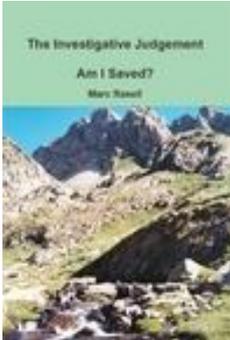
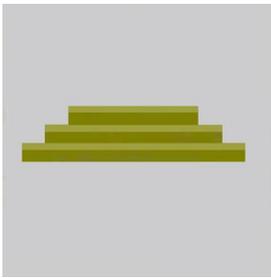


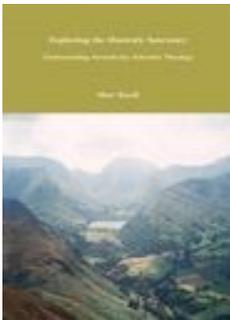
Advent Truth Newsletter

March 2015



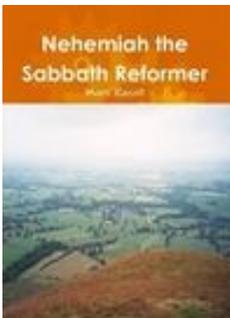
This month I would like to focus of an important doctrine, Unity in the Body of Christ. This doctrine is important because Jesus prayed for unity for his disciples (John 17:20-23). The apostle Paul also said we should be like-minded, avoid divisions and that the church is like a body with Christ as the head. Therefore we have a Biblical mandate to seek for unity where possible.

When the early church was united the Holy Spirit was poured out on them and enabled them to preach the gospel with power and as a result many new believers were added to the church (Acts 2).

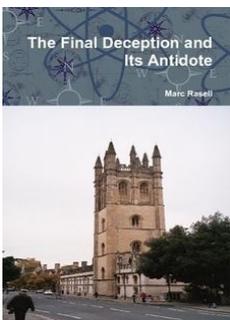


On the other hand when the disciples had the wrong spirit, suddenly they were unable to heal a sick person (Mark 9:18-34). They also argued about who was the greatest among them. Before Jesus died he washed the disciples feet to teach them the lesson of humility (John 13).

However, there will always be difficult issues where brethren will take different views. And some may adopt erroneous doctrines which are not supported by the Bible which we cannot accept. The modern trend of ecumenism is to try to minimise doctrinal differences even when they are clearly contrary to the Bible.



The solution is found in Acts 15 when the church came together in a general council to decide a difficult issue. Today God's remnant church of Revelation 14:6-12 is the Seventh-day Adventist Church. And every five years a General Conference Session is held where major decisions such as doctrine are decided by delegates from all around the world. We should respect these decisions because they reflect God's will for the church and help to bring unity.



In the book of Acts, some respected the decision of the general council, but others continued to stir up trouble by ignoring the decision that had been made. We need to have humility to listen to the views of others and remember that there is safety in a multitude of counsellors (Proverbs 11:14). So we need to listen when decisions are made by God's remnant church in a General Conference Session.

