

THE TEACHINGS OF MORRIS VENDEN

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CHAPTER TWO –VENDEN’S VIEW-ONLY THREE THINGS TO DO TO BE SAVED

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LISTING OF VENDEN'S BOOKS-MAGAZINES-CAMPMEETING TRANSCRIPTS

BOOKS INCLUDED IN THIS TOPICAL STUDY

- [SBF] - "Salvation by Faith and Your Will," Morris L. Venden, Southern Publishing Association, 1978, 128 pages, paperback.
- [FTW] - "Faith that Works," Morris L. Venden, Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1980, 375 pages, hardback.
- [ROE] - "The Return of Elijah," Morris L. Venden, Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1982, 110 pages, paperback.
- [DO] - "Defeated Demons," Morris L. Venden, Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1982, 16 pages, paperback booklet.
- [GN] - "Good News and Bad News About the Judgment," Morris L. Venden, Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1982, 96 pages, paperback.
- [TP] - "The Pillars," Morris L. Venden, Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1982, 109 pages, paperback.
- [MCR] - "How to Make Christianity Real," Morris Venden, Concerned Communications, 1982, 168 pages, paperback.
- [OOF] - "Obedience of Faith," Morris Venden, Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1983, 95 pages, paperback.
- [TKG] - "To Know God," Morris Venden, Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1983, 125 pages, paperback.
- [NWI]- "Never Without an Intercesspr." (Boise, ID: Pacific Press Publishing Assn, 1996).

I've added the review of this book at the end of this document.

MAGAZINE ARTICLES INCLUDED IN THIS TOPICAL STUDY

- [TTI-1] - "Morris Venden Talks to Insight, Part 1," Morris Venden and Editor, "Insight" Magazine, May 8, 1979, pages 7-11.
- [TTI-2] - "Morris Venden Talks to Insight, Part 2," Morris Venden and Editor, "Insight" Magazine, May 15, 1979, pages 6-11.
- [TCT] - "The Christmas Tree," Morris L. Venden, "Adventist Review," December 24, 1981, pages 4-5.
- [SAS] - "What Jesus said about sanctification," Morris L. Venden, "Ministry" Magazine, January, 1982, pages 6-7.
- [SAFR] - "What Jesus said about faith and relationship," Morris L. Venden, "Ministry" Magazine, March, 1982, pages 8-9.
- [SAH] - "What Jesus said about Himself," Morris L. Venden, "Ministry" Magazine, May, 1982, pages 18-19.
- [JSAP] - "What Jesus said about perfection," Morris L. Venden, "Ministry" Magazine, July, 1982, pages 8-9.
- [SAPJ] - "What Jesus said about a pre-Advent judgment," Morris L. Venden, "Ministry" Magazine, September, 1982, pages 14-16.
- [SITP] - "What Jesus said about the prophets," Morris L. Venden, "Ministry" Magazine, November, 1982, pages 22-23.

CAMPMEETING SERIES TRANSCRIPTS INCLUDED IN THIS TOPICAL STUDY

- [1-7 AUC CM] - Sermon Series at Atlantic Union Conference Campmeeting, Summer, 1979. (This was a seven-part lecture series, and each sermon is numbered: 1 AUC CM, 2 AUC CM, etc.)

Of the above materials, "Good News and Bad News About the Judgment," and "The Pillars," are among Venden's best books, for they tend to deal with doctrinal aspects on which he is more in agreement with traditional Adventism. To these two books should be added nearly all of the August through December sections of "Faith that Works." By the end of July, Venden had covered the means of salvation and had turned to other topics. Thinking, doubtless, that his audience was smaller, he gave some unusual material in his "Insight" articles and AUC Camp meeting Series. Seven of his nine published books were issued since 1981.

CHAPTER TWO -HOW WE ARE SAVED

DON'T FALL INTO THE TRAP OF DOING THINGS TO PLEASE HIM

"What does it mean to abide in Christ, to be in Christ, and have 'Christ in you' (Col. 1 :27)? Obviously this is referring to a very close relationship. That's what it's talking about. Christ is saying here, Stay in the relationship that was begun when you first accepted Me as your only hope. Stay in relationship with Me."

"Please don't fall into the trap that we talked about earlier, of thinking that the way to stay in relationship with someone is by trying to do things to please him." TKG, 109.

ASSURANCE

OUR ASSURANCE

"If your assurance is based on your behavior or lack of behavior in any way, you are still a legalist." TP, 45.

HOW YOU "WORK OUT YOUR SALVATION"

PHILIPPIANS 2:12-IN ONLY THREE WAYS

"Paul says in Philippians 2:12, "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling." How do you work out your own salvation? What is your part? What can you do?

Three things. The study of the Bible and spending time in prayer are the first two. The third is Christian witness. But you really can't become involved in telling what a wonderful Friend you have found in Jesus until you have a meaningful relationship with Him. So Bible study and prayer become an absolute necessity in order to end up with a genuine Christian witness." TKG,67. '

ALL OF YOUR SALVATION IN ALL OF ITS ASPECTS

"Therefore, all that we can possibly do toward our own salvation in all of its respects is to accept His invitation to communion with Him through prayer and the study of His Word. And through this, we abide in the vine." OOF, 84.

NOT BASED ON WHAT YOU, DO

"In other words, salvation is based not upon what you do, but upon whom you know. And no person really sees the necessity for knowing God and therefore sees the need to reserve quality time for that purpose until he realized that salvation is based upon relationship instead of behavior." TKG, 26.

GOD'S IDEAL FOR US-DON'T FEEL ALARM

"So if I find that I am not obeying exactly as Jesus did yet, I don't need to feel alarm. But, please, let's not drag His goal, purpose, and ideal for us down to our level of performance." OOF,43.

GOD'S PLAN-MISREPRESENTING GOD'S PLAN

"If I am forcing myself to refrain from doing certain things simply because someone told me that I mustn't do them, have I really overcome anything? A legalist who relies on outward behavior for salvation would say that I have, but God has a better plan to give me freedom also from the desire to do wrong. If I go around giving people the impression that living a Christian life consists of trying hard to obey, am I truly representing God's plan?" SBF, 40.

GIFTS ALONE

"Christ living His life out in me through the Holy Spirit, obedience, victory, and overcoming have in them not one thread of human devising. All we can do is accept them as gifts." GN,47.

TRYING TO BE OVERCOMERS

"Yet most of us continue to work hard, trying to be overcomers. That's the reason we don't overcome: because you can't work for a gift. To try to earn a gift is an insult to the giver." GN, 49.

SATAN'S ACCUSATIONS;

THE CHARGE: HE WANTS TO GET OVER HIS SINS

"Satan says to God, 'You see that person there; seeking You? He's only interested in himself. He wants to get to heaven, and get over his problems, and he wants that peace that he hears others talk about. He wants victory over his sins, and to get rid of his ulcers. He's not seeking You because he loves You, he's seeking You because of what he can get from You. It's the same charge the devil made against Job.'" FTW, 129. '

PRIMARY TEMPTATIONS-ONE OF THE FIRST TEMPTATIONS",

"He decides that he will now give up his smoking, drinking, rock records, and temper. But the devil sits back and laughs, for he knows that we will end up with nothing but bruises when we try to overcome sin in our own strength. One of the first temptations a person faces when he decides he wants to be a Christian, is to try to be good. But righteousness is not something that we were intended to seek! It is a byproduct of knowing Jesus, and results from 'beholding' Him." OOF 51.

HOW THE DEVIL SIDETRACKS YOU

"A person says, 'I'm interested in religion. I'm interested in becoming a Christian.' And the devil says, 'Oh, oh!' And he calls together a ways and means committee. It has nothing to do with money. It's ways and means of sidetracking the person from knowing God. The devil says, 'If this person is going to insist on trying to become a Christian, then let's get him to work on righteousness.' So he begins to whisper in the person's ear, 'You've got to be good if you're going to be a Christian. You've got to do what's right. You'd better work on it! Oh, you slipped today. You'd better work harder.'.... TKG, 73

"YOU HAVE TO BE PERFECT," THE DEVIL SAYS "We hear the news that it's [the close of probation] just about over. And the devil comes to us and clubs us over the head with our failures. 'You have to be perfect,' he says, 'and you're not even close.' But instead of bowing at the feet of Jesus and going to Him for the power to overcome and leaving the results with Him, we try to drag God's standard down to our level of performance. But assurance is not based on a lowered standard of righteousness, assurance is based only on the grace of the lord Jesus Christ." TP, 61