

1888 Message & Controversy

Introduction
Universal Justification

1

My Journey

- ⌘ Early History
- ⌘ Wall Street Journal
- ⌘ The Search
- ⌘ The Discovery
- ⌘ The Second Discovery
- ⌘ The 1888 General Conference
- ⌘ History and Message

2

The Message

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 Commands of God. Many had lost sight of Jesus. They needed to have their eyes directed to His divine person, His merits, and His changeless love for the human family. All power is given into His hands, that He may dispense rich gifts unto men, imparting the priceless gift of His own righteousness to the helpless human agent. 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, and attended with the outpouring of His Spirit in a large measure. (TM 91.2)

3

1888 General Conference

- ⌘ The Issue: The Law in Galatians
- ⌘ President G. I. Butler
– “The Law in Galatians”
- ⌘ Dr. E. J. Waggoner
– “The Gospel in Galatians”

4

1888 Minneapolis Gen Conf Terrible Experience: Law in Galatians

- ⌘ I have been instructed that the terrible experience at the Minneapolis conference is one of the saddest chapters in the history of the believers in present truth. God forbids that the subject of the two laws should ever again be agitated as it then was... This question must not be revived. Letter 179, 1902, p. 10. (To C. P. Bollman, November 19, 1902.) {1MR 142.2}

5

1888 Minneapolis Gen Conf “Matchless Charms of Christ”

- ⌘ I have had the question asked, what do you think of this light which these men [A. T. Jones and E. J. Waggoner] are presenting? Why, I have been presenting it to you for the last forty-five years,—the matchless charms of Christ. This is what I have been trying to present before your minds. Ms 5, 1889, p. 10. (Sermon delivered at Rome, N. Y., June 17, 1889.) {1MR 142.1}

6

1888 Minneapolis Gen Conf "Incomprehensible Tug of War"

✳ I have spoken nearly twenty times with great freedom and we believe that this meeting will result in great good. We know not the future, but we feel that Jesus stands at the helm and we shall not be shipwrecked. My courage and faith have been good and have not failed me, notwithstanding we have had the hardest and most incomprehensible tug of war we have ever had among our people. {3SM 177.4; Nov. 4, 1888}

7

1888 Minneapolis Gen Conf EGW Endorsements

✳ **When Brother Waggoner brought out these ideas in Minneapolis, it was the first clear teaching on this subject from any human lips I had heard, excepting the conversations between myself and my husband. I have said to myself, It is because God has presented it to me in vision that I see it so clearly, and they cannot see it because they have never had it presented to them as I have. And when another presented it, every fiber of my heart said, Amen.--Ms 5, p. 10. (Sermon, Rome, New York, June 19, 1889.) {5MR 219.1}**

8

1888 Minneapolis Gen Conf Opposition

✳ **An unwillingness to yield up preconceived opinions, and to accept this truth, lay at the foundation of a large share of the opposition manifested at Minneapolis against the Lord's message through Brethren [E.J.] Waggoner and [A.T.] Jones. By exciting that opposition Satan succeeded in shutting away from our people, in a great measure, the special power of the Holy Spirit that God longed to impart to them.... The light that is to lighten the whole earth with its glory was resisted, and by the action of our own brethren has been in a great degree kept away from the world. {1SM 234.6}**

9

1888 Minneapolis Gen Conf Rejection at Minneapolis

✳ "The Lord has sent a message to arouse his people to repent, and do their first works; but how has his message been received? While some have heeded it, others have cast contempt and reproach on the message and the messenger.
"...One interest will prevail, one subject will swallow up every other,—Christ our righteousness. {RH, December 23, 1890 par. 19}

10

1888 Minneapolis Gen Conf Beginning of Latter Rain

✳ The time of test is just upon us, for the loud cry of the third angel has already begun in the revelation of the righteousness of Christ, the sin-pardoning Redeemer. This is the beginning of the light of the angel whose glory shall fill the whole earth. {1SM 362.4}

11

1888 General Conference

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. {LS 196.2}

12

The Message

- ✧ Justification by faith is made manifest in obedience to all the commandments of God
- ✧ It is the third angel's message attended with the loud cry
- ✧ The commandments of God and the faith of Jesus
- ✧ The Faith of Jesus was hidden

13

3rd AM & The Faith of Jesus

- ✧ The soul-saving message, the third angel's message, is the message to be given to the world. The commandments of God and the faith of Jesus are both important, immensely important, and must be given with equal force and power. The first part of the message has been dwelt upon mostly, the last part casually. **The faith of Jesus is not comprehended.** We must talk it, we must live it, we must pray it, and educate the people to bring this part of the message into their home life. "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." *Philippians 2:5.* {1888 430.2}

14

1888 MSC Concepts R.J. Wieland & Jack Sequeira

- ✧ Legal Justification
- ✧ Unique In Christ Ideas
- ✧ Easy to be Saved
- ✧ God Elects all men
- ✧ Must Resist His Love to Be Lost
- ✧ Post-fallen Nature of Christ
- ✧ Gospel is Unconditional
- ✧ Faith defined as appreciation of God's love
- ✧ Justification by Faith + Cleansing of Sanctuary

15

Refreshing Good News The World Restored

- ✧ "He took in his grasp the world over which Satan claimed to preside, and restored the human race to favor with God... In earnest appeals the cross *continually proffers* to the sinner complete expiation." {YI, April 16, 1903 par. 8}
- ✧ "The world, divorced from God by sin, has been restored to favor by the sacrifice of his Son." {GCB, April 8, 1901 par. 13}
- ✧ "By His wonderful work in giving His life, He restored the whole race of men to favor with God." 1 SM 343

16

Who Is Restored to Favor? Corporate Representation

- ✧ It was impossible for the sinner to keep the law of God, which was holy, just, and good; but this impossibility was removed by the impartation of the righteousness of Christ to the repenting, believing soul. The life and death of Christ in behalf of sinful man were for the purpose of restoring the sinner to God's favor, through imparting to him the righteousness that would meet the claims of the law and find acceptance with the Father. {FW 118.1}

17

Refreshing Good News Your Restoration

- ✧ As the Babe of Bethlehem, He would become one with the race, and by a spotless life from the manger to the cross He would show that man, by a life of repentance and faith in Him, might be restored to the favor of God. He would bring to man redeeming grace, forgiveness of sins. If men would return to their loyalty, and no longer transgress, they would receive pardon. {1SM 223.2}

18

Beyond Belief

Jack Sequeira

- ✳ "I believe the Bible teaches that God actually and unconditionally saved all humanity at the cross that we are justified and reconciled to God by that act (see Rom. 5:10, 18; 2 Cor 5:18, 18)." {p. 8}

19

By Nature We Are Divorced & Alienated from God sc43

"That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. (Eph. 2:12-13)

And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in [your] mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled... If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled (Col. 1:23-24)

20

Who Is Reconciled?

- ✳ To him who accepts Christ as his righteousness, as his only hope, pardon is pronounced; for God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself. {SD 239.2}
- ✳ Those who do not believe in Christ are not reconciled to God; but those who have faith in Him are hid with Christ in God. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." {SD 239.3}

21

Divorce & Reconciliation

- ✳ "God is the fountain of life, and we can have life only as we are in communion with Him. Separated from God, existence may be ours for a little time, but we do not possess life. "She that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth." 1 Timothy 5:6. Only through the surrender of our will to God is it possible for Him to impart life to us." MB 61

22

"In Christ" Conclusions 1888 MSC "Objective Truth"

- ✳ WHO IS "IN CHRIST"?
- ✳ "Chosen us in Christ from the foundation of the world" (Eph. 1:4)
- ✳ "If One died for all, then all died." (2Cor. 5:14)
- ✳ As in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive (1Cor. 15:22)
- ✳ **If all men are in Christ:**
 - **Conclusion:** All men are Legally Justified

23

Legal (Universal) Justification Ideas (So-called Proof Texts)

- ✳ All sinned, being justified freely Rom. 3:24
- ✳ The ungodly are justified Rom. 4:5
- ✳ The resurrection confirms the justification of all for whom Christ died Rom. 4:25
- ✳ His Blood justifies all for whom He died Rom. 5:9
- ✳ God reconciled all His enemies to Himself Rom. 5:10
- ✳ Adam condemned all men; Christ justified all men Rom. 5:16, 18

24

Your Paradigm?

※ All sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace..” (Rom. 3:23-24)

※ Popular pastor in Michigan
– 1) All justified by grace → Universal Justif.
– 2) Come to Jesus → Justified by faith

※ Context: “For there is no difference”

25

Righteousness & the Faith of Jesus Romans 3:21-24

3:21 But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;

3:22 Even the righteousness of God [which is] by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

3:24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

26

Who Is Justified Freely?

※ “Justified freely **thru the redemption which is in Christ Jesus**” Rom. 3:24

※ **Answer:**

※ ALL who believe (Jews & Greeks)

※ ALL who are in Christ Jesus
– Those who belong to Christ

27

Judicial Justification

Genuine Legal Justification

※ Pardon and justification are one and the same thing. {6BC 1070.6}

※ But forgiveness has a broader meaning than many **suppose...God's forgiveness (justification) is not merely a judicial act** by which He sets us free from condemnation. It is not only forgiveness for sin, but reclaiming from sin. {MB 114.1}

28

The Origin of Justification

※ “Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.” (Gal. 2:16)

29

The Gift Abounds

※ The Faith of Jesus that led Him to the Cross (His work of redemption) is the singular source of justification for mankind

※ This Gift (justification) abounds and is offered to All (Romans 5:1, 9, 15-16)

30

3 Phases of Justification

- ※ First, God accomplished a justification thru the faith of Jesus at the cross which is offered to all men and conveys the immediate benefit of probationary life.
- ※ "Adam's sin plunged the race into hopeless misery; but by the sacrifice of the Son of God, a second probation was granted to man." (ST, August 10, 1915 par. 12)

31

The Cross and the Offer of Justification

- ※ "Neglect this great salvation, kept before you for years, **despise this glorious offer of justification** through the blood of Christ and sanctification through the cleansing power of the Holy Spirit, and there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation." {TM 97}
- ※ Justification comes thru the blood of Christ
- ※ Sanctification comes thru sanctification of Spirit

32

The 2nd Phase of Justification Faith working thru love

- ※ Therefore being justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (Rom. 8:1)
- ※ "Justification by faith is made manifest by obedience to all the commandments of God." {TM 92}
 - "...by perfect obedience to the law is man justified. Only through faith in Christ is such obedience possible." {HP 146}

33

Justification & Gaining Salvation: A Joint Operation (Phil. 2:12-13)

- ※ "The work of gaining salvation is one of copartnership, a joint operation. There is to be co-operation between God and the repentant sinner. Human effort of itself is not sufficient. Without the aid of divine power it avails nothing. God works and man works." {AA 482.2}

34

Condition of Justification and Eternal Life

- ※ The gospel that is to be preached to all nations, kindreds, tongues, and peoples presents the truth in clear lines, showing that obedience is the condition of gaining eternal life. Christ imparts His righteousness to those who consent to let Him take away their sins. We are indebted to Christ for the grace which makes us complete in Him (MS 40, 1900). {7BC 971.9}

35

Justification & Obedience Imputed Righteousness Required

- ※ Those who enlist in the army of Christ must in all things submit to His authority and consult His will. Implicit obedience is the condition of salvation. God's law must be obeyed in every particular. It is our salvation to make His law our rule, His life our pattern, His glory our chief aim. {ST, November 15, 1899 par. 8}
- ※ But that which God required of Adam in paradise before the fall, He requires in this age of the world from those who would follow Him,—perfect obedience to His law. But righteousness without a blemish can be obtained only through the imputed righteousness of Christ. Through the provision that God has made for the forgiveness and restoration of sinners, the same requirements may be fulfilled by men today that were given to Adam in Eden. {RH, September 3, 1901 par. 2}

36

The 3rd Phase of Justification

- ※ After the investigative judgment concludes and probation closes (sins are blotted out), the repentant sinner is declared justified.
- ※ "They which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead..." (Luke 20:35)
- ※ "Resurrection of the just" (Luke 14:14)
- ※ "He who is just, let him be just still" (Rev 22:11)

37

Pronounced Just in the Day of God

- ※ Christ and angels are looking upon your work. They are measuring every action. Let your life represent the meek and lowly Jesus. Strive to do as Christ would do were He in your place. Let there be no disagreement between your measurement of strict integrity and the divine measure. True, pure principles must govern the life of every soul that shall be pronounced just and righteous in the day of God. {TDG 343.2}

38

1888 MSC & Justification Offer or Possession

- ※ "Christ as 'the last Adam' has reversed all the evil that the first Adam did. As surely as 'all men' were condemned by Adam's sin, so surely 'all men' have been *legally* justified by Christ's sacrifice.....But human unbelief can negate the justification which has already been given us." RJ Wieland, *Powerful Good News*, p. 83

39

The Offer of Justification

- ※ I have no smooth message to bear to those who have been so long as false guideposts, pointing the wrong way. If you reject Christ's delegated messengers, you reject Christ. Neglect this great salvation, kept before you for years, despise this glorious offer of justification through the blood of Christ and sanctification through the cleansing power of the Holy Spirit, and there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation. {TM 97}

40

Receiving the Gift Justification 1888

- ※ The Lord in His great mercy sent a most precious message to His people through Elders Waggoner and Jones... 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. {TM 91}
- ※ *Dikaosune* = righteousness / justification
- ※ Prepare a people for Translation

41

The Cross Purchased all Men Immediate Benefit = 2nd Probation

- ※ "We can understand the value of the human soul only as we realize the greatness of the sacrifice made for its redemption. The word of God declares that we are not our own, that we are bought with a price. It is at an immense cost that we have been placed upon vantage ground, where we can find liberty from the bondage of sin wrought by the fall in Eden. Adam's sin plunged the race into hopeless misery; but by the sacrifice of the Son of God, a second probation was granted to man." {ST, August 10, 1915 par. 12}

42

The Cross & the Sinner

- ✳ Places the sinner on Vantage Ground
- ✳ Provides the sinner with a 2nd Probation
- ✳ The Gift of Justification resides in Christ
- ✳ Legal Justification is offered to the sinner

43

When God Justifies the Sinner

- ✳ Justification Explained—1891.—Justification by faith is to many a mystery. **A sinner is justified by God when he repents of his sins.** He sees Jesus upon the cross of Calvary... He comes to the cross, which has been placed midway between divinity and humanity, and repents of his sins of transgression, because Christ has been drawing him to Himself. {3SM 193.4}

44

Retaining Justification

- ✳ God requires the entire surrender of the heart, before justification can take place; and in order for man to retain justification, there must be continual obedience, through active, living faith that works by love and purifies the soul. {1SM 366.1}
- ✳ It is by continual surrender of the will, by continual obedience, that the blessing of justification is retained. {1SM 397.1}

45

Emancipation Papers

Legal Justification?

- ✳ With His own blood He has signed the emancipation papers of the race. Jesus does not desire those who have been purchased at such a cost to become the sport of the enemy's temptations. {MH 89.3}
- ✳ For the 1888 MSC this is a legal acquittal for every soul.

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Emancipation & Provision

- ✳ I have found a ransom. I have made a way of escape for all the perishing. I have your emancipation papers provided for you, sealed by the Lord of heaven and earth. You may have freedom upon the condition of faith in Him who is able to save unto the uttermost all who come unto God by Him. {ST, June 6, 1895 par. 8}

47

Provision & Offer

- ✳ Accept Christ as your Saviour. Make Him your friend. Take the offered salvation, and place yourself wholly on the Lord's side. Every member of your family should now consecrate himself to the service of God. Do not disband, but draw together. Depend on Christ alone for your salvation. {19MR 36.5}

48

Beyond Belief

Jack Sequeira

※ "The second view, Arminianism, holds that on the cross Christ obtained salvation for all humanity, but that this salvation is only a provision; a person must believe and repent for the provision to become a reality.... I believe that the Bible teaches that God actually and unconditionally saved all humanity at the cross so that we are justified and reconciled to God by that act." (*Beyond Belief*, p 8)

49

Provision of Salvation

※ Will you accept the great provision of salvation, and through the merits of the Infinite Sacrifice made in your behalf, become a partaker of the divine nature? God has given His only-begotten Son, that through His shame, suffering, and death, you might have glory, honor, and immortality.—Signs of the Times, June 15, 1891. {TDG 175.2}

50

Provision in Eden

※ These brothers [Cain & Abel] had been instructed in regard to the provision for the salvation of the human race. They were required to carry out a system of humble obedience... by slaying the firstlings of the flock, and in the most solemn manner presenting them, with the blood, as an offering to God. Thus they were ever to keep before their minds the consequences of transgression, and the promise of a Redeemer to come. {ST, February 6, 1879 par. 1}

51

Salvation & Justification A Provision

※ Christ's offering was exceedingly abundant to reach every soul that God had created. It could not be restricted so as not to exceed the number who would accept the great Gift. All men are not saved; yet the plan of redemption is not a waste because it does not accomplish all that its liberality has provided for. There must be enough and to spare. {DA 565.5}

52

Christ, the Second Adam

- ※ 2nd Adam
 - A new humanity united with Divinity
- ※ Legal justification = Corporately In Christ
- ※ Only as we surrender in faith

53

Jones & Waggoner on Justification & Righteousness

※ Will you let the sins go now, this moment; and take the righteousness which He is set forth purposely to give and which He now, this moment, freely gives? "Being justified freely." "Being" is present tense. "Was" is past; "shall be" is future; but "being" is present. Therefore **the Lord says to you and of you who believe in Jesus**. "Being [now, at this moment] justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus . . . through the forbearance of God." {ATJ, LBTW 7} = RH, Nov 10, 1896

54

Waggoner & All Freely Justified Romans 3:24

- * "Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus." Rom. iii. 24. Remember that to justify means to make one a doer of the law, and then read the passage again: "Being made a doer of the law freely, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus." The redemption that is in Christ Jesus is the worthiness or the purchasing power of Christ. He gives Himself to the sinner; His righteousness is given to the one who has sinned, and who believes. That does not mean that Christ's righteousness which He did eighteen hundred years ago is laid up for the sinner, to be simply credited to his account, but it means that His present, active righteousness is given to that man. Christ comes to live in that man who believes, for He dwells in the heart by faith. So the man who was a sinner is transformed into a new man, having the very righteousness of God. {EJW, 8PT21} 1892

55

A.T. Jones on Romans 4:5

- * But can the Lord justify the ungodly? Yes, Christ came to justify sinners, so read carefully this verse, Romans 4:5. The first thing then to learn is that we are ungodly and confess it, and God will count him righteous. The Lord cannot justify and save any who cannot see their true condition. There is joy in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine that need no repentance. The Saviour came not to call righteous but sinners to repentance, then none but sinners will be saved. Now Romans 4:16, "therefore it is of faith." Why? That it might be by grace, "to the end that it may be sure." {ATJ, ATJKS #2, "The Sermon on Righteousness," Sun., May 12, 1889 2.1}

56

Waggoner on Romans 5:18

- * Christ must be set forth as the only means of life, and that that life comes by faith, which is the only means of righteousness, that men may acknowledge "as by the offense of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men to justification of life." That life is the life of Christ. Those that are justified will be saved, and those that are not justified will be lost, and the only way that we can be justified is by the life of Christ. {EJW, GCB91}

57

Waggoner in 1900

- * "God has wrought out salvation for every man, *and has given it to him;* but the majority spurn it and throw it away. The judgment will reveal the fact that full salvation was given to every man and that the lost have deliberately thrown away their birthright possession." {Glad Tidings, p. 14}

58

Salvation in Your Hands 1888 MSC

- * "God has taken the initiative to save 'all men,' but humans have the power, the freedom of will, to thwart and veto what Christ has already accomplished for them and throw away what was actually placed in their hands." RJ Wieland, Powerful Good News p. 81

59

Gift Offered with Conditions

- * "In the parable the pearl is not represented as a gift. The merchantman bought it at the price of all that he had. Many question the meaning of this, since Christ is represented in the Scriptures as a gift. He is a gift, but only to those who give themselves, soul, body, and spirit, to Him without reserve." {COL 116}
- * The same thing said of Christ must be said of salvation and justification.

60

The Third Angel's Message

Justification by Faith

- * Several have written to me, inquiring if the **message of justification by faith** is the third angel's message, and I have answered, "**It is the third angel's message in verity.**" {RH, April 1, 1890 par. 8}

81

The Third Angel's Message

- * The burden of the warning now to come to the people of God, nigh and afar off, is the third angel's message. And those who are seeking to understand this message will not be led by the Lord to make an application of the Word that will undermine the foundation and remove the pillars of the faith that has made Seventh-day Adventists what they are today. {17MR 4.1}

82

Contemplation of Calvary

Revelation 14:12

- * From a sense of thorough conviction, you can then testify to men of the immutable character of the law manifested by the death of Christ on the cross, the malignant nature of sin, and the righteousness of God in **justifying the believer in Jesus, on condition of his future obedience to the statutes of God's government in heaven and earth.** {RH, April 24, 1888 par. 15}

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Beginning of the Loud Cry and Latter Rain

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, and attended with the outpouring of His Spirit in a large measure. {TM 91.2}

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