

## Beware

Beware of the trinitarians who teach that the divine person of the Son of God did not die at Calvary. They are doing the work of Satan.

The Bible is very clear that a divine person did die at Calvary. Even a child could understand it. Unfortunately, some who are regarded as intellectual fail to see what God is telling them. The apostle Paul wrote

“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: ***And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.***” Philippians 2:5-8

He who became “obedient unto death” is the pre-existent divine Son of God. It was He, the One who “thought it not robbery to be equal with God”, who humbled Himself to “the death of the cross”. A divine person really did die at Calvary.

When speaking of this same truth, the writer of Hebrews explained

“But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.” Hebrews 2:9

It was the pre-existent divine Son of God who “was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death”. It was “he” who should “taste death for every man”.

If the divine Son of God did not die at Calvary then the words of Jesus are a cruel deception. This is where He has told us

“For 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

When commenting on this one great truth (this is the truth that brings men and women to the knowledge of God’s character, also to the knowledge of God’s supreme love for the human race) Ellen White made this comment

“Satan is determined that men shall not see the love of God, which led him to give his only begotten Son to save the lost race; for it is the goodness of God that leads men to repentance.” (*Ellen White, Review and Herald, 20th March 1894, ‘Christ the center of the message’*)

Later in the article she penned these words

“Look at the cross of Calvary. It is a standing pledge of the boundless love, the measureless mercy, of the heavenly Father.” (*Ibid*)

It is this knowledge (the knowledge that God loves the world so much that in order to save mankind He spared not even the life of His only begotten Son) that will lead a person to love God. It is this truth that will bring about a person's conversion. To teach otherwise is a lie and a deception.

In the Signs of the Times in 1883, Ellen White wrote about the discourse that Jesus had with Nicodemus. She said that previous to this time, Jesus had not explained so thoroughly to anyone else (using her words) “the work necessary to be done in the human heart, if it would inherit the kingdom of Heaven”. Concerning Jesus, she then made this comment

“He traced man's salvation directly to the love of the Father, which led him to give his Son unto death that man might be saved.” (*Ellen G. White, Signs of the Times, 15<sup>th</sup> November 1883, 'The all-important lesson', see also Spirit of prophecy Volume 2, page 133, 1877*)

If the Father did not really sacrifice His Son, how could these words be true?

If you were Satan, what truth would you consider it imperative to pervert? Surely it would be that our God, in order to provide mankind with the opportunity of salvation, sacrificed His only begotten Son. What other truth tells us more about God's love for fallen humanity than this one? It is this truth that converts. What other truth therefore is more important? It is no wonder that Satan attacks it with such cunning and venom.

In a warning given at a time when some were attempting to bring 'spiritualistic' views of God into the Seventh-day Adventist Church, God's messenger warned

“Men will arise with interpretations of scripture which are to them truth, but which are not truth. The truth for this time, God has given us as a foundation for our faith. **He himself has taught us what is truth.** One will arise, and still another with new light, which contradicts the light that God has given under the demonstration of His Holy Spirit.” (*Ellen G. White, Letter to Bro Burden, December 11th 1905*)

Four years later the warning was repeated (take particular notice of the last sentence)

"Men will arise who will bring in division by teaching various errors. Therefore we must all look to our Teacher. **We need to search the Scriptures for ourselves diligently and prayerfully, lest we be drawn away by the subtle deceptions of the enemy.** There are many who must have a deeper experience in the things of God. Unless they arouse to a sense of their danger, they will lose their knowledge of what is truth. **Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon**

*you.” (Ellen G. White, Review and Herald, 16th December 1909, 'A visit to Melrose and Buffalo')*

It is the work of Satan to deceive. He is the father of lies (John 8:44). He has been relentless, since the fall of mankind, in his efforts to misrepresent God.

Calvary though, when it is seen in its true light, answers every question concerning God's character. This is why Satan seeks to pervert and destroy the truth that God really did sacrifice His one and only begotten Son. Satan will employ every art to deceive. He has no concern for those whom he will destroy with his deceptions. His hatred of both God and humanity knows no bounds. He is not concerned either as to whom he uses to perpetrate his malicious deceptions. He will use anyone. This is regardless of their position or status.

When Christ died, Satan knew he had lost the battle. What therefore could he now do? He could not undo what Christ had done at Calvary so the only thing left for him to do was to obscure and pervert it (see Revelation 12:12). Satan suggests therefore that if Christ is truly divine He cannot die. He tried this on with Peter. The Bible tells us

*“From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day. **Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee.** Matthew 16:21-22*

When commenting upon this, Ellen White explained

*“Peter was naturally forward and impulsive, and Satan had taken advantage of these characteristics to lead him astray. When Jesus had opened before his disciples the fact that he must go to Jerusalem to suffer and die at the hands of the chief priests and scribes, Peter had presumptuously contradicted his Master, saying, "Be it far from thee, Lord; this shall not be unto thee." **He could not conceive it possible that the Son of God should be put to death. Satan suggested to his mind that if Jesus was the Son of God he could not die.**” (Ellen G. White, Spirit of Prophecy, Volume 3 page 231, 'Jesus at Galilee' 1878)*

Satan is a defeated foe but the name of his game is still 'deception'. He is still the great deceiver and he still remains our greatest adversary.

Today he continues to walk this earth "seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8). Through his appointed agents he is still perpetrating the very same lie – that *“if Jesus was the Son of God he could not die”*. I know. I have met them. My friends: be wide-awake to his power to deceive. Make sure you question everything you are asked to believe. This is regardless of whom it is that does the asking.

As Seventh-day Adventists we have the wonderful privilege of having been

given an added insight to the Scriptures. Through the spirit of prophecy, God has further enlightened those who would know the truth. If you so wish, please contemplate the following statements from the pen of Ellen White. I am sure you will be blessed.

Blessings

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### **Spirit of prophecy statements concerning the death of the divine Son of God at Calvary**

“Said the angel, “Think ye that the Father yielded up His dearly beloved Son without a struggle? **No, no.**” ***It was even a struggle with the God of heaven, whether to let guilty man perish, or to give His darling Son to die for them.*** Angels were so interested for man's salvation that there could be found among them those who would yield their glory and give their life for perishing man. “But,” said my accompanying angel, “that would avail nothing.” ***The transgression was so great that an angel's life would not pay the debt. Nothing but the death and intercession of God's Son would pay the debt and save lost man from hopeless sorrow and misery.***” (Ellen G. White, *Early Writings*, Pages 126-127, 1882)

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“The power of an angel could not make an atonement for our sins. The angelic nature united to the human could not be as costly, as elevated, as the law of God. ***It was the Son of God alone who could present an acceptable sacrifice. God himself became man, and bore all the wrath that sin had provoked.*** This problem, How could God be just and yet the justifier of sinners? baffled all finite intelligence. ***A divine person alone could mediate between God and man.***” (Ellen G. White, *Youth's Instructor*, 31st August 1887, ‘Search the Scriptures’)

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***“If Christ had studied his convenience, he would never have left heaven to come to our world to die, to hang upon the accursed tree for us.”*** (Ellen G. White, *Review & Herald*, 10th June 1890, ‘Conditions for Obtaining Eternal Riches’)

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“Jesus left heaven, laid aside his glory, left the communion and adoration of the sinless angels, **and for our sake humbled himself, even to the death of the cross.**” (Ellen G. White, *Signs of the Times*, 22nd December 1890, ‘Are We Representatives of Christ?’)

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“Jesus had united with the Father in making the world. Amid the agonizing sufferings of the Son of God, blind and deluded men alone remain unfeeling. The chief priests and elders revile God's dear Son while in his expiring agonies. **Yet inanimate nature groans in sympathy with her bleeding, dying Author.**” (Ellen G. White, *Signs of the Times*. 21st August 1879 ‘The Sufferings of Christ’)

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“Jesus Christ laid off His royal robe, His kingly crown, and clothed His divinity with humanity, in order to become a substitute and surety for humanity, that dying in humanity, He might by His death destroy him who had the power of death. **He could not have done this as God, but by coming as man, Christ could die.** By death He overcame death. The death of Christ bore to the death him who had the power of death, and opened the gates of the tomb for all who receive Him as their personal Saviour.” (Ellen G. White, *Letter 97, to ‘My brethren in North Fitzroy’, November 18th 1898*)

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“**Not one of the angels could have become surety for the human race:** their life is God's; they could not surrender it. The angels all wear the yoke of obedience. They are the appointed messengers of Him who is the commander of all heaven. **But Christ is equal with God, infinite and omnipotent. He could pay the ransom for man's freedom.**” (Ellen G. White, *Youth's Instructor*, 21st June 1900, ‘The price of our redemption part IV’)

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“Again came the cry, as of one in mortal agony, "It is finished." "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost." **Christ, the Majesty of heaven, the King of glory, was dead. The Jewish leaders had crucified the Son of God, the long-expected Messiah,** him (so the people had hoped) who was to bring about so many reforms. They refused the only One who could save them from national ruin.” (Ellen G. White, *Review and Herald* 28th December 1897 ‘He was Wounded for our Transgressions’)

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“Who can comprehend the love here displayed! ***The angelic host beheld with wonder and with grief Him who had been the Majesty of heaven, and who had worn the crown of glory, now wearing the crown of thorns, a bleeding victim to the rage of an infuriated mob, fired to insane madness by the wrath of Satan.*** Behold the patient Sufferer! Upon His head is the thorny crown. His lifeblood flows from every lacerated vein. All this in consequence of sin! Nothing could have induced Christ to leave His honor and majesty in heaven, and come to a sinful world, to be neglected, despised, and rejected by those He came to save, and finally to suffer upon the cross, but eternal, redeeming love, which will ever remain a mystery.” (Ellen G. White, Testimonies Volume 2, page 209, 'The sufferings of Christ')

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“The Son of God was next in authority to the great Lawgiver. ***He knew that his life alone could be sufficient to ransom fallen man.*** He was of as much more value than man as his noble, spotless character, and exalted office as commander of all the heavenly host, were above the work of man. He was in the express image of his Father, not in features alone, but in perfection of character ... Man could not atone for man. His sinful, fallen condition would constitute him an imperfect offering, an atoning sacrifice of less value than Adam before his fall ... ***The divine Son of God was the only sacrifice of sufficient value to fully satisfy the claims of God's perfect law. The angels were sinless, but of less value than the law of God.*** They were amenable to law. They were messengers to do the will of Christ, and before him to bow. They were created beings, and probationers. Upon Christ no requirements were laid.” (Ellen G. White, Spirit of Prophecy Volume 2 pages 9-10, 'The First Advent of Christ', 1877)

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“***In all the universe there was but One who could, in behalf of man, satisfy its claims. Since the divine law is as sacred as God Himself, only one equal with God could make atonement for its transgression.*** None but Christ could redeem fallen man from the curse of the law, and bring him again into harmony with Heaven. Christ would take upon Himself the guilt and shame of sin--sin so offensive to a holy ***God that it must separate the Father and the Son.***” (Ellen G. White, Signs of the times, 4th November 1908, 'When sin entered', see also, Patriarchs and Prophets, page 63, 'The Plan of Redemption')

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“***Nothing less than the life of Christ would atone for man's transgression ... The Son of God accepted the work joyfully, becoming man's substitute and surety, that He might save him from his sin, and call him from transgression to obedience.*** He pledged Himself to take man's nature, and stand at the head of the

human race, to satisfy every claim made against them as a people bound in the slavery of sin ... ***The truth could come to man only through Christ, for He was the image of the invisible God.*** He represented the power and glory of the Father, and the divine signature was upon all His words and works.” (Ellen G. White, *Signs of the Times*, 15th November 1899, ‘*The Law Revealed in Christ*’)

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“The law cannot lower the standard or take less than its full demands, therefore it cannot cleanse us from one sin; ***but God's Son, who is one with the Father, equal in authority with the Father, paid the debt for us.***” (Ellen G. White, *Review and Herald*, 29th July 1890)

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For further reading see here

<http://theprophetstillspeaks.co.uk/Hatton/MHDOJEGW.pdf>

<http://theprophetstillspeaks.co.uk/Subwhoorwhatdied.htm>