

## HYPOCRISY IN HIGH PLACES!

by Dr. Fred Mazzaferri

August, 2010

High on any fair-minded person's short list of objectionable practices, *hypocrisy* surely has its home, especially when the perpetrator occupies some influential position. And this distaste is greatly heightened when the latter professes *belief in God* as his or her life's compass. It is distressing, then, that this brief exposé is motivated by behaviour inviting this very tab by a certain lofty *official* of Seventh-day Adventism!

For several years now, Elder Clifford Goldstein has been the editor of his Church's Senior *Bible Study Guides*. Moreover, he actually authored the volume *The Gospel, 1844, and Judgment*, third quarter, 2006. While many will query the relevant theology, few will dispute his conclusion, Introduction, Lesson 10:

[T]he 1844 pre-Advent judgment is a crucial doctrine of the Adventist Church; not only does it explain the disappointment of 1844, it helps us understand who we are today and why we exist as a movement. With so much at stake, our enemy is constantly at work to undermine us, and if he can undo our belief in 1844, he will greatly succeed. Thus, it is *important* that we as Adventists be firmly rooted in this teaching, as well as *be prepared to ANSWER challenges against it*. [all stress supplied]

The trouble is, [Elder Goldstein appears extremely reluctant to practise what he preaches!](#)

The prime purpose of this exposé is to demonstrate that *this seems to be a fault at large*.

At very least, the author of [a professional critique of this complete series of studies](#), widely accessed on the internet, is still awaiting *ANY* response whatever from Elder Goldstein! However, let me leave that on his conscience and concentrate upon his current *hypocrisy*.

The web site [www.atoday.com/content/review-references-des-ford-s-new-book](http://www.atoday.com/content/review-references-des-ford-s-new-book) features a very confident claim by Elder Goldstein that the seven volumes of *DARCOM\** apologia “openly confronted many of the questions that Desmond Ford raised.” In fact, he goes as far as lauding them as “the church’s official and best response to those theological issues”.

Above all, Dr. William Shea’s protracted defense of the utterly crucial year-day principle of prophetic interpretation, Volume 1, remains “arguably the church’s best scholarly defense”.

Importantly, the genesis of Goldstein’s claim is his sharp rebuke that Dr. Ford refuses to answer “the church’s best defense” of such sectarian dogma as Seventh-day Adventism’s crucial year-day principle. When a relative in this denomination brought this protest belatedly to my attention, I emailed Goldstein to confirm his address, then despatched him indubitable evidence that in the main, *his DARCOM apologia has been rather soundly refuted by a generally respected Bible scholar*. Despite a reminder, following a respectful three months of patience, as I write, *I have waited fully NINE months in vain for ANY reply from him!#*

In passing, let me tempt any reluctant reader with the fact that my critique included reference to a *SILVER torpedo* so effective, alone, in scuttling “good” ship 1844 that two prominent DARCOM scholars invite the charge of *intellectual dishonesty* in seeking to silence it! I also reminded Elder Goldstein that *this DARCOM apologia nowhere refers to Dr. Ford, let alone his concerns*, via specific references!

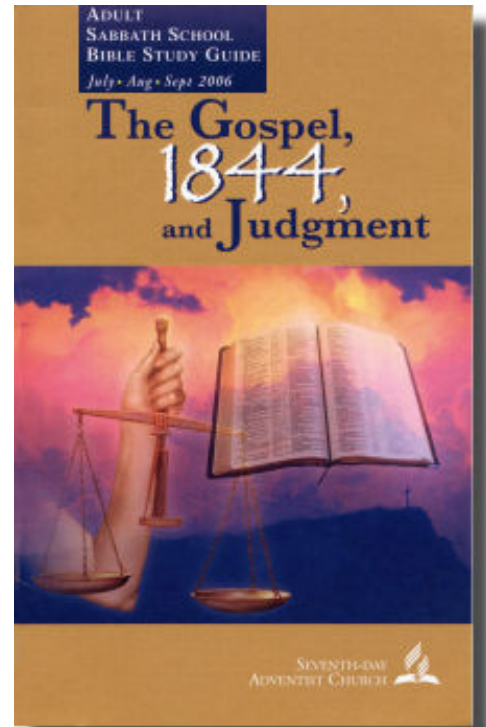
Because this entire issue is quite important, I really cannot allow Elder Goldstein the luxury of evident, flagrant *hypocrisy* from the shelter of his remote, elevated, highly influential desk. At very least, he would do extremely well to remember that *silence demands neither courage nor intelligence!* Equally, though, just as I approached him confidentially, not publicly, on his private email address, I have no desire now to satisfy the idly curious. However, I am perfectly happy to [email](#) any *genuine* enquirer a copy of my email to him, rather than posting it openly upon this web site. This will also offer me an avenue for personal dialogue with anyone sincerely seeking further information.

*I would be highly delighted were Elder Goldstein to abandon his obsession with Dr. Ford and join those sincerely seeking such reality!*

Please observe, though, that I reserve the right, through prayer for the Holy Spirit’s guidance, to filter out any patently unseemly requests. Likewise, *I have NO interest in debate*, which tends to glorify the most adept. Sacred truth warrants the respect of polite, orderly *dialogue*. However, I also reserve the right, in view of temporal restraints at times, to refer some enquirers to my relevant material already on line.

\* An acronym for *Daniel And Revelation COM*mittee, as Goldstein himself quite adequately explains in his web rebuke to which I have linked above.

#But now take careful note of my significant update, p. 2 below, even though, in effect, it *increases*, not *lessens*, the advisability of this protest.



**JUDGMENT? — “[B]y your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned”, Mt. 12:37, (T)NIV!**

## A SIGNIFICANT UPDATE

10<sup>th</sup> August, 2010

Just as soon as I confirmed that my above protest was safely online a few days ago, I paid Elder Goldstein the Christian courtesy of an email copy. To my somewhat delighted surprise, as well as his general credit, he responded quite promptly! This launched a handful of equally prompt exchanges between us over the next couple of days, as I politely and prudently sought his final, fully considered position. This necessitates the following, minor revision to my protest's context.

For the sake of any readers who may deem this update overly verbose, though, I will preface its details with this brief explanation. In some five decades of preaching and teaching Holy Writ, I have never *knowingly* betrayed any confidence of anyone, friend or foe, with whom I have had the privilege of private dialogue. Nor do I intend to begin with Elder Goldstein. My task would be simplest here were I merely to quote our series of emails, permitting them to speak clearly for themselves. Instead, having promised my protagonist my routine confidentiality, that task must be attempted a little more laboriously, through my summarising the essential details of our dialogue.

First, from the very outset, Elder Goldstein has maintained, with most commendable politeness, that *he has **NO** knowledge whatever of my two major emails*, which feature so prominently in my protest above. Normally, this would constrain any genuine Christian instantly to withdraw every last accusation of the hypocrisy of an utter failure to respond. However, as should become crescently transparent below, the fuller background really does appear to justify my proceeding with my exposé only *minimally* modified. For one thing, Elder Goldstein has *specifically* clarified that his nescience does **NOT** mean that he did not receive my emails. For another – overriding what would otherwise be my obligation to offer him the entire benefit of this doubt – there is manifest evidence that *his hypocrisy would have been just as hidebound had he absorbed them!* On one hand, his deplorable habit of not practising what he preaches on answering sectarian critics was quite deeply entrenched, on sounder soil at that, *before* my emails. On the other, despite his brevity, his recent responses to me consistently evince that *he has no interest even in viewing them!*

Above all else, despite his commendable politeness, Elder Goldstein has made it abundantly manifest throughout, I sincerely regret to reveal, that *he wanted to be rid of me without delay!* This is all the more abysmal because of the rather puerile “excuse” which he utilised repeatedly. Naïvely or not, from the outset I had sought to evoke the very defense which he recommends by sharing that, whatever my own view, he is not always distinguished in adept eyes from typical Seventh-day Adventist executives, with scant skills in effective Bible study and a shallow grasp of the very DARCOM apologia which they clasp quite blindly to their grateful breasts. My, did that tactic backfire! For Elder Goldstein's sustained retort was that since this was probably true, debate with me would be futile. In fact, he opined in closing that *such an exchange would likely alter **nothing!*** So, however wily his expedience seems in his own eyes, few who crave integrity will be laughing.

Actually, ever since my initial, public protest above, I have consistently stressed that ***“I have NO interest in debate”***. Moreover, in one terminal effort to encourage Elder Goldstein to take my profound concerns seriously, I even yielded him *all* possible, legitimate ground by conceding that I would be happy if he weighed at least my major rebuttal privately. But *he rigidly resists my plea!*

In sum, I have no doubt whatever that **ELDER GOLDSTEIN'S HYPOCRISY IS EVEN WORSE THAN I HAD DEDUCED!!** Furthermore, the very best that can be said is that he may be foolhardy. The very worst is that he may even be arrogantly resisting God's Holy Spirit! I have no Christian option, then, but to maintain my above protest in cyberspace, within this highly clarifying context, where those who are interested can judge this lamentable matter for themselves.

In closing, I solicit your prayers for all, like Elder Goldstein, still deluded by such heresy.