louder. So I think the world will come to an end amid general applause from all the wits, who believe that it is a joke. - (*Soren Kierkegaard*).

- Are we not serious?

Ellen White

“running from house to house”f

But I’m and Introvert

- Let me ask you...
 - At beach
 - saw shark
 - kids playing.
- I’m shy.
 - I’m embarrassed.
 - Don’t want to hurt feelings.
- No!
- Why?
 - Life or death issue!!

- What about eternal
 - life or death?
- I'm introvert
 - like alone time.
- Can't be quiet.
 - Why?
- Jeremiah
 - Don't prophesy...
- **"FIRE IN MY BONES..."**

Before the judgment seat of Christ my service will not be *judged* by how much I have done but by how much of me there is in it. No man gives at all until he has given all. No man gives anything acceptable to God until he has first given himself in love and sacrifice. — A. W. TOZER

Advent Movement

- You are SDA
 - You pledged yourself.
- Share this message.
 - Message of love
 - Message of warning
 - Message of Life

Appeal

- Who is in the minority here?
- Who will change priorities?
- Who is willing to give all to save but one?
- Not okay with carnal security?
- Meet in office.