

TWO PRINCIPLES: DOES RIGHTEOUSNESS HAVE AN END?

CHRIST OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS: I

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INTRODUCTION

- Our theme: “Christ our righteousness”
- Consider what does “righteousness” mean
- Trace it through our Adventist history
- “Advent” (His coming): relation to righteousness
- Focus on Him: “follow the Lamb” (Revelation 14:4)

INTRODUCTION

- Kingdom righteousness: Matthew 6:33
- Kingdom gospel: Matthew 24:14
 - Final witness
 - The end come
- Relation to His coming
- What endures and what ends? Verses 12, 13

INTRODUCTION

- Syllabus of setting, timeline, resources: “Adventist History”
At www.APLib.org
Check <http://bit.ly/2ugDHh4> for the latest version of this document.
- Setting of the Advent Movement (pages 1, 2)
- 1831-1910 Timeline (pages 3-12)
- Summary (pages 12-15)
- Other reference material (pages 16-25)

THE BIG STORY

- Eternity past to eternity future
- Importance of knowing history
- The two principles: one eternal, one temporary

THE TWO PRINCIPLES

- Eternal principle and temporary principle
- Many ways the Bible describes the two:
 - Unselfishness vs. selfishness
 - Humility vs. pride
 - Giving vs. taking
 - The truth (about God) vs. the lie
 - Rock vs. sand
 - Stand vs. fall
 - God's kingdom vs. all earthly kingdoms (Babylon)



THE TWO PRINCIPLES

- The temporary principle had a beginning, and will have an end
- The great controversy is the battle between the two
- The end of the controversy is actually the end of the temporary principle

THE ETERNAL PRINCIPLE

- As “righteousness”
 - Our need: Isaiah 64:6
- Sourced and centered in a Person
 - Isaiah 54:17
 - Jeremiah 23:6
 - Jeremiah 33:16
- New Testament warfare metaphor & formula
 - Ephesians 6:14; I Thessalonians 5:8



THE TIME OF THE END

- The prophecies of Daniel and Revelation all lead to the end
- “The end” is not a point in time but a period of time
- It is a transition from the earthly kingdoms (temporary principle) to God’s kingdom (eternal principle)
- Daniel’s views of the transition: each introduced by “till”
- Time prophecies pointed to the **beginning** of the transition

THE TIME OF THE END

- The sanctuary showed the continual battle and its end
- Daily activities: ongoing battle
- Yearly activities: process to lead to the end
- Spring feast days: within Jesus' first coming
- Fall feast days: around Jesus' second coming
- Day of Atonement = final transition

TRANSITION PROCESS

- Focus on portion from the beginning until just before Jesus returns
- God's human agents in the process = Advent Movement
- Personal Creator
- Significant events at beginning

TRANSITION PROCESS

- New, contrary philosophical movements at the same time
 - Naturalism / Darwinism: no personal creator: macro-evolution
 - Spiritualism: creator/immortality in everyone: spirit over-emphasis
 - Mormonism: evolving Creator and creation
 - Christian Scientism: illusion of physical: under-emphasis of material
- Some merging occurring: evolutionary emergence

TRANSITION PROCESS

- Eternal principle: purity of His character; unselfish love
- In “the end”: “perfect love” 1 John 4:17, 18
- Temporary principle: counterfeit, parasite
- In “the end”: “lovers of self” 2 Timothy 3:1-5, 13 (see 1 Timothy 4:1)
- Ripening at the end: Revelation 14:15 (see Matthew 13:39)



THOUGHT QUESTION

- Which principle / motive is driving your life?

