

Now! Notes

An Overview of Biblical Validity and Answers to Questions Brought Up While Reading NOW! An Adventist “Pamphlet” on the End Times written by Merikay McLeod.

Written By Ross Cooper

As far as this articles author knows Merikay McLeod left Adventism and is not in any way religiously inclined. Also quotes from the pamphlet were kept to a minimum not only because the publishers state that only limited quotations can be used in any kind of article; but because the pamphlet is full of false doctrine that is to be honest best left unread.

Now Notes work as follows. Each segment has a bolded title followed by the page number you can find it in the pamphlet. It is followed by a short discussion of the point in question under the Title for each Section.

National Sunday Law (Page 4)

National Sunday law not supported by the Bible period, neither the writer or the Adventist church has considered just how silly the idea of a national Sunday Law is- and this problem is further confounded when you must realize that there would need to be a global Sunday Law which makes little to no sense at all in any country. Not only that but the Tribulation will be a time where rules and laws are not kept but broken left right and center. It would be ridiculous to pass any kind of law yet Adventists must have it since their entire understanding of the Bible is seen through Ellen G. White filters and cannot stand without them. This is not a shock at all when you look at the Great Controversy Worldview that Adventists adhere to, not surprising in the slightest. Just like the majority of “new light” the National Sunday Law came from a vision of Ellen G. White and not careful Bible Study. In fact the majority of times during Bible study Ellen or those with her couldn't understand a plain reading of the bible and Ellen would go “into vision” to gain a revelation of understanding.

If this were the way studying the Bible as a believer went we'd all spend a great deal of time in vision, how many visions have you had? I've had none, because as a Born Again believer the Holy Spirit reveals the word to the New Believer and leads them into all truth. Never once in the Bible is there even a hint of a National, yet alone GLOBAL Sunday Law, not only is it ridiculous but it is entirely unnecessary.

Safety in the Tribulation? (Page 5)

Moving out of the cities will not help you in the end times, that's of course specifically addressed by Paul through the Holy Spirit, not to mention John and Jesus Himself. Jesus promises to call us out of the Earth so He can take us to the Father's House, Paul says this is an imminent event, nothing has to happen before it, He also says we are not destined for God's Wrath and Jesus is God. Going back to Jesus statement in John 14:1-3 He's going to take us to be in the father's House always, where is Jesus in the book of Revelation- Heaven- since we're not destined for His wrath where then must we be- Heaven.

If you're on the earth during this time of Tribulation something is very very wrong, it most likely means that you have never been Born Again and were not a member of the Bride of Christ, the Church. Because all who are part of the Bride will be removed from the Earth before the Time of Trouble even

begins.

Ravenous Bible Study (Page 11)

The sort of ravenous Bible Study that Merikay and Pat seem to be doing sounds like it's being driven by the Holy Spirit. This is exactly the kind of Bible Study that becomes the pattern of life of a New Believer. IMHO that means that Merikay and Pat either are about to be or are already Born Again, truly Born Again, and I think the author may have even realized it. (Of course that doesn't seem to happen at all as I'll note later) You quite literally cannot experience this kind of Bible Study unless Rebirth is about to happen or has already happened. Of course by Born Again I mean that the eternal Spirit that is placed in you at conception aligned with sin, is Reborn from Heaven when God awakens you to the fact that you are dead in your sins. You come to the cross with the knowledge that you cannot save yourself and throw your cares on the Lord in belief in Jesus' sacrifice for you. At that point the Holy Spirit fills you, seals you and He also lives in you. You are Born Again.

You are Born Again into The Bride of Christ...not the Adventist Church (Page 12)

I noticed that Merikay wrote that the Coopers' (Boy is that ironic) were baptized by the Holy Spirit into Adventism...this is wrong, when you are Born Again of the Spirit you become a Christian not an Adventist. If this happens before the Rapture, you become part of the Bride and will escape the Wrath of God by being called out of the earth to meet your God and Savior in the air and return to Heaven with Him. Nowhere in the Bible does it say that when you're Born Again you become an Adventist, it says you become a Child of God. Massive Difference.

Wrong Kind of Strife (Page 12)

A whole lot of drama is developed by family and friends not joining Marikay and Pat in seclusion. I think Marikay as an author was trying to take the scripture about Christ's word splitting families and turning them against each other and applying it to an end times scenario. This is improper, taken in context what it is stating is that some family members will be truly Born Again and that will cause problems and rifts arguments and dissension among family members. Not that family members won't hop in a car and go to a cabin.

Adventist Exclusivity vs. Christian Love (Page 12)

Adventism is all about Exclusivity and Seclusion. Christianity on the other hand is about joining a massive body of believers that spans from the First Century A.D. To the end of the Church Age! It's about becoming a building made up of people by God, to share His word in open discussion.

Adventism hides what it really is behind the same words evangelicals use, it hides itself when it does Revelation Seminars, it is deceptive.

The Church on the other hand, the Bride of Christ has always preached the truth no matter if it brought ridicule. There was never deception even if it made truths seem like fables.

Adventists Place EVERYTHING Before the Bible (Page 13)

It might have been considered subtle but it certainly caught my eye, when Merikay starts mentioning the books they have to give out after the tornado the Bible is mentioned last before the phrase

“whatever other religious books”. Ellen White is of course before the Bible.

**Investigative Judgment...unbiblical. Probation...unbiblical. Salvation and Assurance...Biblical!
(Page 14)**

Probation is closed! Egads! Not only is this impossible but in the pamphlet the close of Probation is equated by the passing of a HUMAN Death decree on Adventists!

When you are Born Again...you are Born Again.

Christ's Work on the Cross is when it was Finished. Even He said so.

The moment you are Born Again you begin your eternal life, you will never die, your Spirit will never die, you will never and can never be unsaved.

The sin, all the sin you ever commit, forgotten, in the deepest sea, tossed as far as the east is from the west.

There is no need for an Investigative Judgment, God doesn't need to investigate those who are Born of the Spirit. It is laughable, destructive, and cultic to teach such an abhorrent doctrine. Adventism keeps you in a state of fear.

In Christ, Born Again, you enter into the security of God's eternal rest, the rest God entered after the SIX days of Creation.

I'll take the Biblical Truth over the heresy any day.

Death Decree etc. all Enforced by us Nasty Christians...erm...nope. (Page 15)

Oh, did I mention the Heresy that Christians are going to round up, torture, and kill Adventists who don't follow the “National Sunday Law.”?

Well my Adventist friends that would be impossible since at this point in the story the Bride of Christ is in Heaven with Christ- and the Judgments have already started to fall.

Such teaching as Christians killing Sabbath Keepers is HERESY period. We won't be here, we're not earth dwellers (See Revelation 3:10), and we're certainly not murders.

Fill 'er Up...and never again? (Page 16)

The amazing gas tank...I'm not saying that miracles can't happen but it's equating the miracle with the fact that they're Adventists on the run with the truth is just silly. In all likely hood they'd run out of gas and God would have a big heart to heart with them about how they have to come to the end of themselves and fully trust Him with their lives. You're either Hot or Cold...don't be lukewarm...and don't make the mistake of assuming you're hot when you're not.

A vast number do just that, and at the Great White Throne Judgment Jesus says He never knew them- don't be part of that group.

I Wonder if So and So's Saved...you can Know! (Page 17)

Wondering about the salvation of loved ones is only an issue if you cannot know that you've been saved, but you can know that you've been saved. (See 1 John 5:12-13)

Of course this takes away tension from the story...I'll also say this, the Spirit that is in you let's you know when other believers are around, I've met people from across the country while just walking...and felt the Spirit in them and chatted- when they reveal that they're Christian it's not a shock...my Spirit and His Spirit confirmed with Their Spirits and His Spirit in them that they were sons and daughters of God.

How Can the Saints Flee...when they're Not Even Here? (Page 17)

The saints would be the ones to flee?

The Saints have already been called home at this point, anyone who becomes part of the Bride of Christ is a Saint. The Saints are celebrating in Heaven and probably we'll be watching the events of the Tribulation from Heaven itself.

You see this is what confused theology will get you.

Adventists believe that the Sabbath is the Seal of God...the Bible SPECIFICALLY states that the Indwelling Holy Spirit in the believer is the Seal of God. That's a Huge difference. When you're Born Again you can and will KNOW that you are saved.

You won't be running round in fear wondering if you deserved (you don't) the Seal...if you were/are Born again you are sealed automatically as part of your rebirth.

Promises Misapplied (Page 18)

Rev. 2:7,11. And Revelation 3:26...are all things that the Believer will be experiencing while the Tribulation is going on because of another verse in Revelation...Revelation 3:10.

Author Admits Self-Truth, She Does Not Know IF She's Saved! (Page 18)

Here (as I alluded to earlier) she finally admits the truth, she may have deceived herself into believing she was saved when she wasn't. If you even have this thought IMHO you are in no way saved. Because when someone is saved there is no doubt you become a new creation and the transformation is obvious and continuous for the rest of your life.

Pat Reads The Bib...er Steps to Christ for comfort?! (Page 18)

Pat should be reading the Bible at this time...natch if he was saved he would be in Heaven. Studying The Word with the Word made Flesh.

Amazing Gas tank Hits Empty (Page 19)

Wow page 19 they stopped for gas...how much did that cost? Oh it didn't cost anything because the attendant (a Christian) spotted their Bibles and called in the Police, so they're on the run again. That

said, I sure hope some of them were feeling convicted at this point. If not I don't think they're nearly as ready as they think they are for what's happening *NOW*.

We Have No gas...but Run Like a Champion! (Page 19)

Gas on Zero you're walking folks. Being an Adventist isn't where miracles come from, it's from God. And even being saved, and trusting God, doesn't come with the promise of never running out of gas, or a car running on no gas. Now if they put it in neutral and Angels pushed them yes I've had plenty of Angelic intervention but my car has never run on zero fuel.

This is just childish.

I'm Covered in Stinky Trash...Did the Disciples Ever Have it This Bad?! (Page 21)

I think the disciples went through much worse than hiding in stinky trash Merikay.

Still Not Knowing if She's Saved...Where's the Hope in That?! (Page 21)

You can know you're saved, but you are not Merikay since you don't even know. I think that's the saddest part of this story. She was not ready for the events of *NOW*, she is not saved, if she were she wouldn't even be a character in this book.

We Should Try and Blend in...That Won't Help! (Page 22)

Oh yes let's toss ourselves suspiciously on the ground whenever a car passes that way we don't draw attention to ourselves. And then we'll run...like crazy....then we'll do it over again!

Ready for Now....No. (Page 23)

Merikay asks a series of questions and the answer to the most important one (was I ready for Christ to come) is no.

First Verse You Find...a Very Dangerous "Game" (Page 24-25)

The game of first verse you see can be very dangerous. Namely because you are taking verses out of context...which is exactly what Merikay does.

Philippians 4:13 is a great verse but it only applies if you are Born Again...which Pat and Merikay are not.

A True Cry out to God? (Page 27)

I wonder if she really meant Help Me Father...if she did she just might have moved from death to life. Let's see what the next pages hint at.

Running and Captured by...Supposed Christians (Page 27-28)

Oh my...nope no real sign that stuck yet. But us mean Christians sure are meany meansters...oh wait...we're in Heaven...these guys can't be Christians no wonder they're so mean. I will note here that

those who do become followers of Christ during the Tribulation will probably be martyred but not by Christians that's for sure.

By the followers of the Antichrist.

It Is Tragic to Assume (Page 31)

Merikay once again assumes she's a Saint because of the treatment she's getting. If she were a Saint she'd be in Heaven.

I see no signs that she has given her life over to God, if she had she wouldn't be worried about any of this, she would welcome death because she'd go to be with her Lord.

Standing Alone? Perfect w/o Christ? NEVER! (Page 31)

Christ is your righteousness, He is ALWAYS our intercessor.

Dangerous Assumptions 2 (Page 32)

Tom also seems to be so sure of himself that he's fooled himself into believing that he is saved, the smugness of Adventism is just a small part of what drove me out. Mostly it was being Born Again and my eyes being opened to the Word. What was revealed about Adventism was not pretty, and it certainly wasn't Christian.

I'm so glad that God rescued me out of Adventism, and out of Spiritual death.

More Impossible "Christian" Persecution of Adventists (Page 33)

All this persecution of Adventists by Christians is again IMPOSSIBLE. And not done very well either.

Impossible Insecurity (Page 33)

When people are taken out of the cell she mentions that they don't have much security...another very clear hint that she as a writer and character is unsure of her salvation.

Again With the Worrying (Page 35)

"Four more people to wonder about." Sad what false teaching will do isn't it, once again you can know that you ARE saved...in fact you were saved the moment you were Born Again. And through the Spirit you can be certain that others you know are also Born Again or if they're not.

Certainly Unsaved (Page 37)

Once again Merikay reveals in her story that she is not saved...period. "Father please don't let me be lost," I pleaded silently,"If I have any sin that I haven't confessed, no matter how small it is, please forgive me and make me pure and holy. Please save me!" This is not the prayer of a saved person.

Wait One Second...There's TRUTH in Here?! (Pages 37-40)

While pages 37-40 are actually filled with Biblical truth...the only problem is they are given by a Christian Persecutor. Not going to happen. Christians aren't going to be there to do the persecuting. Nor is the persecution going to happen because a "Law" that will never happen.

Adventism is Not Built on the Rock...but on Sand (Page 37)

Merikay makes one of the most pious, not to mention laughable assertions in the entire book claiming that Adventism is built on the truth of the Bible. I'm sorry but Adventists do NOT base their beliefs on the Bible and the Bible alone...it's the Bible filtered through Ellen G. White...and mostly what Ellen G. White states is considered the truth even if it conflicts with what the Bible Alone says.

Ten Commandments or Teaching of Christ? (Page 40)

John 14:15 Commandments = Teachings of Christ

Revelation 14:12 = Testimony of Jesus = The Gospel...not as Merikay is equating it here with of all things The Ten Commandments!

Kidding Oneself (Page 40)

Merikay once again struggles to convince herself that since Christ had kept the Sabbath she was right in keeping the Sabbath. ("I couldn't be wrong! I just Couldn't!") But Christ died under the Law to redeem us from the Law. He is the Born Again Believers Sabbath Rest.

Wonderful Platitudes of Hot Air (Page 41)

The character Tom goes on and on about all kinds of wonderful flowery things, using plenty of wonderful sounding phrases to "prove" that He's Saved and Merikay is also secure. He's certain of their final destination. Of course the entrance exam to Heaven is did you give up your control of your life to God. Yes or no.

I'll also note that Tom being sure...any Adventist being sure of their salvation is not generally the case. In fact IF you are being convicted in the Spirit that you're saved then you're saved and a Christian and not an Adventist!

Wait was Tom Alive...Dead...Visiting...Not Clear! (Page 41-42)

Also this passage implies that Tom visited Merikay as a Spirit...in human form...I think. If he had died he would not have come back for this pep talk if He had been saved...he would've gone to be with the Lord. But all evidence points to him being certain of His salvation by His Adventism...it is not by Adventism that you are saved...it is by surrendering to Christ...and becoming a Christian.

Sounding Like She Has Lucifer's Pride (Page 45)

Pg 45. The I sentence..."I know I am right, Father. I know I am. I know you will save me because you have promised." It is all about her.

It's all about him:

13 You said to yourself:

"I will ascend to the heavens;

I will set up my throne

above the stars of God.

I will sit on the mount of the [gods'] assembly,

in the remotest parts of the North. **[d]**

14 I will ascend above the highest clouds;

I will make myself like the Most High."

This is nothing new to Adventism which has always been about saying oh look at what we've done. How can I help out in my salvation? Let me knit the Veil up that God tore Himself from Top to Bottom so that I can claim some of the Glory. So that I can help save myself.

Atrocious Deplorable Teaching (Pages 46-49)

The less said about these pages the better but I do need to make a few statements. Firstly Christians would never believe the majority of things that Merikay has them spouting. Especially the part where they say that Jesus has already returned. This points to confusion on Merikay's part in her upbringing of course since cults in some cases say they have Christ locked away behind the scenes.

All in all though this section is full of amazingly horrific dialogue and just plain ridiculous teaching. I can forgive some of the ham fisted elements for Merikay was 17 when she wrote this and I remember how my fiction looked at 17 but in order to make this work you have to just tear the Bible to shreds.

It grieves my spirit that I even have to continue to read the end of this "wonderful pamphlet" because if possible it only gets worse.

Oh just a very short word on this new "Law of Grace". Mixing the Law and Grace doesn't work...and that's what Adventists are doing it's warned against throughout the book of Galatians. My Adventist friends you are at enmity with Christ when you attempt to mix Law and Grace, you have alienated yourself from Him!

The Yeah Moment that Fizzled (Page 51)

Directly quoting after she is asked if she has anything to say for herself this is how Merikay responds:

"I'm happy to say that I cannot agree to abide by any law which is not sanctioned and upheld by the truths of the bible."

I'd imagine a lot of Adventists are pumping fists overhead at this moment and getting really excited if they aren't watching their emotions...but hold on for a moment. If she cannot agree to abide by any law which is not sanctioned and upheld by the truths of the Bible...then she would have gotten out of Adventism ages ago!

She would've been convicted as I was by the Holy Spirit that Adventism itself was in violation of the Bible in many of its teachings.

So really this supposedly powerful line fizzles.

0-o...or Say What Elder Jenkins?! (Page 51)

Again quoting verbatim the very next line said by one of the “Persecuting Christians” Elder Jenkins (who ironically was an Adventist before revealed to be a “so-called Christian):

“But I told you the Bible is no longer in effect! Can't you see what you're doing you little fool? You're stopping Jesus from saving us all!”

First of all no Christian would EVER say this since God through Isaiah says:

"The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the **Word** of our **God** stands **forever**." (Isaiah 40:8)

The Bible will never be null and void. Christ Jesus our Lord is the Word Made flesh...in Heaven for eternity we will be learning the scriptures from the very mouth that spoke them!

This line is atrocious, no Christian would say it, and that in itself says a lot about Merikay's status when she wrote this book.

Also God is not a universalist or an Arminian.

Christ has set apart those that are His before time is time. He will not and cannot save those who choose not to be saved. Also while it's nice to say that God wants us all to be saved...the truth of the matter is that many are lost. And if God is extending out His salvation to everyone and some are turning Him down does this not diminish His Sovereignty. I believe it does, and therefore there must be some people that God cannot save...because they were never Predestined to be His.

Nowhere in the Bible does it say all will come to a saving grace.

Merikay goes on about how God's Law is eternal...not it is not...the Bible specifically states that it came into being due to the Israelites rebelling. So it came about long, long, long after the Garden of Eden.

Also Jeremiah 31:31-34 states that the Law and Covenant would be changed. And in Hebrews it looks back to Jeremiah 31:31-34.

To be honest pages 45 through the end are exceptionally sad and hard for me to comment on, because so much is just entirely wrong. There is no hope here...not a bit.

Out of the Frying Pan and Into the Fire (Pages 52-55)

I really can't understate how awkward a conclusion this is.

Merikay is about to be electrocuted to death.

She's begging Jesus to come and save her even though as I've pointed out she's nowhere near being saved herself.

Yet all of a sudden in these last few pages Jesus does come, and it is in this happy, treacly, Ellen White Jr. way that just leadens my gut.

You see she assumes because Jesus is smiling and welcoming her that she is saved. But she hasn't reckoned in the Great White Throne Judgment, that is NOWHERE to be found. I'm quite certain that Jesus on that day is going to look on those who are unsaved with just as much pity and love as those that are.

Christ's Earnest Plea

One of the greatest failures a person can make is to assume they know their status, or to assume that since their family back many generations has been doing this, that they are in fact right. There are going to be throngs of people who have sat on church pews their entire lives who Jesus will deny even knowing at the Great White Throne Judgment.

Please realize that not making a decision means you have already made one. Also do understand that it's not a head knowledge that saves but a deep, intimate one on one love relationship that is what saves.

In conclusion listen to Christ's plea in Jerusalem just days before He was crucified- for YOU.

44 Then Jesus cried out, "The one who believes in Me ^{bp} believes not in Me, but in Him who sent Me. **45** And the one who sees Me sees Him ^{bq} who sent Me. **46** I have come as a light into the world, so that everyone who believes in Me would not remain in darkness. **47** If anyone hears My words and doesn't keep ^{br} them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world ^{bs} but to save the world. ^{bt} **48** The one who rejects Me ^{bu} and doesn't accept My sayings has this as his judge:¹⁶ The word I have spoken will judge him on the last day. ^{bv} **49** For I have not spoken on My own, but the Father ^{bw} Himself who sent Me has given Me a command as to what I should say and what I should speak. **50** I know that His command is eternal life. ^{bx} So the things that I speak, I speak just as the Father has told Me." ^{by}