



## Jesus, the Coming Crisis, and Our Relationship to Civil Authorities

### COMMENTARY



At 2021 ASi convention, Mark Finley's seminar reflects on the signs of the times.

“Our class will have three purposes — what I call ‘The Three Ds,’ ” Mark Finley, international evangelist and assistant to the General Conference president, said as he started his seminar on August 5, 2021, the second day of the Adventist-laymen’s Services and Industries (ASi) International Convention in Orlando, Florida, United States.

The three “Ds” are, “first, to deepen our spiritual experience; then discern what is coming; and finally, discover the legitimate role of government in society,” Finley said. For him, the first purpose — to deepen our spiritual experience — is essential. “You can know about the future, but the knowledge about future events is not enough if you don’t have a relationship with Jesus,” he emphasized.

At the same time, he acknowledged as he addressed his third purpose of the seminar — to discover the legitimate role of government in society — that the days ahead will be difficult. “We’ll have to make decisions about governments,” Finley said. “So, what are the biblical principles that can guide us as we make those decisions? Let me tell you that we are not left in the dark,” he noted.

### Preparation Is Key

Finley reminded his audience that while the future may be very cloudy for people of this world, as children of God we have divine insight about the future. However, he added, because we know what is coming, preparation is key. “You don’t prepare for a marathon on the day of the marathon,” he said, using a common analogy. “You don’t prepare for the final events when they start happening. Facing the trials of today prepares us for the challenges of tomorrow.”

The best way to prepare for the coming crisis as the history of this world comes to an end is to follow Jesus’ advice — watch and pray. He explained that to “watch” means “to be saturated” in the Word of God. “As we study Scripture, the Spirit that inspired Scriptures transforms our lives,” he said.

We must take that preparation very seriously, Finley said, because every believer will have to make tough decisions. He quoted Adventist Church co-founder Ellen G. White’s book *The Great Controversy*, where she wrote when discussing the end of times, “To every soul will come the searching test: Shall I obey God rather than men? The decisive hour is even now at hand. Are our feet planted on the rock of God’s immutable word? Are we prepared to stand firm in defense of the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus?” (p. 593).

### No Distractions

Against this backdrop, we should never allow things to distract us from our mission, Finley said. “Some people are more interested in political parties and the governments of this world instead of the government of God,” he acknowledged. “But to divide the church over government decisions is a tragedy.”

Distractions are easier to avoid if we develop a rich devotional life that assigns a preeminent place to prayer. It is that “quiet hour,” he said, using a term coined by White. “We need a personal experience and the knowledge of God’s will.”

Finley said he is convinced that the time we have right now is the time God has given us so we can be prepared. But unlike Jesus’ disciples who fell asleep instead of watching and praying, we should be alert. Why? “Because without Jesus,” Finley emphasized, “without a living relationship with Him, no one of us will make it through the crisis.”

### The Role of the Government

Government has a legitimate sphere in the life of its citizens, Finley reminded his audience. “Were the Pharaohs of Egypt godly leaders?” he asked. “No, they were not, but Joseph had a concern for Egypt.” He added, “Did Joseph act in rebellion against Egyptian society? No, he didn’t!”

The same applies to the prophet Daniel. He witnessed to Babylonian society even though Babylon was not a righteous nation, Finley emphasized.

It is the reason the apostle Paul suggests that if we manifest love and kindness to the society we live in, we will attract that society, Finley noted. “Rather than rebelling against a government that is oppressive, let us reveal Christ in the marketplace,” he said. “Are you praying for your government?”

Finley reminded ASi members that the Roman government oppressed people. It was cruel and corrupt. But Jesus related to that society, Ellen White wrote in her book *The Desire of Ages*, “by implanting God’s nature in humanity,” Finley shared. “Jesus wanted to teach the principles of God’s kingdom.”

This does not mean that the Christian church should be indifferent or not speak against injustice, Finley emphasized. But according to him, our role is not to attempt changing society by merely changing laws. “Christ was not concerned as much about the laws of society as with changing hearts, which is the ultimate solution,” he said.

### Limits in Government Power

Against that backdrop, the power of government is very limited, Finley explained. “One of the roles of government is to provide a safe, secure environment so citizens can exercise their free exercise of religion,” he said. “It is to provide an environment of opportunity, with equal access to housing, education, health care, and work.”

Finley stressed that according to the Bible, the government authority is always subject to the Word of God. “When the government steps over the line and infringes conscience, we must obey God and not men,” he said. Once again, he quoted Ellen White. In the compilation of her writings titled *Last Day Events*, she wrote, “The people of God will recognize human government as an ordinance of divine appointment and will by precept and example teach obedience to it as a sacred duty so long as its authority is exercised within its legitimate sphere.” He kept on reading: “But when its claims conflict with the claims of God, we must choose to obey God rather than men. The Word of God must be recognized and obeyed as an

authority above that of all human legislation” (p. 142).

When the laws of the land also go against God’s principles, Ellen White advised church members to disregard those laws. For example, Finley pointed out, in *Testimonies for the Church* volume 1, she mentioned that the law of her time required every free person to deliver escaped slaves to their master. “We are not to obey,” she wrote, “and we must abide the consequences of violating this law” (p. 201).

### What Are Seventh-day Adventists to Do?

In the last part of his presentation, Finley suggested four principles to keep in mind. He reminded his listeners, “We have a greater mission than getting involved in a political party.”

Finley suggested praying for government leaders, and where possible, obey the government as much as it is advisable. Once more, he emphasized that in any conflict between the government and the Word of God, we must obey God.

Finally, he said, some things are a matter of personal choice; we shouldn’t allow those issues to divide us. “Can two faithful Seventh-day Adventists think differently about political issues?” Finley asked. “Can two faithful Seventh-day Adventists think differently about a pandemic? Yes, they can!” he answered. But according to Finley, there is a more significant issue at play: “The proclamation of the three angels’ messages to all the world to prepare a people to meet Jesus.” It is something, he emphasized, that should be above any other personal consideration. Why? Because Jesus, he said, “will have a church that will stand up till the end.”

Article written by Marcos Paseggi, *Adventist Review* (August 18, 2021).



### FROM THE EDITOR

Are you interested in writing the lead article for the Logos? Please send an email to [lsturupp@sbcadventist.org.bs](mailto:lsturupp@sbcadventist.org.bs)



### CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2021

#### AUGUST

- 21 Adventurer Bible Connection Finals #PBC  
Adventist Education Day
- 22 C.H.A.M Virtual Training Summit – K.I.D.S. 101
- 27-29 Back2School Revival (Joint AY)
- 28 Pathfinder Bible Connection Finals #PBC  
Abuse Prevention Emphasis Day  
Abuse Prevention Day (Enditnow Day)  
Lay Preachers Exchange and Lay Evangelism Emphasis Day

#### SEPTEMBER

- 1-30 Evangelistic Campaigns by Children
- 3-5 ALERT (Advanced Leadership Evangelism and Retention Training)
- 4 IWILLGO: “Community School Principal” Local Church  
God Covers Me (WM & CHAM)
- 5 Prayer Meeting (Joint)  
SBC Music Committee Meeting
- 11 Youth Mission Congress #YMC

- (Family Island)  
Stewardship Day  
13-17 Pathfinder Week Scarf Challenge Day  
14 Fathers Take Your Children to School  
18 World Pathfinder Day #WPD (AM: Local Church)  
18 Pathfinder Day March (PM: Joint)  
25 Biblical Symposium & Spirit of Prophecy  
30 Executive Prayer Meeting  
TBA SBC Youth Choir Re-launch  
TBA Praise & Worship Workshop (proposed)



**HAPPENING THIS WEEKEND  
CHILDREN & ADOLESCENT  
MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT**

**K.I.D.S. 101 – KINGDOM INSTRUCTIONS  
& DEVELOPMENTAL SERIES**

*For Ages 6-15years.*

Sunday, August 22, 2021.

10:00a.m. – 11:30a.m. & 3:00p.m. – 4:30p.m.

**Session One - Presentations**

10:10 a.m. – 10:35 a.m.

'Kids & Finances' by Mr. Michael Toote Jr.

10:40 a.m. – 11:05 a.m.

'Kids Inspired – Delivering Sermons'

by Pastor T. Basil Sturupp.

**Session Two - Presentations**

3:10 p.m. – 3:35 p.m.

'What Can Music Be For You?'

by Mr. Joshua Stewart.

3:40 p.m. - 4:05 p.m.

'The Artist Within' by Mr. Richardo Barrett.

Q&A and practical activities will follow presentations.

Free online registration can be accessed through WhatsApp or messaging from the church's C.H.A.M leader or by logging onto our Conference website.

**CONNECT VIA ZOOM**

Meeting ID: 918 2907 1265

Passcode: KIDS101

Or connect via

[southbahamasconference.org](https://southbahamasconference.org)

--Mrs. Lavern A. Sturupp, Children & Adolescent Ministries Director.



**BAHAMAS ACADEMY**

**REGISTRATION FOR ENTRANCE  
INTO EARLY LEARNING CENTRE**

Bahamas Academy's Early Learning Centre has relocated to Marshall Road. Registration is in progress for children ages 3-5 years old.

**Bahamas Academy's Summer Office**

**Hours** - 8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. from Monday-Friday. --Mrs. Juliette Sands, Principal, Bahamas Academy.



**BIBLE CLASS**

Bible Class will be held on Sunday, August 22, 2021 at 6:30p.m. via Zoom.

Meeting ID: 915 5872 2673

Passcode: 592256

--Pastor Lynden Williams, Spirit of Prophecy Coordinator.



**HEALTH MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT**

**Health Leaders Meeting**

On Sunday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> at 11:00a.m. a Health Leaders meeting is scheduled to discuss plans for 2022 in conjunction with the initiatives of Atlantic Caribbean Union (ATCU) and the Inter-American Division (IAD). This meeting will be held via Zoom. --Mrs. Nathelyn Lacroix, Health Ministries Director.

**HEALTH TIP**

Our bodies are built up from the food we eat. There is a constant breaking down of the tissues of the body; every movement of every organ involves waste, and this waste is repaired from our food. Each organ of the body requires its share of nutrition. The brain must be supplied with its portion; the bones, muscles, and nerves demand theirs. It is a wonderful process that transforms the food into blood and uses this blood to build up the varied parts of the body; this process is going on continually, supplying with life and strength each nerve, muscle, and tissue. --*The Ministry of Healing.*

**Health Talk on Arthritis**

On Sunday August 22<sup>nd</sup> at 4:00p.m. the Health Ministries Department of the Maranatha Church will present a health talk on Arthritis (causes, symptoms, effects, and treatment). The meeting will be held via Zoom.

Meeting ID: 829 806 2249

Passcode: Gayle

All are invited.

--Mrs. Gayle Farquharson, Health Leader, Maranatha.



**WOMEN'S MINISTRIES  
DEPARTMENT**

**Upcoming Events**

**Wednesday Pause & Pray Special Edition**

August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – 12:00p.m - 12:30p.m.

Prayer Focus: The Abused and The Abuser

Zoom ID: 98113813577

Password: 094045

**EnditNow**

**BRINGING PEACE HOME:**

Addressing Youth Violence at the Roots

August 28, 2021(Individual Churches)

**"God Covers Me"**

A joint initiative by Women's Ministries and Children & Adolescent Ministries Department  
September 1, 2021

Zoom details to follow.

**Save The Date**

Women's Ministries 2021 Virtual Conclave  
October 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

**Remember to Pause & Pray with us  
virtually each Wednesday at noon.**

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions or need additional information on any of our initiatives, kindly email us at [SBCwomensministries@sbcadventist.org](mailto:SBCwomensministries@sbcadventist.org).

--Mrs. Jacqueline Gibson, Women's Ministries Director.



**SOUTH BAHAMAS CONFERENCE  
YOUTH DEPARTMENT:**

**RE: SUMMER SURGE GUIDELINES**

Due to the current summer surge in country, the following guidelines adapted from meetings with the Ministry of Youth are recommended for Club Meetings and AY Services:

**CLUB MEETINGS: ALL** Club face-to-face activities are **suspended** until further notice. Only **VIRTUAL** club activities are permitted!

**AY SERVICES: AYS** are to be held **VIRTUALLY ONLY**. Additional digital resources will be made available to AY Leaders. Stay tune for our virtual **Youth Forum Series!** Below are a few resources:  
<https://www.waymaker.tv/browse>

<https://www.hopetv.org/shows/inverse>

<https://sabbathprograms.com/adventist-youth-ay>

<https://www.ks-ne.org/ministries/youth-ministries>

**BAND REHEARSALS:** In-person band practices are **suspended** until further notice.

We are source testing

<https://jamkazam.com/> app for online practices.

**SPORTS:** Adventist Track & Field Championship and Basketball League 2021 are **suspended** until further notice.

A Christmas Sports tournament is being planned providing conditions improve.

**SBC BIBLE CONNECTION: SBCBC**

Finals 2021 for Adventurers, Pathfinders and Adventist Youth will be held virtually via [www.zoom.com](https://www.zoom.com) and [www.kahoot.com](https://www.kahoot.com) on August 7, 14 and 21.

**PATHFINDER WEEK AND**

**PATHFINDER DAY 2021:** will take on a **HYBRID** model. Resources will be sent using [www.dropbox.com](https://www.dropbox.com) to Pathfinder Directors to assist with advance planning.



**WHAT WE BELIEVE:**

**BELIEF 19: THE LAW OF GOD**

The great principles of God's law are embodied in the Ten Commandments and exemplified in the life of Christ. They express God's love, will, and purposes concerning human conduct and relationships and are binding upon all people in every age. These precepts are the basis of God's covenant with His people and the standard in God's judgment. Through the agency of the Holy Spirit they point out sin and awaken a sense of need for a Saviour. Salvation is all of grace and not of works, and its fruit is obedience to the Commandments. This obedience develops Christian character and results in a sense of well-being. It is evidence of our love for the Lord and our concern for our fellow human beings. The obedience of faith demonstrates the power of Christ to transform lives, and therefore strengthens Christian witness.

**REFERENCES:**

Exod. 20:1-17; Deut. 28:1-14; Ps. 19:7-14; 40:7, 8; Matt. 5:17-20; 22:36-40; John 14:15; 15:7-10; Rom. 8:3, 4; Eph. 2:8-10; Heb. 8:8-10; 1 John 2:3; 5:3; Rev. 12:17; 14:12.

For more information, visit:

<https://www.adventist.org/the-law-of-god/>



Please Email Weekly Announcements

To: [sbclogos@gmail.com](mailto:sbclogos@gmail.com)

Or [logos@sbcadventist.org](mailto:logos@sbcadventist.org)

By Tuesday at 3:00p.m.

Visit the Conference website:

<http://southbahamasconference.org>  
for the Logos publication archives & the  
ATV658 NEWS, as well as weekly  
programming.



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SUN SETS NEXT SABBATH

August 28, 2021 @ 7:32 p.m.



Have a Happy Sabbath!