



Love

Fights  
Back

3 Stories to Save the World

Patrick Johnson



# Love Fights Back

Patrick Johnson

God is love – we sing it, preach it, and powerfully proclaim it, but for some people the question remains: ***‘Does God really love me?’***

The unequivocal answer is an emphatic ‘YES!’ answers Dr Patrick Johnson, a long-serving minister of the Gospel well-versed in Scripture, who has also been on his own faith journey and taken a long, hard look at this vital question for himself.

The question is, ‘What is God really like?’ Do the three angels’ messages of Revelation 14 show Him to be an angry, vengeful God, a God to be scared of? Or do they rather portray a God we can run to, a God who longs to protect us and save us . . . a God we can trust?

This question is of crucial significance, and the correct answer to it will have eternal ramifications for your own life.

## Extending Love – Trans-European Division

The first key strategic aim of the Trans-European Division is to ‘extend love to the whole person’. Why we may ask, would this ever need to be articulated as a key value, for an organisation thoroughly grounded in the teachings of scripture?

For many and varied reasons, it is sometimes the case that as the teachings of scripture are communicated, error creeps in subtly – not so much as doctrinal error, but at a deeper level, tipping people off balance on the most important matter of all - what God is really like.

“Is it possible”, asks Patrick Johnson, “that as we have communicated and shared the Three Angel’s Message of Revelation 14:6-12, we may have inadvertently, and innocently, tipped our picture of God off balance?”

In this “Love Fights Back” study guide, take a Spirit-filled journey of discovery, with a hope and prayer that a vital message given to first-century Christ-followers, has the same relevance and power for 21st century Christ-followers today, with the overwhelming and liberating message - ‘God is Love’.



# Judgment is good news

---

- 01| How might a great controversy understanding affect the way you judge God's actions in the Old Testament? For example, why did God send the flood, Genesis 6:5-14?
- 02| How might a focus on God's character change the way you approach the subject of salvation?
- 03| Read Revelation 5:9-12. What do these verses tell us about the response of the angels to what Jesus did while he was here on earth?
- 04| If you are an Adventist, how might the idea that 'judgment is good news' affect your understanding of the investigative judgment?
- 05| Since God's main objective is to save, not to condemn, how might this affect the way we practise church discipline?
- 06| Read Romans 3:4; Daniel 7:10; Job 1:6-11; 2:1-5. These texts suggest that God has taken his case into the court of the universe. Is it necessary for him to humbly put himself on trial? Since he is the most powerful being in the universe why could he not merely assert his innocence?
- 07| What is your reaction to the idea that God is the most humble being in the universe?



# The investigative judgment

- 01| Do you agree that Adventists should be re-readers of the Bible? Why/why not?
- 02| Read Colossians 1:19-20; Ephesians 1:3-14 (especially verses 9&10); 3:9-10. In what way do the sinless angels need to be reconciled to God?
- 03| Of the five judgments mentioned, which one would you say is the most important? Why?
- 04| In what way does the danger of a compartmentalised life still exist today? Do our church buildings help to improve this or make it worse?
- 05| Does a focus on character development (rather than sin accounting) make the prospect of a judgment easier or harder to accept? Explain.
- 06| Compare John 10:10 with Revelation 9:11. What does this suggest about the difference in methods that are used by God and Satan?
- 07| How does Revelation 13 compare with 2 Thessalonians 2:8-12? What is the difference between those who are deceived and those who are not?
- 08| What do you think of the idea that the cleansing of the sanctuary is about God being cleansed or vindicated?
- 09| How can we change the focus of our Bible studies and evangelistic meetings to more fully reflect the theme of the good news about God's character?



SCAN ME

Chapter

3