

South New Zealand Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

40 BEALEY AVENUE, CHRISTCHURCH, C.1

PRESIDENT
RESIDENTIAL TELEPHONE 48-101

SECRETARY-TREASURER
RESIDENTIAL TELEPHONE 48-399

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TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:
"ADVENTIST," CHRISTCHURCH

OFFICE TELEPHONE 70-297
P.O. BOX 1231

April 12, 1957.

The Secretary,
Ellen G. White Publications,
General Conference,
Takoma Park,
WASHINGTON D.C.
U.S.A.

Dear Brother White,

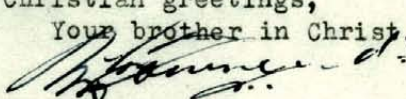
There seems to be a little diversion of view among some of our ministry with regard to the position of a new born baby and its relationship to Christ. Some of us have always felt, and perhaps even taught that the Scripture says that "all have sinned and come short of the glory of God", and also that, "as in Adam all die", and therefore that a child at birth is a sinner because of its connection with Adam. In other words it need not necessarily sin itself in order to become a sinner, but it is a sinner at birth, and therefore needs to be covered with the blood of Christ.

However there is another view and that is that a child is perfect at birth, in that it is not a sinner and does not come under condemnation until such time as it is old enough to understand right from wrong and commit sin itself; which means as I see it that it has no need of the blood of Christ until it is old enough to know right from wrong.

Some claim that there is a statement in the Spirit of Prophecy which would give light on this problem, and also others claim that there is a statement which indicates that until such times as a child is old enough to understand right and wrong that the attitude of the parent towards salvation and their standing in the sight of God, will be to the child, salvation or condemnation. If you could help in this respect Brother White I would greatly appreciate it.

I would appreciate an early reply. As we live in New Zealand, which is a long way off the beaten track, it is necessary that mail be sent by air in order that it reach its destination in a reasonable time. However, I guess you are already familiar with this fact.

With sincere Christian greetings,
Your brother in Christ,


M.G. TOWNEND. H.M. & S.S. Secretary.