

I Love You Henry Oliver

I. Introduction

A. I stand before you as the son of Jerry & Carol O'Donnell but also as a minister in the Seventh Day Adventist Church,

1. And they are hurting because their son is hurting and their missing their grandson.

B. I stand before you as the son-in-law of Bob and Sharon Yost but also as an Evangelist,

1. And they are hurting because their daughter is hurting and they are missing their grandson as well.

C. I stand before you as the brother to Tara Koch & Brian O'Donnell but also as a recognized pastor,

1. And they are hurting because their brother is hurting and they didn't even have chance to hold Henry Oliver because they were out of town.

D. I stand before you as the brother-in-law to Rob and Kristen Yost and Jason Koch (who couldn't be here for the sake of their kids) but also as a live online Bible teacher working for Hope International, an SDA missionary outreach organization,

1. And they are hurting because their brother-in-law and sister/sister-in-law are hurting and they are also missing their nephew.

E. I stand before you as a nephew to my aunts and uncles, whom I know love me but sometimes show it in a difficult way to accept some times, as well as a patient, friend, and other titles but I am ordained of God to bring a message to all.

F. I stand before you as a husband to my wife Lisa but also ordained of God to be the head of the house playing an active role and guiding us to doing things the way God instructed,

1. And she is so hurting for many but overall who simply wants to hold her Henry Oliver right now.

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G. And I stand before you as a father of, in order of age, Sam Hicks, who has accepted me as more of a father than her biological one, Sarah, Samantha, Tabitha, Julia, and Caleb O'Donnell, of which are not under my roof due to divorce, and of Rowan O'Donnell, the product of the love of Lisa and I, and of Henry Oliver, also a product of that love, as well as standing in the greatest role of all, parent.

1. And they are hurting because they don't like seeing their parents hurting they miss their brother very much.
2. And as Henry Oliver's father, I am also hurting oh so much because I miss my child greatly of which I had high hopes of training him in the way in which he should go hoping when he is old that he would not depart from it (Proverbs 22:6).
3. And I even had higher hopes of him walking in his father's footsteps and choosing to be a Seventh-day Adventist minister.
4. So don't let any prejudice interfere with this message and do give it the respect as if it were deliver by any other minister you may have respect for.

H. I also want to address very briefly why our family is a Seventh-day Adventist family and not any other.

1. Everyone claims their denomination loves Jesus, so I won't say, "So do we, even though we do."
2. Everyone claims how helpful and kind and considerate their denomination is towards others, so I won't say, "So is mine, even though it is."
3. The primary reason for remaining a Seventh-day Adventist is the Biblical adherence, and as one denomination recognizes such to be true, it adds to the confirmation that I made the right choice.

a) *Yes, many denominations claim it, but we can prove it:*

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(1) Perhaps the boldest thing, the most revolutionary change the Church ever did, happened in the first century. The holy day, the Sabbath, was changed from Saturday to Sunday. "The Day of the Lord" (dies Dominica) was chosen, not from any directions noted in the Scriptures, but from the Church's sense of its own power. The day of resurrection, the day of Pentecost, fifty days later, came on the first day of the week. So this would be the new Sabbath. People who think that the Scriptures should be the sole authority, should logically become 7th Day Adventists, and keep Saturday holy." Sentinel, Pastor's page, Saint Catherine Catholic Church, Algonac, Michigan, May 21, 1995

b) That means all other denominations may use the Bible but they are not scripturally sound.

(1) Does that mean God can't send good sermons to other denominations? Of course not. My parents heard a wonderful Catholic message on Saturday night.

c) So no, I am not a disgruntled Catholic and was just looking for a different place of worship.

(1) I was an altar boy all the way through college.

(2) I loved my church

(3) But I love the scriptures more

d) And why do I love the scriptures more?

(1) John 5:39 says, "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me"

(2) 2 Timothy 3:16 says, "All scripture [is] given by inspiration of God, and [is] profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness"

(a) These scriptures do not say to check the rules of a denomination

(b) We are not to check with our minister

(c) It is not how we have been brought up

(d) We're not even to be checking to see if we are just a good person and let everyone believe whatever they want as long as I can keep my beliefs to myself and believe what I want

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e) No wonder atheists are growing by leaps and bounds

(1) It used to be basically one church in town, the Catholic Church

(2) But when another person who loved the Catholic Church so much brought to the attention to the leadership how far from the Bible they were, he was met with great resistance for the leadership was more interested in power than doing the right thing just like the Pharisees of old were hungry to keep their position, especially in the eyes of the people and ended up crucifying Jesus.

(a) They said, "If we let him thus alone, all [men] will believe on him: and the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation. And one of them, [named] Caiaphas, being the high priest that same year, said unto them, Ye know nothing at all, Nor consider that it is expedient for us, that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not" (John 11:48-50).

(3) But when Martin Luther died, so many ceased to continue to get back to the Bible so the Lutheran denomination was born

(4) Those that continued on with another leader getting closer to the Bible, also ceased from continuing on when Wesley died and so was formed the Wesleyan denomination as well as the Methodists.

(5) But they didn't move forward into a new Biblical discovery of the only acceptable form of baptism is emergence, but even Baptists are guilty of not continuing on

(6) Today, denominations are born just because of a non-biblical fight and even over the color of the carpet

f) But I will never get the chance to teach my son, "Don't worship the denomination but do adhere to the teachings of the Bible."

(1) Now when I point such out, do keep in mind that not only Seventh-day Adventists will be saved, a belief many outsiders think we hold giving as a black eye by calling us a cult.

(a) The Bible is clear that individuals are saved and not denominations.

(b) In fact, there is even room for atheists to be in heaven.

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(c) However, it is equally clear that when truth is discovered, God wants us joining together, and not staying apart (Hebrews 10:25)

(2) Even I don't worship the name Seventh-day Adventist because to tell you the truth, there are way too many people signed up thinking they are saved because their names are on the books of the Seventh-day Adventist church that in the final day, they will be disappointed.

(a) This is why we don't associate with any local SDA churches, but rather have gathered our "church time" as Jesus intended as well as being fed by a conservative minister out f North Carolina via DVD and the like.

(i) Jesus said, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:20).

(ii) We do what is called home church.

g) So that means...

(1) You can keep your evolution,

(2) You can keep your comments that the Bible is full of errors,

(3) You can keep your opinions that people can get anything they want from the Bible,

(4) You can keep your modern thinking,

(5) And don't dare tell me that it's just a sperm and egg that came together to form Henry Oliver, that there were just dividing of cells, that there was just an embryo inside Lisa, that there was just a fetus in there for God says,

(a) "Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, [and] I ordained thee" (Jeremiah 1:5)

(i) If God knew Jeremiah like that, He knew Henry Oliver too.

(6) As for me and my house, we find only the Words of Scripture to offer eternal life and nowhere else, so that is why I feel so passionate about the Bible

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4. Now no doubt so far you have heard things that strike you strangely and you will hear a lot more, but I don't want you just dismissing it as, "So that is what Seventh-day Adventists believe"

a) *God tells us, that we are to be "rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15).*

(1) That verse means there are wrong ways, and just like taking a multiple choice test that provides no argument with the teacher to get credit for the way one saw a question, there is only one way to score a 100% and that is to get all of the answers correct.

(2) Further, if you believe, "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16), then believe me that God so loved us that He would not command us to search the scriptures for eternal life and just let everything to confusion, so what is the right way?

(a) *First, "God is not [the author] of confusion" (1 Corinthians 14:33).*

(b) *Second, "the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32), meaning that there are not multiple truths and that there is only one exact truth to be discovered*

(i) *Besides, God is going to allow many people to "perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved" (2 Thessalonians 2:10), so if it doesn't matter what denomination we belong to, if we don't think there is a single truth, then I ask, do we serve a God that loves us but is willing to leave us in darkness about what is truth so we can be destroyed? NO!*

(c) *Third, "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good" (1 Thessalonians 5:21), which means, we are to prove all the verses that support a belief as well as be able to explain or prove properly those verses that don't seem to support the belief, and if we find what we believe is just not defended by the opposite view, it's not the Bible contradicting itself, maybe it is the belief we hold.*

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(d) Finally, "Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? [them that are] weaned from the milk, [and] drawn from the breasts. For precept [must be] upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, [and] there a little" (Isaiah 28:9-10)

b) Now I share this because I have a comforting message that

(1) I don't want you thinking Jerry O'Donnell thought this was just good words to share

(2) I don't want you thinking a minister gathered some verses to share

(3) But, I want you to think this to be as God talking to you right now from His Word using me as the audible vehicle

(4) And the titles I shared are to let you know that if you have any questions about any matter, please don't hesitate to ask me and even have a Bible study with me, including online

II. The message

A. What will this message do?

1. Will it stop the hurt and tears?

a) No

b) *It only happens when we all get to heaven: "God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away" (Revelation 21:4)*

c) *Crying, hurt, pain is all natural and should be exercised at will*

(1) Besides, look at the Son of God! "When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews also weeping which came with her, he groaned in the spirit, and was troubled, And said, Where have ye laid him? They said unto him, Lord, come and see. Jesus wept. Then said the Jews, Behold how he loved him!" (John 11:33-36)

(a) *So to cry is manly; to be affected in the gut is manly; in fact, it shows how much love was expressed*

2. I'm hoping to simply provide a godly reason to this tragedy

B. So, Why did God allow this?

1. To blame God is a natural thing to do, however, keep in mind that though God has the power to intervene, He can't continue to work every possible miracle or we would get comfortable down here and not want heaven

a) Jesus came the first time at the darkest hour, and Jesus is predicted to come the second time at the darkest hour, and if God keeps intervening, we will never get there

2. Further, remember, this is Satan's planet right now; Jesus only came to save people; and what Satan offers is death and destruction, so if there is anyone to blame, it's Satan and not God

3. Satan may have said, "Jerry and Lisa would fall away from the truth if I struck them hard, like Job", but our response is "No."

a) And no, we are not special that caught Satan's attention.

b) He's got everyone's number and most of those numbers involved in how much they can get out of life, having fun, and giving God minimal respect, if at all.

C. Second, how can you comfort Lisa and I?

1. Well, don't tell us Henry Oliver is up in heaven looking down at us remembering Him because if heaven is all about happy feelings, not only then could Henry Oliver see all our future good things, right now that would mean

a) He can see us in such pain and agony too and I can't imagine him seeing it and being happy up there

b) No one considers the other things that such people would also be able to see if they were there like my many trips to the bathroom, me in the shower, us having to correct Rowan, etc.

c) People who place others in heaven only speak of them observing the enjoyable moments that the deceased are missing out on and never the icky things one would wish no one would see

2. No, the Bible says...

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a) *If someone says that Henry Oliver's soul is in heaven, I will say, the Bible says, "God formed man [of] the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul" (Genesis 2:7) just like a light bulb in which the bulb is the body; the electricity is the breath; and the light is the soul; so to pull the plug, the electricity is no longer coming from the electric company into that bulb, the bulb is empty, but the light just disappears.*

b) *And for those that want to tell me Henry Oliver's spirit floated off, again the Bible says, "the spirit of God [is] in my nostrils" (Job 27:3), and that's a funny place to store who I am.*

c) *And those that would like to tell us that Henry Oliver will be with us at meal time and while we're together at home, the Bible says, "he that goeth down to the grave shall come up no [more]. He shall return no more to his house, neither shall his place know him any more" (Job 7:9-10).*

d) *And to tell me that Henry Oliver is up there showing his love to Jesus already, the Bible says, "For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion for ever in any [thing] that is done under the sun" (Ecclesiastes 9:5-6) and "The dead praise not the LORD, neither any that go down into silence" (Psalms 115:17).*

e) *The Bible says, "But now is Christ risen from the dead, [and] become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man [came] death, by man [came] also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming" (1 Corinthians 15:20-23)*

(1) Besides, to believe in immediate life after death is to do away with the purpose of the resurrection

f) *In fact, the Bible tells us the words you can comfort us with for it states, "Wherefore comfort one another with these words" (1 Thessalonians 4:18)*

(1) What are those words?

(a) But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive [and] remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive [and] remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words" (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)

D. Third, what purpose could such serve?

1. Well, the second coming is describe in Revelation 14:14 as, "And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud [one] sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle"

2. Right before that verse, the Bible says, "Blessed [are] the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth" (Revelation 14:13)

a) Why is it a blessing to die in the Lord?

(1) First, to die in the Lord means one is saved and Satan can't change that

(2) Second, Jesus said before He returns, "woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!" (Matthew 24:19)

(a) A terrible ordeal is coming soon and in God's mercy, He may have allowed a blessing in disguise to come upon the saved children

3. Now many say, "We have heard that the second coming is soon" for hundreds of years, in fact, the Seventh-day Adventist Church started from such a mistake

a) Well, I'm not going to tell you about earthquakes and natural disasters.

b) I'm not going to tell you about pestilences and wars.

c) However, several big things have solidified it for me.

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(1) "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away" (2 Timothy 3:1-5).

(a) *We have always had theses sins in the world, but when all these sins become acceptable in the church, know full well we are in the last days.*

(b) *We always had these types of sins and it used to be people were excommunicated, dealt harshly, and names removed from church books, but no today*

(c) *Today, we dismiss from knowing the Bible and focus on humility, love, acceptance, etc. all of which sounds good, but is all a disguise to get us to not be Bible people and more of feelings, and that means, not knowing that truth causing many to perish and operate with something that is not stable at all.*

(d) *To accomplish this, we have to come up with phrases like "doctrines divide" and "we'll sort things out upstairs"*

(2) Speaking of which, that's another issue in which there is something known as Antichrist, and it is not someone with weapons of mass destruction, atheistic countries, nor even religious countries like Iran and Iraq

(a) *"Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time" (1 John 2:18)*

(i) *And notice what Antichrist attacks: "I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth." (1 John 2:21)*

(a) The truth!!!

(b) *"Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son" (1 John 2:22)*

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(i) *And how do we deny them?*

(a) "They profess that they know God; but in works they deny [him], being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate" (Titus 1:16).

(ii) *So anyone that says works are not important is working for Antichrist!*

(c) *"And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that [spirit] of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world" (1 John 4:3).*

(i) *To deny that Jesus came as a tempted human being who could have sinned yet overcame every temptation without sinning is the denying the flesh part of Jesus*

(ii) *That means to ignore this verse and many others is a message of the devil:*

(a) "And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked" (1 John 2:3-6).

(3) But keep in mind that the big thing is that the Bible predicts a universal religion with everyone retaining their names and that is happening as we speak with Rome hosting not only a Christian gathering but for the first time, Muslim and Jewish leaders offering prayer addressing the joint crowd of every religion.

(a) *Yes, Jesus prayed for unity: "That they all may be one; as thou, Father, [art] in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me" (John 17:21).*

(b) *But, what are we to unify on?*

(i) *Ignoring our differences between religions and say we all serve the same God?*

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(a) I'm sorry, I will never teach my children nor would I have taught my Henry Oliver to go and ram a plain into the Trade Towers or blow himself up

(b) I'm sorry, I will never teach my children nor would I have taught my Henry Oliver to force religion on anyone

(c) Be polite and respectful? yes!

(d) Accept it? No!

(c) But unfortunately there are countless examples in the Bible in which religion out of control always persecutes the innocent ones

(i) Cain killed Abel because Abel would not try his method of worshipping God.

(ii) Joseph was sold to Egypt because He obeyed and worshipped God only a certain way as God said to and his brothers got jealous and were ticked off by his devoted ways

(iii) Moses and the Israelites were first persecuted because they weren't allowed to worship God according to the dictates of God

(iv) Elijah was run out of his own country because He would not worship like the 450 ministers of paganism

(v) Daniel was thrown into the Lion's Den because He tried worshipping the true God when forbidden to do so for 30 days

(vi) Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were thrown into a furnace of fire because they refused to worship the image

(vii) Jesus was hung on the cross because the Pharisees and the nation in general refused to turn from their false understandings of worshipping and insisted on rejecting Jesus' words, "in vain they do worship me, teaching [for] doctrines the commandments of men" (Matthew 15:9).

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(viii) *And in the end, the majority of people will "cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed" (Revelation 13:15).*

(d) *It's always been about worship,*

(i) *But remember how we opened up and saw the second coming described as well as a blessing placed upon those that died?*

(a) Well, Revelation 14:12 tells us who is going to heaven, "Here is the patience of the saints: here [are] they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus."

(i) *So commandment keeping is an issue.*

(e) *Prior to that are the last day worries and watch for the word worship*

(i) *"And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters. And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive [his] mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name" (Revelation 14:6-12).*

(a) Notice these messages contain the gospel

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(i) *Not by coincidence, Jesus said,
"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be
preached in all the world for a witness
unto all nations; and then shall the end
come" (Matthew 24:14)*

(ii) *Not any gospel but a specific one
and that contains these messages*

(iii) *So people may not hear anything
wrong from their church, they are just not
hearing the message preparing them to
survive the last days nor be ready for the
second coming*

(b) Notice only those that have patience, keep the commandments, and have the faith are saved

(c) The words "that made heaven, and earth, and the sea" are not by chance a direct quote from the Sabbath commandment

(d) Also, it is not by chance that part of the false doctrines center around this description: "he shall speak [great] words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws"

(i) *God is not interested in speed limit laws, turn on red laws, even if time are associated with it but is interested in His Commandments*

(ii) *There is but 1 commandment that deals with worship and has time associated to it!*

(iii) *And remember, the commandments are part of God's description of the saved.*

(iv) *What commandment?*

(v) *"Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day [is] the sabbath of the LORD thy God: [in it] thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that [is] within thy gates: For [in] six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them [is], and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it"* (Exodus 20:8-12)

(vi) *I keep Friday sundown to Saturday sundown not to be saved but, God said, "I gave them my sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I [am] the LORD that sanctify them" (Ezekiel 20:12)... God saved me and by keeping His day acknowledges that fact!*

III. Conclusion

A. And so, cutting a lot of detail out and putting it all together,

1. God predicted a time where churches would downplay the doctrines so much that practicing sinners would feel comfortable in their sins and not do as the Bible said, "Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin" (Hebrews 12:4).
2. God predicted that they would forget to "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide [is] the gate, and broad [is] the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait [is] the gate, and narrow [is] the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it" (Matthew 7:13-14).
3. And despite everyone today thinking they are saved, Jesus further said, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity" (Matthew 7:21-23).

a) *Did you catch it???*

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b) Many lost are nice, hard working Christians who bend over backwards, praying, and doing everything they think a Christian should do, but they continue in iniquity or commandment breaking and will be lost.

c) In fact, the Bible is clear what a Born Again Christian is to be like: "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God" (1 John 3:9).

(1) And the Bible is clearly says, "He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil" (1 John 3:8).

4. And if any message that seems to allow the majority of the population to enter heaven, well, know that it is wrong because only a few shall find the correct narrow, restrictive, rule contained, serious way to heaven

a) That includes once saved, always saved

b) Secret rapture and left behind

c) Saved by grace doing away with the obedience to the commandments

d) Only being positive and uplifting with their messages not dealing with sin

5. God warned us that worship would be an issue before the second coming and that those that don't comply will be forced or be put to death

6. That significant worship is over a day, the Sabbath vs. Sunday and after 180 years of saying it is going to happen, it is beginning.

a) Just look at the news in that Obama is calling for more family sensitivity and a change in the work schedule.

b) The Pope is asking and inviting everyone to make Sundays sacred and cease from business being open and to get back to observing the blue laws that are still on the books of the United States

c) Protestant leaders are encouraging their congregations to take Sundays a little more seriously

B. So, if I am right, it is a matter of a few more years, unless God stalls it, that we can be witnessing the second coming.

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1. First, one thing that we Seventh-day Adventists get beat up about is claiming we have a prophet of which Jesus said, "And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many" (Matthew 24:11), which implies there are true ones.

2. Additionally, the Bible says, "And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." (Revelation 12:17)

a) *There's those commandments again but notice "the testimony of Jesus Christ"*

(1) Revelation 19:10 defines that phrase as, "the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy"

3. Now finally the comforting words, in which Ellen White wrote:

a) *It is not always safe to ask for unconditional healing. . . . He knows whether or not those for whom petitions are offered would be able to endure the trial and test that would come upon them if they lived. He knows the end from the beginning. Many will be laid away to sleep before the fiery ordeal of the time of trouble shall come upon our world.--CH 375 (1897). {LDE 255.2}*

b) *The Lord has often instructed me that many little ones are to be laid away before the time of trouble. We shall see our children again. We shall meet them and know them in the heavenly courts.--2SM 259 (1899). {LDE 255.3}*

c) *The living righteous are changed "in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye." At the voice of God they were glorified; now they are made immortal and with the risen saints are caught up to meet their Lord in the air. Angels "gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other." Little children are borne by holy angels to their mothers' arms. Friends long separated by death are united, nevermore to part, and with songs of gladness ascend together to the City of God. {DD 51.1}*

C. Now, why did I present this?

1. To convert you? No! Only you can freely choose that
2. To expose you to our beliefs so you can relate to us? No.
3. I shared because I want everyone in this room to have the equal opportunity as I have to meet and hug and hold Henry Oliver alive

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4. I shared this because Henry Oliver deserves to meet everyone in this room, and by being careless with salvation, we would be depriving him of that greeting and hug from us personally

a) *You see, if we say, "Well my church says..." we won't get that opportunity*

b) *"Well my pastor says..." we won't get that opportunity*

c) *"Well, I don't get caught up in all that, I just believe what I want and I think I'm pretty good..." then we won't get that opportunity*

d) *Jesus said, "seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness" (Matthew 6:33) and that does not mean a prayer over food and a good night prayer but rather a serious, committed religious relationship with Jesus*

(1) We are told that "To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life" (Revelation 2:7)

(2) And "Blessed [are] they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city" (Revelation 22:14)

(3) Will you commit to keeping those commandments unaltered?

D. As Paul wrote in Philippians 3:12-14, "Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but [this] one thing [I do], forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus"

E. Will you examine your life and your beliefs to make sure they are what God commands and not tradition, feelings, organizations, etc., so you can introduce yourself to Henry Oliver?

F. I don't believe in coincidences and neither does God, so this is not a chance meeting, in fact, my son, Henry Oliver, has died for us to all come together to hear these words that I woke up Saturday morning as my first thoughts.

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G. Don't let Henry Oliver die in vain by just continuing your life as you were without reflecting upon your personal relationship with Jesus.