

Sermon Series: Are You Really Adventist?

Week 1: We Were Wrong

Key Scripture

- Revelation 10:10-11: The little scroll tasted sweet but turned sour, symbolizing the initial excitement and subsequent disappointment of the early Adventist movement.

Main Themes

1. Admitting Mistakes

- The Adventist movement began with a significant error in predicting Christ's return in 1844.
- Emphasizes the importance of honesty and humility in acknowledging past mistakes.

2. Inheritance and Responsibility

- We have inherited a legacy of disappointment but also a mission.
- Our responsibility is to maintain, protect, and advance the mission of the church.

3. From Failure to Mission

- Failure does not disqualify us; it can prepare us for greater mission work.
- The early Adventists, despite their initial error, continued to study and pray, leading to a deeper understanding of biblical truths.

4. Identity and Mission of Adventism

- Seventh-day: Observance of the Sabbath as a declaration of God as Creator.
- Adventist: Belief in the imminent return of Jesus Christ.
- Living by the rhythm of rest and moving with the urgency of hope.

5. Challenges and Corrections

- Past mistakes include using prophecy as a weapon, confusing unity with uniformity, and silencing diverse voices.
- The call to love people into discipleship rather than scaring them into baptism.

6. Call to Action

- Encourages believers to be active participants in the mission, not just spectators.
- Emphasizes the need for courage, honesty, and a commitment to Jesus above all else.

Reflection Questions

1. How can admitting past mistakes strengthen our faith and mission?
2. What responsibilities come with inheriting the Adventist legacy?
3. In what ways can we ensure that our church is a movement of courage rather than a museum of caution?
4. How can we better embody the principles of being a Seventh-day Adventist in our daily lives?
5. What steps can we take to correct past wrongs and move forward in unity and mission?

Action Points

- Personal Reflection: Spend time in prayer and study to understand your role in the Adventist mission.
- Community Engagement: Participate in church activities that focus on outreach and service.
- Honest Conversations: Engage in discussions about the church's history and future with an open heart and mind.
- Commitment to Jesus: Reaffirm your personal commitment to follow Jesus and His teachings.