

INTRODUCTION

In the past there was only one school of thought among fundamental Christians concerning Seventh-day Adventism. This school of thought said that the system of doctrine taught by the Seventh-day Adventist denomination was not evangelical, that the Seventh-day Adventists were not Christians, and that we, as Christians, should not extend the hand of fellowship to them. However, today there is a new school of thought concerning Seventh-day Adventism. This new school of thought says that the system of doctrine taught by the Seventh-day Adventist denomination is evangelical, that the Seventh-day Adventists are Christians, and that we, as Christians, should extend the hand of fellowship to them.

One of the champions of this new school of thought was the late Dr. Donald Grey Barnhouse. Dr. Barnhouse was the Pastor of the Tenth Presbyterian Church which is located at 17th and Spruce Streets, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He was an internationally known Bible teacher, an outstanding author, and the editor-in-chief of ETERNITY Magazine. In the September 1956 issue of ETERNITY Magazine Dr. Barnhouse wrote an article entitled, "Are Seventh-day Adventists Christians?" In concluding that article Dr. Barnhouse said:

In conclusion, I should like to say that we are delighted to do justice to a much-maligned group of sincere believers, and in our minds and hearts take them out of the group of utter heretics like the Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons, and Christian Scientists, to acknowledge them as redeemed brethren and members of the body of Christ. It is our sincere prayer that they may be led to consider further the points on which they are so widely divergent from the rest of the Body of Christ and in so doing promote their own spiritual growth and that of their fellow Christians.¹

¹Donald Grey Barnhouse, "Are Seventh-day Adventists Christians?" ETERNITY Magazine, (September 1956), p. 45.