



## SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

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### WHAT CHANNEL ARE YOU WATCHING?

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Revelation chapter 3 says that God's last-day church is lukewarm. It considers itself rich and increased in goods and in need of nothing. The church is, like Rip Van Winkle, in danger of sleeping through a great revolution. But if anything should make us wake up, it is the revolution is taking place right in front of our eyes. Recent events in the US have brought the financial crisis to the very doorsteps of our church here in Bermuda, leaving members worried about their financial futures and administrators concerned about the potential impact on our church. But this is a time for vigilance not panic because, as Seventh-day Adventists, we have been warned that this is coming.

"Love of money and love of display have made this world as a den of thieves and robbers. The Scriptures picture the greed and oppression that will prevail just before Christ's second coming" (PK 651). Ellen White quotes James 5:1, 3-6. I urge you to read these verses and then ask yourself, what channel you are watching? In the current climate, four events have kept many glued to the television: 1) The primaries; 2) The conventions; 3) The debates; 4) The election. But in the context of eternity, four other events have kept the universe glued to our planet:

1) *Fall and Incarnation*

"The holy inhabitants of other worlds were watching with deepest interest the events taking place on the earth" (PP 78).

2) *Gethsemane*

"All heaven and the unfallen worlds had been witnesses to the controversy. With what intense interest did they follow the closing scenes of the conflict. They beheld the Saviour enter the garden of Gethsemane, His soul bowed down with the horror of a great darkness" (DA 759).

3) *Calvary*

"Heaven viewed with grief and amazement Christ hanging upon the cross, blood flowing from His wounded temples, and sweat tinged with blood standing upon His brow" (DA 760).

4) *Second Coming*

"The whole universe is watching with inexpressible interest the closing scenes of the great controversy between good and evil" (PK 148).

What are you watching? I urge you to attend the Revelation Seminars and your church's ShareHim programs. Keep focused. Politicians are concerned about approval ratings as they move towards a historic climax. As we move towards the climax of history, get family and neighbors on God's team because you can't beat His approval ratings. "God carries with Him the sympathy and approval of the whole universe as step by step His great plan advances to its complete fulfillment" (PP 79).

ABC, BBC, or NBC can't get you through this crisis. Even CNN can't help you. Laodicea must focus not on the crisis but on the Christ. "And being in the position that we are, we need to be wide awake, wholly devoted, wholly converted, wholly consecrated to God. But we seem to sit as though we were paralyzed. God of heaven, wake us up!" (2 SM 52). I say it's time to change channels.

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