

## FREE ADVENT BANNER

Published monthly by the General Assembly of FREE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS,  
Savannah, Georgia

Price ..... \$1.00 per year

Entered as second class matter.....  
.....1920 at the Post Office at Savannah,  
Ga. under the act of March 3, 1879.

Accepted for mailing at special rate of  
postage. Provided for in Section 1103, Act  
of Oct. 3, 1917. Authorized .....

General Assembly Directory.  
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### SALUTATORY

With the many church papers already in circulation, one would at once conclude that no more are needed. We must agree that there are quite enough papers giving the church news to the world. Then, why start another? Because there is another church on the great field, and is therefore in need of a silent messenger declaring the great principles for which it stands. Well, what is the need of another church? We now have so many and each one preaching something differing from the other and for this reason, many are stumbling and falling, some never to rise again. But again the question is asked: what church is this, and what is it that necessitates the establishment of another church? To these questions the answers will be given in the following:

About twenty-five or thirty years ago the Seventh-day Adventists began a definite work among the colored people of the South. For ten years the two races experienced little or no difficulty in the North and West in equal enjoyment of religious rights and privileges. But as the denomination grew in popularity and influence, race prejudice began to engender Negro proscription. As the number of Negroes increased in the churches, the race friction and proscription grew more rapidly.

Then to add sin to sin, some of the leaders of the denomination a few years ago began in a deceptive and unchristian way, the work of segregation in

all their churches East and West. All this, of course, was contrary to their former teaching and profession. Some of the more intelligent Negroes resented this unscriptural course and demanded an explanation. As these leaders could not use the Bible to support them in their base acts of prejudice and proscription, they resorted to what is supposed to be the writings of Mrs. E. G. White, and in 1909 issued "Testimonies," Vol. 9. In this book are two garbled chapters on the Negro question that will work any fair minded Christian hard to believe that God had anything to do with them.

Notice the claims made for these "Testimonies." In Vol. 5 page 67, we read: "In these letters which I write in the Testimonies I bear, I am presenting to you that which the Lord has presented to me. I do not write one article in the paper expressing merely my own ideas. They are what God has opened before me in vision, the precious rays of light shining from the throne."

Here, as you see, is a claim for absolute infallibility for all of Sister White's writings. While we do believe that sister White was divinely inspired, we do not believe that she wrote everything that bears her signature.

On page 214 Testimonies, Vol. 9, we read: "The Colored people should not urge that they be placed on equality with white people." This statement, though said to be the writings of sister White, and is therefore, inspired, is a contradiction to former writings by her. For in her testimony written December 17, 1895, and published in the little "Southern Work," we read: "Many of this race (Negro Race) have noble traits of character and keen perception of mind. If they had an opportunity to develop, they would stand upon an equality with the whites." Page 55. Again on page 202, Vol. 9, "Opportunities are continually presenting themselves in the Southern States and many WISE CHRISTIAN colored men will be called to the work. But for several reasons

white men must be chosen as leaders." This we believe to be a permanent bar to Negro leadership in the Seventh-day Adventists denomination. Now note this statement, The colored man may be wise and he may be a Christian, this is all that any poor mortal can be in this world, but because he is "black," he is not fit to be a leader in the S. D. A. denomination. Not so with the white man. So long as he is white, it matters not whether he is a Christian or wise, just be white, and he is a fit subject for a leader.

In the book of Acts chapter 10, verse 34, we read: "Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of person." "But in every nation he that feareth Him (God) and worketh righteousness is accepted with Him." Verse 35.

While these words of the Apostle are impartial, the quotations of Vol. 9, are grievous insults to every self-respecting colored man or woman that enters the denomination.

Therefore, comes the church of Free Seventh-day Adventists. We come believing all of the fundamental principles of the original body of Seventh-day Adventists. We believe that this people has been entrusted with the greatest message which has ever been given to mortals. We also believe that all the publications are truth filled, granting that there are some mistakes, which many of the leaders will not deny.

We are Free, 1st. Because it is not Christian to estimate men by their outward appearance nor color. Acts. 17:26; 2 Sam. 14:14. 2nd. Because, birth, nationality, color nor station do not elevate nor degrade men. Acts 10:28-35. 3rd. Because we accept the Bible alone as our supreme rule of faith and practice. 2 Tim. 16, 17, and we accept only such other writings as harmonize with God's word. Isa. 8:20. 4th. Because the Lord is that Spirit and where the Spirit of the Lord is there is liberty. 2 Cor. 3:17. 5th. Because we respect not the person of men, but descend to high and low. Rom. 12:16. James 2:5-9. 6th. Be-