

The Sabbath Sentinel

January/
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2001



SABBATH **UNCOVERED** HISTORY

BSA—The Bible Sabbath Association
“The Sabbath was made for Man”—Jesus, the Christ

The Sabbath Sentinel

January—February 2001 Volume 53, No. 1 Issue 487

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EDITORIAL

THE END IS NEAR?



We did it! The year 2000 managed to come and go without any catastrophe of global proportions shutting down the earth as we know it. It seems that we humans as a whole are incapable of accurate prophetic pronouncements.

That is not too hard to understand when we know that this world is not one of God's design. Its prophets speak of doom and gloom, yet it doesn't come to pass. We are told of this in Deuteronomy 18:21-22: ***"And if you say in your heart, 'How may we know the word which the LORD has not spoken?' when a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the word does not come to pass or come true, that is a word which the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously, you need not be afraid of him."*** (RSV).

We are not to fear those predictors of gloom because they don't know what is coming upon the earth. When then should their words cause us pause? One thing that must certainly concern us is when they get around to telling us that all is well. 1 Thessalonians 5:3, ***"When people say, 'There is peace and security,' then sudden destruction will come upon them as travail comes upon a woman with child, and there will be no escape."*** (RSV).

It seems as if whatever God calls white that men are determined to call black. God's Sabbath day is a good example of this. Of all the commandments listed in Exodus 20, there is only one that the world rejects out of hand. It is found in Exodus 20:8; ***"Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy."*** (KJV).

Amazing, isn't it? The people have no problem with refusing to worship a false god, idols or taking God's name in vain. In truth, as expanded through Christ, they break all of those commands. Yet, the people will tell you that one ought not to do those things.

As the commandments apply to our brother, people in general believe that one ought to honor one's parents—although society in America seems to be turning its back on that commandment also. The days when our children become our oppressors are fast approaching. Isaiah 3:12 states: ***"My people - children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O my people, your leaders mislead you, and confuse the course of your paths."*** (RSV). Do our leaders mislead us and confuse the way that people ought to live? They have inflicted on the people a system of governance that supports the murder of babies and the incorporation of profligate lifestyles ... in the name of "rights." Our paths are indeed confused.

Yes, the prophecies do approach fulfillment and one wonders just how much longer will God allow the defiling

of the earth to continue. Still, what of the other commandments. People will say that one should not murder, steal, lie, commit adultery or lust after what is not theirs. But, in reality, they go about in their daily activities seemingly oblivious to how they defile themselves before God by breaking the very spirit of those commandments.

Most will tell you that we ought to obey God, and they will not balk at the commandments until you bring up God's Sabbath. Somehow, this commandment does not seem to stand up to the scrutiny of our so-called religious leaders. A myriad of contorted theologies have been conjured up in an attempt to rationalize disobedience on this one aspect.

However, the problem is a simple one for the called Christian. The issue isn't the Sabbath at all. The issue is sin. What is sin? The King James Version puts it best, I believe. It says in 1 John 3:4: ***"Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law."***

Every professing Christian will admit that once they accept Jesus Christ as their Savior, that they are not to go back into sinful ways. We all have to admit, however, that we do in fact continue to sin after baptism and forgiveness. The difference is the attitude though, isn't it? We don't sin willfully anymore.

Can that be said of anyone who deliberately violates the provisions laid down by God for His Sabbath? If one accepts the commandments as sin, as it clearly says in 1 John, how can he then deny the sabbath which is listed there with the rest of the commandments, the breaking of which is sin? No amount of intellectual integrity allows for such pretzel logic in the discernment of the Word of God. It is astounding to me that the logic is so clear that a young child can understand it, yet adults will deny it that they may live as they desire.

As long as the world continues to deny the *complete* list of commandments laid down by God, we need not fear their predictions. Instead, we ought to continue to fear what is coming on this sin-sick world. We should pray that we are found worthy—so that we can escape that horrible fate.

Listening to the predictions of the world's sinful men is a good idea. Why? Because one day we will hear those words which will signal the end. They will attempt to tell us that "peace and security" are at hand. Then, at last, our Redeemer will come for that which is His. But, we need have no fear of what they see—or predict—for they are blind.

Royce E. Mitchell Jr.

President's Message

"The Universality of The Sabbath"

Dr. Sidney Davis



The greatest testimony to the universality of the Sabbath are the words of Jesus himself which grace the covers of every issue of The Sabbath Sentinel, "***The Sabbath was made for man...***" Mark 2:27. The profundity of the statement is not only was it stated by Jesus, but by a Jew no less, the greatest Jew who ever lived! If ever there were the opportunity to make the Sabbath exclusively the "Jewish" Sabbath this would have been it. He did not say that the Sabbath was made for "Jews" only, but rather he said it was made for "man." The Greek word for "man" ANTHROPOS in this text lends more significance and meaning to the universality of the Sabbath. "Anthropos" (Strong's 444) means "mankind" without regard to gender, nation or race. "Anthropos" is where we get the word "anthropology" which means the study and science of man (mankind) as a species of being. This takes us back to find the origin of the Sabbath with the origin of man.

The Origin of the Sabbath

The teaching of the New Covenant Theology (NCT) makes much of the fact that there is no commandment to keep the Sabbath in the book of Genesis; neither do we have an example or record of any Sabbath observance in Genesis. The Hebrew word for Sabbath "SHABBATH" (Strong's 7676) is nowhere to be found in the creation narrative where we find the origin of man. In fact we do not find the first mention of "Sabbath" until the Exodus from Egypt (Exodus 16:23) and the revelation of the Sabbath commandment at Sinai (Exodus 20:8). This is the basis of the NCT contention that the Sabbath is a Sinaitic or "Old Covenant" ordinance that was given as a covenant to the Jews and therefore not a creation ordinance given to man.

The rationale of the NCT is spurious for at least two reasons. First it invokes a fallacious generalization or a logical fallacy called **argumentum a silentio**, or **argument from silence**. Since there is no mention of "Sabbath" in Genesis, the lack of such evidence or "its silence" in Genesis is proof of its nonexistence as a divine creation ordinance. Second it ignores the meaning of "Sabbath" to escape its presence in the creation narrative. When we understand the meaning of "Sabbath" and recognize the nature of the Sabbath, we clearly see its presence in the creation narrative. We see the Sabbath in the creation made for mankind.

The meaning of "Shabbath"

The study of words is called "etymology". Much can be learned when we look at the etymology of the Hebrew

word for Sabbath (see Strong's Hebrew Concordance 7676). The Hebrew language is a root word system. Each root consists of two or three consonants formed from a biliteral base or a triliteral base. By adding and changing the vowels, prefixes, infixes and suffixes to the root word bases, new words are formed, with each word being related to all the others. The biliteral base of the word Shabbath stems from two Hebrew letters by (read from right to left as "shin" and "beta" pronounced as shaba or **sheba**) and the triliteral base of the word Shabbath stems from three Hebrew letters tbv (shin, beta, thav or **shabath**). Both root word bases for "Shabbath" reveal important and profound meanings that reveal sacred and profound truths. The triliteral primitive root base for "Shabbath" is "Shabath" (see Strong's Hebrew Concordance 7673). This is the word we find in the creation narrative (Genesis 2:2). It means, "to cease, desist, rest". Thus the idea of the Sabbath and "rest" are related. The biliteral primitive root base for "Shabbath" is "shaba" or "sheba". There are no vowels letters in the Hebrew alphabet except for "aleph" (or the letter "a") hence shaba is also rendered in triliteral form as abv (shin, beta, aleph or **shab a**). "Shaba" or "Sheba" means "seven" (see Strong's Hebrew Concordance 7614). The Sabbath does bear some etymological relationship to the Hebrew "shêba" (seven), as it certainly bears strong material relationship thereto in its use in God's word.¹ The intimate relationship between the words for "Sabbath" and "seven" is seen in the meaning of the name "Bathsheba" which means, "Daughter of the Sabbath."²

Gerhard Hasel shows the etymological relationship between the "Sabbath" and "seven". He says, "The relationship between the noun Shabbat and the Hebrew verb shabat, to stop, cease, keep (sabbath) in the Qal, "to disappear, be brought to a stop," in the Nip'al "to put to an end, bring to a stop," in the Hip'il, remains disputed. Scholars have argued that the noun derives from the verb or that the verb derives from the noun. While there is no conclusive answer, it seems certain that the noun Shabbat cannot be derived from the Akkadian term shab/pattu. A possible connection of Shabbat with the number "seven," has been left open. In this case the Akkadian feminine form sibbitim, "seventh," may be considered as an ancestor of the Hebrew noun Shabbat, "Sabbath," also a feminine form, which, if the relationship holds, may have originally meant "the seventh [day]." On this supposition "the seventh day" in Genesis 2:2-3 would receive further light."³

"According to the Assyrian-Babylonian conception, the particular stress lay necessarily on the number

seven...The whole week pointed prominently towards the seventh day, the feast day, the rest day, in this day it collected, in this day it also consummated. 'SABBATH' IS DERIVED FROM BOTH 'REST' and 'SEVEN'. " 4

The Jewish sage Rabbi Jacob, called the Ba'al ha-Turim, points out that the Sabbath Commandment deals with the seventh day of the week, begins with the seventh verse in the Ten Commandments, begins with the seventh letter of the alphabet, and legislates rest for seven categories of creatures (Ex.20.8-11).⁵

If rest(fullness) or "shabat" is the dominant characteristic of the word "shabbath", seven(ness) "shaba" or "sheba" is seen to be a secondary characteristic as regards the word's use in the Holy Scriptures. We rest in space the physical sense but seven relates to the element of time. The Sabbath is a function of what God did in space, "he rested" and what he did in time "blessed the seventh". The meaning of Sabbath as a function of physical rest in physical "space" (He rested) cannot be separated from its function of holiness in "time" (the seventh day). The meaning of Sabbath in Scripture cannot be understood apart from its primary root meanings of "rest" and "seven" presented in the creation narrative.

And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made (Genesis 2:2&3).

The Sabbath as seen as a function of "rest" and "seven" cannot be overemphasized. Even though St. Thomas Aquinas acknowledges the universal nature of the Sabbath based on its relationship to the number "seven"⁶ still, the Sabbath as a function of "seven" is the basis on which he sought to attach the "ceremonial" or temporary function of the Sabbath. He says, "The precept of the Sabbath observance is moral in one respect, in so far as it commands man to give some time to the things of God, according to Psalms 45:11: **"Be still and see that I am God."** In this respect it is placed among the precepts of the Decalogue: but not as to the fixing of the time [the seventh day], in which respect it is a ceremonial precept."⁷ (Bracs. mine).

The Universality of the Sabbath In the Languages of Man

The universality of the Sabbath is seen in the languages of mankind. When we look at the languages of men—where we note the designations or names for the days of the week—we find some form or root of the Hebrew word for the Sabbath. Parallel to the designation of the seventh day of the week in the various languages is the number for seven in these languages. The comparison shows an unmistakable link of the Sabbath to seven that establishes it as the universal "seventh day".⁸

Universal Damnation and Death Decree

"It [the Roman Church] firmly believes, professes, and teaches that the matter pertaining to the law of the Old Testament, of the Mosaic law... after our Lord's coming had been signified by them, ceased...but after the promulgation of the Gospel it asserts that they cannot be observed without the loss of eternal salvation.

"All, therefore, who after that time observe circumcision and the Sabbath and the other requirements of the law, it declares alien to the Christian faith and not in the least fit to participate in eternal salvation, unless someday they recover from these errors."⁹

This same spirit of Christian anti-Judaism is evident in the Papal encyclical "Dies Domini (May 31, 1998) where the universality of the seventh-day Sabbath is denied by the contrasted expressions of "the Christian Sabbath" verses "the Jewish Sabbath". Thus seventh-day Sabbath observance becomes the means of stigmatization and eternal damnation or exclusion by the Vatican Holy See. What is perhaps most ironic is the same spirit that denies the universality of the Sabbath in the Papacy is also in Rabbinic Judaism.

Prior to the event of Christianity, Shabbat was promoted as a universal holiday for Jew and gentile alike. Philo of Alexandria describes how the Jewish observance of the Shabbat was well known and distinctive in the ancient world. Philo writes in his Life of Moses:

"For what man is there who does not honour that sacred seventh day, granting in consequence a relief and relaxation from labour, for himself and for all those who are near to him, and that not to free men only, but also to slaves, and even to beasts of burden; for the holiday extends even to every description of animal, and to every beast whatever which performs service to man, like slaves obeying their natural master, and it affects even every species of plant and tree; for there is no shoot, and no branch, and no leaf even which it is allowed to cut or to pluck on that day, nor any fruit which it is lawful to gather; but everything is at liberty and in safety on that day, and enjoys, as it were, perfect freedom, no one ever touching them, in obedience to a universal proclamation."¹⁰

By the end of the 4th century, the early Latin Church made Sunday into the Sabbath instead of Saturday — this was due to the anti-Semitic social climate and the overwhelming number of Gentiles who belonged to the Church. Since the Gentile Christians began to define themselves as the "New Israel" many of the rabbis felt that these Christians made the Shabbat into something that it was not meant to be (i.e. Sunday). Consequently, they taught that the Sabbath was made for the Jews and not for anyone else (Midr. Exodus 31.12 [109b]; Exodus Rab. 25.11; Deuteronomy Rab. 1.21). A Gentile who keeps the Sabbath, according to Rabbi Simeon b. Laqish (mid 3d century C.E.), "deserves death" (Sanh. 58b). The Christians under the Catholic Church and the Jews under the Talmudic Rabbis have made Sunday keeping synonymous

with Christian identity and Sabbath-keeping synonymous with Jewish identity respectively. The Rabbinic Jews, the papacy and the “new covenant” theologians do make strange bedfellows indeed.

The Universal “Queen Sabbath”

The possible origin of the personification of the Sabbath as “Queen” in pre-Talmudic Jewish tradition may give cause for consideration on the question of it’s universality: (Old English trans. from the Latin) “*The lewes who haue bene dispersed by God throughout the whole world, to confirme vs in the holie faith, entered into Ethiopia in the Queen of Sabas daies, in companie of a son that Salomon had by her, to the number (as the Abassins affirme) of twelue thousand, and there multiplied their generation exceedingly. In that they not onely filled Abassia, but spred themselues likewise all ouer the neighbour prouinces. So that at this day also the Abassins affirme, that vpon Nilus towards the west, there inhabiteth a most populous nation of the lewish stock, under a mighty K[ing]. And some of our moderne Cosmographers set downe a prouince in those quarters, which they call the land of the Hebrewes, placed as it were vnder the equinoctiall, in certaine vnknowne mountaines, betweene the confines of Abassia, and Congo. And likewise on the north part of the kingdome of Goiame, and the southerly quarter of the kingdome of Gorham there are certaine mountaines, peopled with lewes, who there maintaine therselues free, and absolute, through the inaccessible situations of the same. For in truth by this means, the inhabitants of the mountaines (speaking generally) are the most ancient, and freest people: in that the strong situation of their natiue soile secureth them from the incursions of forraine nations, and the violence of their neighbours.*”¹¹

What is most impressive of Africanus’ statement is his description of the “Queen of Sheba” as the “Queen of Sabas daies” or “Queen of Sabbath days”! Once again we see the association of “sheba” (seven) with the Sabbath in Africa no less. This is a theme that we will expand upon in a future edition of TSS that points to the universality of the Sabbath as a covenant given to “man” (mankind).

1 Oehler: “Theology of the Old Testament”, Clarke, Edinburgh, 1874,.II. p. 80

2 See The Jewish Encyclopedia, “Bathsheba”

3 Gerhard F. Hasel, “Sabbath,” David Noel Freedman, et al, Editors, The Anchor Bible Dictionary, New York, Doubleday, 1992, p. 849, Vol 5

4 Daglige Livi Norden, Vol.XIII, pp.54,55, See also Prof. A.H. Sayce’s work *Higher Criticism and the Monuments*, pp.74,75

5 <http://www.jhom.com/topics/seven/sabbath.html>

6 “...for the number seven signified universality.” Summa Theologica • Q 102 - The Causes Of The Ceremonial Precepts

7Ibid, Q 100 - The Moral Precepts Of The Old Law

8 See The Number SEVEN in Afro-Asiatic and Semitic Languages Showing Its Root Word Relation To SABBATH Source: The Metaverse at www.zompist.com © 1996-2000 by Mark Rosenfelder.

9 Pope Eugene IV, Papal Bull Cantate Domino, dated February 4th, 1442, from the Thirtieth Edition of Henry Denzinger’s *Enchiridion Symbolorum*, published by B. Herder Book Co., Copyright 1957, p. 228

10 *The Life of Moses (De Vita Mosis)* LCL, Philo, 6:273-595

11Leo Africanus, *The History and Description of Africa*, p.1004

Victorious Sabbathkeepers (from page 14)

to leave the country immediately. I was leaving anyway.

They had prayed to the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit told them to come and see me. They had a lot of things to discuss with me. I told them they could stay as long as they wanted. They told me they had to leave before 4:00 A.M. in the morning so that they could be home early and no one else would know that they had traveled to another city.

They stayed with me until 4:00 A.M. We prayed, read the Bible and talked about the God’s work in China and in the Free World. I want to praise and thank God that I had learned a lot in China. Before I went to China I had been praying for our Chinese brethren because I thought they were weak.

After going to China my whole outlook changed. We are weak and they are strong in the faith. The brother and sister’s main purpose in contacting me was to pass on the revelation message that God had given them. This is the message.

”The believers in the Free World are weak and God wants to strengthen them and test their faith by allowing them to go through the Great Tribulation. They can learn from the trials and sufferings of the Chinese Christians and will know what to do when the time comes. They will become strong. The Lord Jesus Christ is coming soon. Be prepared for His Coming!”

Paul Wong is a minister of the True Jesus Church in Houston. His ministry ARK International also serves as an architectural service company in Houston, Texas. The ARK Forum on the Internet is international and nondenominational. Web Site: http://www.geocities.com/ark_pw E-mail: ark@pdq.net Readers wishing to contact ARK International may write to: P.O. Box 19707, Houston, Texas, 77224-9707, U.S.A.

The Bible Sabbath Association

BSA 2001 Essay Scholarship Press Release

The Bible Sabbath Association is sponsoring a 2001 Essay Scholarship Contest. The contest is open to all 7th Day Sabbath observing youth/students who are in their Junior year in high school (or home schooled students that are one year away from being college-bound approximately age 16-17) and to all college age students up to the age of 25. Along with the application, they will need to submit **a recommendation letter from their high school or college counselor AND a recommendation letter from their church minister.**

The contest will be comprised of an essay entry per applicant. The essay must answer a question from the theme of this year's contest, "The Sabbath Community: Observance and Growth Issues". Applicants will be asked to answer two questions within an essay body format. Potential questions that might be asked include:

- 1) Why is the Sabbath Important to you and How do you keep it Holy?
- 2) How do you believe is the best way of promoting the truth of the Seventh Sabbath to local communities or the world at large? or,
- 3) How do you think cooperation can be promoted among Sabbath keepers of different denominations or doctrinal positions?

The Bible Sabbath Association is a fifty-plus year old, non-profit, non/church affiliated organization that works to promote the truth of the Seventh Day Sabbath and cooperation among Sabbath keepers of all church/assembly affiliations.

Applications will be accepted through March 30, 2001. Each applicant will be requested to subscribe to The Sabbath Sentinel for one year along with his or her application entry.

The four winners of the essay contest will be awarded a first prize of \$750; second place \$500, and third and fourth place with an award of \$250 each. Scholarship money will be paid directly to the trade school/college or university the student has been accepted at for the fall 2001 school year.

The contest is open to international students from other countries. It is also open to any Sabbath keeping Christian regardless of church or organizational affiliation.

Applications can be obtained by contacting The Bible Sabbath Association, 3316 Alberta Drive, Gillette, Wyoming 82718 or BSA Director/Scholarship Chair Ms. June Narber Harrison at ejnarber@mindspring.com or at address: 6325-9 Falls of Neuse Road #193, Raleigh NC 27615. Forms can be returned to either address.

A 'Voice' In The Wilderness, Toronto, Canada

by
Max Mader



Following is an article about a Canadian ministry in Toronto. Besides the ministry described in this article by Max Mader, they also send regular electronic mail messaging to anyone who desires to receive them. To learn more about what they preach, please see the web site listed at the end of this article.

Editor

A 'Voice' In The Wilderness, Toronto, Canada is not a denomination. Neither is it controlled, sponsored by or affiliated to any denomination.

The aim of A 'Voice' In The Wilderness, Toronto, Canada is to proclaim the most neglected part of the **Everlasting Gospel**, the part which calls upon the peoples of all nations to worship the **Creator** of the universe by observing the divinely appointed memorial of His creation—the **True Sabbath Day** (Saturday!).

Revelation 14:6-7 states: ***"And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people; Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters."*** KJV.

The **Everlasting Gospel**, in short, is a call to Faith and Obedience; particularly obedience to the **Sabbath** commandment, which is the sacred and eternal memorial of **Creation**. The Sabbath is also the **covenant Sign of Sanctification between the Creator and His people**. These are eternal facts no amount of argument can dismiss.

A 'Voice' In The Wilderness aims to make these facts known to the peoples of the world. Why the urgency? The answer is because very soon all people will be obliged to choose between acceptance or rejection of the Sabbath commandment: a choice which is directly linked to the end-time prophecy concerning the deadly Mark of The Beast.

In addition to the basic aim of **faith and obedience**, our group also has specific and individual aims. Here are a few examples:

- To put Bibles (or even smaller books, like one of the gospels) into the hands of those who are searching for truth.
- To visit the sick or those who are in prison for the Word of God.
- To help the aged, the orphan, the poor.
- To speak or write against the popular evils being practiced in our society.
- To highlight a particular truth that is in danger of being ignored: e.g. the **Sabbath and Festival** truth.

Personal Aims

Besides these group aims, **each person** in the congregation should have a personal goal. The best, in my view, is **holiness** - to be like Yahweh and His Son **Yahshua the Messiah** (Jesus the Christ). Other personal aims could be:

Characteristics

Patience
Meekness
Hospitality
Generosity
Kindness
Diligence
Wisdom
Love -

Deeds

Control the tongue & temper
Give others a chance
Entertain the needy
Finance church projects
Help particular people
Maintain church property
Write spiritual articles
Not as the world knows love, but as God loves us!

These on the left are, of course, the fruits of the Holy Spirit and every believer should aim to produce them. Understanding correct doctrine is important: but never forget that doctrine is merely the spiritual skeleton, the chassis, the framework on which character is built. The mature person, the grown-up believer, will always be recognized by the fruit of the Holy Spirit. In other words, endeavour to translate correct doctrine into **holiness**. A person's character, behaviour, manner, personality, thoughts, words and deeds constitute the flesh that covers the bare bones of sound doctrine. In the final judgement we will be judged by our behaviour, not our knowledge of doctrine. Remember this fact.

Leadership

The unseen leader of our group is the Almighty Him-



self. His Spirit should be allowed full sway to lead the leaders. Always bear in mind that Yahweh does not measure by human standards. He is not impressed by:

- A man's good looks, wealth, educational qualifications
- Social standing, fame, material possessions
- Talents
- Or even with his knowledge of the Scriptures.

Others are impressed by these things: but the **Almighty is not!** If you seek to establish a group in your area you should endeavour to judge as Yahweh judges: not by the outward appearances, but by **spiritual fruit**. Yahweh looks for:

- Repentance, faith, gratitude
- Faithfulness, honesty, diligence and dedication
- A desire to understand His Word
- Humility
- Obedience, which is faith in action
- Purity of heart, **HOLINESS**

Yahweh's warriors are often **ignored** by the world, ridiculed and rejected by those who judge by human standards; but in the final analysis they are the ones of worth and lasting fame. They will be the ones who will rule with Him during the coming millennium. Examples of the types of leaders Yahweh chose are:

- **Joseph:** disliked by his brothers, but holy and wise.
- **David:** not highly esteemed by his family, even by his father, but a man after God's own heart.
- **Jeremiah:** Totally rejected in his day, but bold and true in the face of enormous odds.
- **John the Baptist:** Fortright and very humble.
- **The Apostles:** To all outward appearances, ordinary men, but men who will one day sit and judge the twelve tribes of Israel. (Matthew 19:28)
- **Messiah:** Rejected of mankind and crucified as a common criminal; but one who was faithful unto death and who is scheduled to rule the universe as **King of Kings** and **Lord of Lords**.

Location

The early church held most of its meetings in **private homes**. If, however, you can afford to build or buy your own meeting place, then go ahead. Our group, **A 'Voice' In The Wilderness**, meets in a private home or hired facilities. Sabbath Service is held at 2:30pm each Sabbath.

This is how **A 'Voice' In The Wilderness**, operates. **We are all unpaid workers:** but Yahweh has blessed us bountifully. And, do not imagine it is all giving and no receiving. You may be sure that the Eternal will repay everyone who supports the work by blessing him/her in this life and in the life to come. God is no man's debtor. He will always give you back a lot more than you ever give Him.

Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus. Revelation 14:12 KJV



Our Meetings

- Divine Service / Sabbath (Saturday) afternoon: This is the main meeting of the week and normally lasts about one and a half hours. It is a time for prayer, Bible readings, sacred hymns and sermons.
- Sabbath morning meetings: again a time for readings and prayer - though perhaps not a time for lengthy sermons.
- Prayer meeting (on a Friday evening when the Sabbath is due to begin. During this meeting various books of the Bible are studied - one or two chapters per week. We discuss a few verses at a time and end with a session of prayer. We like to encourage several believers to pray short prayers of a few minutes each.
- Family prayers: All members are encouraged to organize **daily, family prayers** in their own homes. This may consist of a Bible reading and prayer. I would rate family prayer & Bible study as the most important function in which a Christian family can engage. Disastrous consequences await anyone who neglects prayer.

Christian groups may start with 2 or 3 believers.

The Master has promised, **"... Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst."** (Matthew 18:20) He keeps his promises. It is, of course, nice to worship with a large group of several hundreds or even thousands: but small groups have some advantages which larger companies lack. The size of the group is not the critical factor, so long as the Spirit of Yahweh is present. If He is with you then you will be successful. If He isn't, then you labour in vain.

Bible Study

The most important aspect of our group's activities is prayer and Bible study. You will find that the strongest members of the group will be those who are at the Prayer and Study meetings.

Believers should be encouraged to read the whole Bible through - yes from Genesis to Revelation. It is sur-

Prophecy

prising how many Christians have never done this. They have read parts of the Bible, but never the whole book. And yet it is true to say that no one will ever properly understand the message of salvation until they have studied the Bible. In it Yahweh has detailed His plan for humanity!

A 'Voice' In The Wilderness, Toronto, Canada works along these lines and over the years the Almighty has greatly blessed us. We have had our setbacks. Indeed had we known the guidelines we now use, we could have perhaps avoided most of them. Therefore, we pass on this information to you hoping that Yahweh will use them to guide those who are making genuine efforts to raise up a Sabbath-keeping congregation around this wide world.

It is so easy to make plans and ask the Most High to bless them with success. Better that we ask Yahweh to lead us, to direct us to do His will. If we do this, praying all the while that His Spirit will be with us, then success will be ours.

Conclusion

Is it possible to take the **Everlasting Gospel** to every hamlet and hut in the world? Yes it is possible. It is well within our reach with His help. Is it possible to proclaim Yahweh's law to every soul on earth and to demolish the errors, because of which, paganism and unbelief have invaded the Christian church? Yes, even this seemingly impossible task is well within our reach, if the Most High continues to be with us.

Is it possible to batter down the very gates of hell and rescue those who are virtually within the Beast's jaws? Absolutely so: this is not only possible but it is going to be accomplished - soon. Yahweh, the Almighty God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, is about to do a universe-shaking act of rescue, when He overthrows the Temple of Dagon, demolishes the altars of Baal and inscribes His law in the minds of His people. Oh what a glorious and awesome day that will be. It is fast approaching!

A 'Voice' In The Wilderness, Toronto, Canada, is greatly honoured to be engaged in this work, especially on the Internet. We are delighted to have this opportunity to share with you the great truths you have been studying lately. Pass them on! Meanwhile, we continue to pray to the Master that He will bless you abundantly with mercy, enlightenment, direction and spiritual strength to serve Him as we ought to.

In Messiah's Name,

Elder: Max W. Mader

Web-Site: <http://webhome.idirect.com/~maderm/index.html>

E-Mail: maderm@idirect.com

Telephone: 1 416 604-1657

New BSA Director!

J.P. Howell joins the Board

A Christian for several years, and a Sabbath-keeper for the last 6 years, John Paul Howell is also an Electrical Engineer, specializing in telecommunications and computer networks.

John Paul always had questions regarding the validity of the Fourth

Commandment while growing up in a Sunday-keeping church. It wasn't until several years ago, while teaching some youth at a week long "Backyard Bible Club", that the reality of the Fourth Commandment struck home.

After teaching the children what sin is, a child asked, "Isn't the Sabbath Saturday? Why do we go to church on Sunday?" From that point on, John Paul decided to learn and understand how the Sabbath was changed from Saturday to Sunday. Since proving to himself the validity of the Seventh-day Sabbath, John Paul started observing and honoring the true Sabbath of God.

Throughout John Paul's walk with Christ, he has readily volunteered for numerous speaking and teaching positions such as Sunday/Sabbath School classes for children and adults. Currently, he is the leader of the weekly employee Bible study group at his company.

John Paul has also been serving the Bible Sabbath Association (BSA) for the past two years as the keeper of the BSA website. He recently began a complete revamp of the site resulting in easier navigation and quicker downloading. You can see the result of his ongoing work at www.biblesabbath.org.

In addition to these service roles, John Paul regularly accepts song leader assignments at either his local church or other Sabbath group meetings as the need presents itself.

John Paul lives in Baltimore, Maryland with his wife of 11 years. He and his wife have a 6 year old boy and a 4 year old girl.

John Paul replaces Craig White who resigned the Board position in favor of coordinating the BSA's Australian efforts. We hope that everyone will welcome John Paul aboard, and make an effort to see the great work he is doing on the BSA webpage.



Crusade 2000: *Christ for the Crisis*

Report by
Gilford T. Monroe

For the first time ever, the New York area Churches of God 7th Day, came together and held a spiritually explosive tent meeting crusade. The crusade ran for two (2) dynamic weeks in Brooklyn, from August 13-27 under the big red and white tent at Prospect Place and Nostrand Avenue. About 10 churches came together in support of Crusade 2000: "Christ For The Crisis" which was sponsored by the Mt. Zion Church of God 7th Day located 203 East 37 Street, Brooklyn, NY.

Francis DeCaille, host pastor said, "Crusade 2000 did achieved its purpose of propagating the gospel in Brooklyn".

"The way the churches came together and worked as a team for this crusade, is indicative that God has raised up the church to preach His message before His return", said Evangelist Lennox Abrigo, Washington, D.C., the main speaker for Crusade 2000. This was truly a sign that God is raising up the Church of God in New York for His purpose.

Some of Evangelist Lennox Abrigo's sermon titles were, "Why Are the Innocent Dying In Brooklyn", "New York's Last Government" and "Big Bang- Big Money: Big Lie!"

A ladies special sermon was preached on how to attract and keep a good man. Another speaker was Evangelist Hector from St. Lucia, West Indies. Wayne Moore, Brooklyn, NY, pastor of Faith Church of God 7th Day, was the moderator. David Taylor, Bronx, NY, pastor of Harvestime Church of God 7th Day was host of "Holy Fun Time." He was the most generous minister of all. He gave gifts for special reasons to our visitors every night. At the end of each presentation, he would always say, "The greatest gift of all is the man Christ Jesus."

Leil Tickili, Brooklyn, NY, Pastor of Church of God 7th Day (Pentecostal) and president of the Joint Church of God Conference, interceded for those who came off the streets with special requests. Other ministers who came to lend their support, John Millwood, St. Albans, NY, pastor of Church of God of the Apostolic Faith, Chris Pasard, Stamford, CT, Pastor of Deliverance Center Church of God, and Stamford Lewis, Brooklyn, NY pastor of Brooklyn Community Church of God.

"The coming together of the various churches proved one more time, the power of the spirit of cooperation in what God can do", said Elder DeCaille.

Crusade 2000 attracted visitors and brethren from far and wide. Our members came from as far as the Virgin Islands to join us. Present also were brethren from Jamaica and other parts of the Caribbean. We even had a visitor from as far as Holland. "The attendance indicated to

us that God truly is a miracle working God," said Elder DeCaille.

During the nightly meetings, the attendance was about 200. However, Sabbath August 27 'Super Sabbath', attendance peaked to around 500. There was not enough space for chairs and under the big tent. "This is a confirmation that the churches of God can and must unite for the cause of Christ.

During Crusade 2000, not only did the church provide for the spiritual needs of the people but also tended to the physical need of the community. With the help of Ebenezer Covenant Ministry (ECM), headed by Trevor Goldbourne of Long Island, NY and in conjunction with the Kings County Hospital, many physical services were provided. People came and received free blood pressure and cholesterol tests, counseling and had access to referral programs for drug and alcohol addictions.

ECM also provided food and clothing distribution for the poor and needy. In a recent survey in this Brooklyn area, it was noted that the majority of the residents favored a community minded church with a holistic view.

An Act of God

Miracles and inspiring testimony was given. The most profound act of God during the crusade happened on the evening of August 16th. Evangelist Frankie Slowe, of Church of God 7th Day (Pentecostal), one of our Bible workers, was diligently giving out tracts in the vicinity of the tent, inviting passersby to the tent meetings. There was one young man passing by who was stopped by the evangelist and invited to come in. He took him up on the offer saying that he needed prayer because he had just bought a gun and was on his way to kill himself, his girlfriend and another young man whom he thinks is involved with his girlfriend.

Evangelist Slowe searched him to see if he had a gun, and indeed he did. He took the gun and brought him straight to altar for prayer—which was offered by Elder Benjamin. Interestingly, earlier that evening, Elder Benjamin did pray that someone would turn in his or her gun that night.

Paul Benjamin, Pastor of Gates of Glory Church of God, Brooklyn, NY, formerly a minister in a Sunday church for 35 years, gave his testimony on how God lead him to the Sabbath. His church doors are now closed on Sundays but are open for worship each and every Sabbath.

This testimony touched many hearts on Super Sabbath. Crusade 2000 was successful because souls were saved and blessed.

•

VICTORIOUS SABBATH-KEEPERS IN CHINA

by
Paul Wong



“And another sign appeared in heaven: behold a fiery great dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. . . .” (Rev. 12:3). ***“And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.”*** (Rev. 12:17). ***“Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.”*** (Rev. 14:12). ***“And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.”*** (Rev. 12:11).

Most biblical scholars agree Revelation is one of the most difficult books to interpret, but if we just use the explanation to the symbols given in the book then its meaning becomes apparent. The dragon can refer to no other than the Devil or Satan. (Rev. 12:9). Red is the color of blood.

The former Soviet Union’s flag was red because it symbolizes the blood that was shed during the October revolution in 1917. The Chinese Communists had also used the red flag in its revolutionary war against the Nationalists.

The flag of the People’s Republic of China is still red. Historically, the dragon had been the emblem of imperial China for several dynasties. The “fiery great dragon” symbolizes the Chinese Communist Government.

The woman is used in Scriptures to signify the church, so the woman’s offspring refers to the Remnant Church. (Ephesians 5:23-25) ***“The dragon was enraged with the woman”*** may mean the Chinese Communist government was angry with the Church. ***“And he went to make war with the rest of her offspring”*** may be interpreted as the Chinese Communist government waging a spiritual war with the Remnant Church.

There are two characteristics of the Remnant Church. First, they keep the Commandments of God—the Ten Commandments including the Sabbath commandment. Second, they have the testimony of Jesus Christ—the spirit of prophecy (Rev. 19:10).

There are three ways to overcome the red dragon—the blood of the Lamb, the word of testimony; self denial and sacrifices to God.

Local Churches under the Control of the Three Self Patriotic Movement

According to present day knowledge the only two commandment-keeping denominations that come into

contact with the Chinese Communist government are the True Jesus Church and the Seventh Day Adventist Church. In the cities and towns where the Three Self Patriotic Movement permit Christian worship services generally six denominations use one common church building. They are divided into two groups. The Sunday group consists of the Anglicans, Methodists, Presbyterians and the Local Church. The Sabbath group consists of the True Jesus Church and the Seventh Day Adventists.

One Church would use it in the morning and the other in the afternoon. To maintain peace and harmony amongst the denominations the *Three Self Patriotic Movement* made some rules that must be observed. No denomination can make any verbal attacks against another. Proselytizing is viewed with disfavor and cross church membership is disallowed. No church names can be displayed. Whilst these rules are intended to foster good relationship amongst the denominational churches it is a hidden device to prevent the truths from spreading. God has a way of working things out to propagate the truth.

Healing enabled a young man to change worshiping on Sunday to the Sabbath.

When I attended Sabbath Service at the True Jesus Church in Fuzhou our brothers and sisters introduced me to a young man who had previously been a member of a Sunday-keeping church. He had a strange mental sickness that seemed to be incurable. The whole church prayed for him but to no avail. They asked permission from the Three Self Patriotic Movement (TSPM) Council and brought him to other Sunday-keeping churches for prayer. Still there was no cure for his sickness. They decided to bring this young man to attend the Sabbath service of the True Jesus Church.

The TJC straightaway recognized the young man’s mental sickness was demon possession. The minister urged the whole congregation to fast and pray. They cast out the demon in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and within the same hour the young man was totally restored to his normal self. According to TSPM’s rules the young man should return to the Sunday-keeping Church after the healing, but he voluntarily made an application to stay with the TJC.

Here is an exceptional case in Fuzhou where the TSPM allowed one Christian to change church denominational membership.

Suppression of Prayer in the Spirit

On the Sabbath morning the brethren in Fuzhou brought me to see the building that belonged to the True Jesus Church where hundreds of believers used to attend the Sabbath Services. It was disheartening to see it being used as a warehouse by the Communist government. In the afternoon I attended the Sabbath Service in a building that was owned by the Presbyterian Church. The building can accommodate about 300 people but the TJC has about 500 members in that city. Since the TSPM allowed each denomination to hold only one service they increased the number of seats by placing the church pews very close to one another thus making it impossible to kneel down for prayer.

Another negative thing, that I found in the Sabbath Service in the Fuzhou church—different from the True Jesus Churches that I knew all my life—was the way they pray. It was quiet and I did not hear anyone praying audibly in the Spirit. After the service I asked the brethren why no one prayed or sang in the Spirit (1 Cor. 14:14-15). They told me they wanted to respect the other Christians who were using the same building. They pray in the Spirit at home. The fact is that the Three Self Patriotic Movement Council told them not to pray audibly. Due to suppression in making joyful shout to the LORD the Holy Spirit is quenched.

Suppression of the Sabbath Truth in the Theological Seminary

At the end of the Sabbath, the TJC in Fuzhou invited me to a dinner at an association building. We had a private room to ourselves. There were about twenty people present. After the dinner there was an informal discussion. Amongst those present were two full time preachers and three preachers under training at the Fujian Theological Seminary established by the Three Self Patriotic Movement and the China Christian Council.

In the TSPM approved churches only licensed preachers are allowed to preach. In order to receive the preaching license the theological student must pass an examination that always include questions on the Sabbath. One of the examination questions is this: "Should New Testament Christians worship on the Jewish Sabbath on Saturday or the Lord's Day on Sunday?" All Sabbath-keepers know the correct answer but since the professors at the Seminary are all Sunday-keepers their correct answer is "the Lord's Day on Sunday."

The theological students asked me what they should do about answering the Sabbath question. I told them to give the correct answer according to the Bible that is "the Sabbath on Saturday" and not to worry about how the professors would mark their papers. They told me that was exactly what they did. Praise and thank God our Sabbath-keeping theological students would rather give the correct answer and fail than give the wrong answer and pass. God would honor their integrity and truthfulness. They actually

scored very high in the other questions thereby compensated for the loss of marks on the Sabbath question.

The Great Debate on the Seventh Day Sabbath brought Angels to the Church

I was brought to the True Jesus Church in Fuqing that had a tremendous revival in the Mid Eighties. At that time the Fujian Theological Seminary organized a debate on the Seventh Day Sabbath issue. The Sunday-keepers had three speakers and the Sabbath-keepers also had three speakers. There were two speakers from the True Jesus Church and one from the Seventh Day Adventist Church. The debate started on a Monday and ended on a Friday. It was fiercely contested and both sides claimed the victory. God had a very clear and decisive way of showing which side really won.

On the first Sabbath after the debate one of the debate speakers from the TJC was preaching that day. As he was preaching about the Sabbath a church sister that was sitting in the front pew saw an angel standing beside him. She made the remark that she saw an angel; after that several other people also saw the angel.

All of them gave a similar description of the angel. He was fair-skinned, tall, broad-shouldered, had golden hair and was handsome-looking. He was wearing a shiny, white garment. The next Sabbath more angels appeared and news traveled fast. More church members attended the Sabbath service and the hall was packed to capacity. The angels appeared during the Sabbath Services many more times after that. Over a period of eight months there were twenty-three appearances of angels during the Sabbath services. During that period the TJC in Fuqing enjoyed the greatest revival that they had ever known.

Many Sunday-keepers also came and attended the Sabbath Services hoping to see the angels—and they were not disappointed. The Sunday churches were so scared of losing their members to the TJC that they issued a public statement emphasizing the appearance of the angels was not because of the Sabbath but because of the church building that originally belonged to them. Not many people were convinced of their rationale.

Due to the strict rules of the Three Self Patriotic Movement concerning membership crossover, Sunday-keepers were not allowed to join Sabbath-keeping Churches. Nevertheless, because of the appearances of the angels during their Sabbath Services the True Jesus Church in Fuqing increased its membership tremendously. Praise God!

The Gates of Hades shall not prevail against the Church of Jesus Christ

One of the most impressive men of God I ever met during my trip to China was Elder Wang of the True Jesus Church in Sanshan. I spent one whole day talking with him. Our conversation began at breakfast and did not end until late at night. I learned how he overcame his great

tribulation and persecution and became victorious in his struggles against “the red dragon.” Elder Wang recalled how, as a young pastor of another denominational church, he became completely paralyzed. One of the ministers from the TJC confronted him and said, “In the Name of Jesus you are released from bondage,” and immediately he got down from his stretcher and walked into the church unassisted. He studied the teachings of the TJC for one week and after his rebaptism into the Lord Jesus Christ he walked a distance of ten kilometers to his home.

After resignation from his previous pastoral position he started a church in his home. Elder Wang remembered that year was 1933, and he said to me, “Since the Sanshan year the Sanshan Church have been holding services every evening without ceasing.” The pun is intentional. Sanshan in Chinese means “33” and Sanshan means three mountains. Elder Wang stood firm on his faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and because of it he was put in prison by the Communist government for seventeen years. He told me that if ever the Lord Jesus Christ wanted him to do it all over again he was ready to stand firm on his faith again and go through the same trials, tribulations and imprisonment for another seventeen years.

What a victorious servant of God! During the time of his imprisonment the Church in Sanshan went underground and held services in members’ homes. They operated as house churches. Today the Church in Sanshan has more than fifteen thousand members residing in the county. They meet in about seventy sites in various areas.

The Sanshan Church is a great example of the overcoming and victorious Church. They put “the red dragon” to shame. I remembered what our Lord Jesus Christ said, **“... on this rock I will build My Church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.”** (Matthew 16:18).

He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world

During the Cultural Revolution several Christian ministers were sent to prison by the Communist government. Before they went to prison the Christians had to go through the process of brainwashing. Here is the typical case of a minister who was arrested for preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

They took him for questioning and given a chance to denounce his faith. He kept his faith so the Communists placed him in a small metal cell that had a small louvered window for ventilation. Inside the cell there was a bed, a water faucet and a toilet. During the summer the sun heated the cell and it became very hot inside.

There was a speaker attached to the ceiling of the cell. A repetitive one sentence recorded message was heard continuously for 24 hours that said: “There is no God. There is no God. There is no God. . . .” After one week they released the minister and placed him in a comfortable chair inside a cool room and gave him a cool drink. Then they asked him this question “Is there a God?” Nor-

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mally the person would subconsciously repeat what he had heard thousands of times inside the cell and say, “There is no God. There is no God.”

This minister answered, “Yes there is a God.” Since this minister did not deny God the Communists placed him back in his cell. He had to endure listening to the same repetitive recorded message again, “There is no God”.

He had already heard it thousands of times before. This process of brainwashing was repeated on the minister several times, but he kept his faith and did not denounce God, not even once. He was beyond brainwashing. That when the Communists gave up on this minister, took him out of the cell and put him in the prison.

After several years when this minister was released from prison, his fellow Christians wanted to know what his secret was for standing firm and keeping the faith in spite of such an intense and demonic process of brainwashing. This is his answer: “You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.” (1 John 4:4).

God’s message of encouragement and warning to the Christians in the Free World

While I was in Fuzhou I stayed at the multistory hotel for overseas Chinese. This hotel has the best rate because it is supported and subsidized by the government. My room was on the seventh floor. On the evening before I left the city I had two unexpected visitors.

At about 11:00 P.M., when I was about to sleep there was a knock on the door. A young man and a young woman stood outside. They called out my name and I was scared because I did not recognize them. They introduced themselves as members of the True Jesus Church. I invited them inside my hotel room.

The man was a minister and the woman a minister in training at the Fujian Theological Seminary. They were engaged to one another. They came from another city and had seen me the day before but did not talk to me. Under the rules of the TSPM they could not travel from one city to another without getting permission. If they were caught in my hotel room they would be in serious trouble for contacting a foreigner without permission and I could be told

(continued on page 6)

Christian Worship & The Sabbath Day (Part 2)

by

Wayne L. Atchison

(8) The Roman Calendar

The names of the days of the Roman week are very revealing in coming to understand about Sunday worship before it became a Christian institution. Sunday, or the day of the sun, was the primary day of pagan worship. Although other pagan gods had days named after them, only “dies solis” (Latin for “day of the sun”) was proclaimed to be holy. The following describes how in pagan Roman times (before, during and after the coming of Jesus Christ), Sunday was the most prominent day of worship in the Roman Empire.

“There is no question that the existence of the planetary week with its Sun-day (dies solis) is crucial for determining any influence of Sun-worship on the Christian adoption of Sunday observance, inasmuch as the Sun before the existence of a weekly ‘Sun-day’ was venerated every morning” (From Sabbath to Sunday, Samuele Bacchiocchi, 1977, p. 237).

“The prominence of Sun-worship in the Roman Empire was attributed to two factors. First, it had been a part of the religious worship system of Pagan Rome for a long, long time. It was widespread, but not the official dominant religion.” Next, the Eastern cult of sun-worship, ‘Sol Invictus’ (Invincible Sun), through the cult of ‘Sol Invictus Mithra’ and ‘Sol Elagabal’, became the dominant religion of the Empire. [Notice the ‘bal’ at the end of the name; this signifies that it incorporated ba(a)l worship.]

“Mithraism primarily was a private cult, though it numbered among its adherents magistrates and emperors. Sol Invictus Elagabal, on the other hand, was a popular cult with grandiose temples, and during the rule of the young Emperor Elagabalus (A.D. 218-222) was made the official cult of the whole empire” (ibid., p. 241).

“That the day of the Sun enjoyed preeminence already by the middle of the second century is clearly indicated by the famous astrologer Vettius Valens. In his Anthology composed between 154-174 A.D., in explaining how to find the day of the week of any given birth date, he explicitly states: ‘And this is the sequence of the planetary stars in relation to the days of the week: SUN, Moon, Mars, Mercury, Jupiter, Venus, Saturn’ “ (ibid., p. 251).

“The ‘dies solis’ was evidently the most sacred (day) of the week for the faithful of Mithra and the gods have arranged the days of the week, whose names the Romans have dedicated to certain stars. The first day [of the week] they called the day of the Sun because it is the ruler of all the stars” (ibid., p. 250, footnote 53).

(9) The Early Church Worshipped On The Sabbath Day

Notice which day Christ kept while He was here on earth: “...and as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day and stood up for to read.” (Luke 4:16). Not only was it the custom of Jesus Christ to keep the Sabbath, it was also the custom of the apostle Paul, who was taught directly by Jesus Christ (Galatians 1:15-18), and preached to the Gentiles (Acts 13:41-44, and 17:2).

It should be noted that the event in Acts 13 took place about 45 A.D., and the one in Acts 17 took place about 49 A.D. Here Paul is worshipping and teaching on the Sabbath day, week after week, many years after the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Also notice that Paul could have met to teach them on Sunday, but he did not. The Sabbath day was the day to meet for worship and to learn God’s ways.

(10) Roman Catholic Church Confessions

The “Catechismus Romanus” was commanded by the Council of Trent, and published by the Vatican Press, by order of Pope Pius V, in 1566. This catechism for priests says: “It pleased the church of God, that the religious celebration of the Sabbath day should be transferred to ‘the Lord’s day.’ “, (Catechism of the Council of Trent (Donovan’s translation, 1867), part 3, chap. 4, p. 345). Notice that the celebration of the Sabbath was transferred to Sunday, and done so by the authority of the Catholic Church.

“Question: How prove you that the Church has power to command feasts and holy days?”... “Answer: By the very act of changing the Sabbath into Sunday, which Protestants allow of; and therefore they fondly contradict them-

selves, by keeping Sunday strictly, and breaking most other feasts commanded by the same Church.”, (Henry Tuberville, *An Abridgement of the Christian Doctrine* (1833 approbation), p. 58). (The same statement is in “*Manual of Christian Doctrine* ed.”, by Daniel Ferris, 1916 ed., p. 67).

Notice that the changing of Sabbath worship to Sunday worship is one of the proofs which the Catholic Church uses to demonstrate that they have the authority to command holy days and feasts. Also note that the Protestants inadvertently submit to their authority by also worshipping God on Sunday.

“Question: Have you any other way of proving that the Church has power to institute festivals of precept? ... Answer: Had she not such power, she could not have done that in which all modern religionists agree with her; she could not have substituted the observance of Sunday the first day of the week, for the observance of Saturday the seventh day, a change for which there is no Scriptural authority.” (Stephen Keenan, *A Doctrinal Catechism* (3rd ed.), p. 174).

“The Catholic Church, ... by virtue of her divine mission, changed the day from Saturday to Sunday.” (The *Catholic Mirror*, official organ of Cardinal Gibbons, Sept. 23, 1893).

Notice that the Catholic Church admits that they changed the day of worship to Sunday, not God, or the Bible, or early Christian writings. Worshipping Jesus Christ on Sunday is a Roman Catholic tradition, not a Biblically sanctified practice. This tradition is the primary sign of being under their authority.

“1. Is Saturday the 7th day according to the Bible and the 10 Commandments? I answer yes.

2. Is Sunday the first day of the week, and did the Church change the 7th day Saturday for Sunday, the 1st day? I answer yes.

3. Did Christ change the day? I answer no!

Faithfully yours, J. Card. Gibbons.” (James Cardinal Gibbons autograph letter).

Most scholars of the Bible and denomination leaders will admit that the practice of Christian Sunday worship is a tradition, not instituted by Jesus Christ, or prescribed in the New Testament.

“Question: Which is the Sabbath day?

Answer: Saturday is the Sabbath day.

Question: Why do we observe Sunday instead of Saturday?

Answer: We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday.” (Peter Geiermann, *The Convert’s Catechism of Catholic Doctrine* (1946 ed.), p. 50. Geiermann received the “apostolic blessing” of Pope Pius X in his labors Jan. 25, 1910).

The Catholic Catechism teaches its students the truth about Sunday worship and the Sabbath day. Why is it that most Protestant Christians are never taught these facts? Because to teach them would mean that the Protestant denomination would be admitting that they derive their own traditions and authority straight from the Catholic Church, not the Bible.

“You may read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, and you will not find a single line authorizing the sanctification of Sunday. The Scriptures enforce the religious observance of Saturday, a day which we never sanctify.” (James Cardinal Gibbons, *The Faith of Our Fathers* (1917 ed.), pp. 72, 73).

“Nowhere in the Bible is it stated that worship should be changed from Saturday to Sunday. The fact is that the Church was in existence for several centuries before the Bible was given to the world. The Church made the Bible, the Bible did not make the Church.

“Now the Church ... instituted, by God’s authority, Sunday as the day of worship. This same Church, by the same divine authority, taught the doctrine of Purgatory long before the Bible was made. We have, therefore, the same authority for Purgatory as we have for Sunday.” (Martin J. Scott, *Things Catholics Are Asked About* (1927 ed.), p. 136).

“Some theologians have held that God likewise directly determined Sunday as the day of worship in the New Law, that He Himself has explicitly substituted the Sunday for the Sabbath. But this theory is not entirely abandoned.

“It is now commonly held that God simply gave His Church the power to set aside whatever day or days she would deem suitable as Holy Days. The Church chose Sunday, the first day of the week, and in the course of time added other days, as holy days.” (Vincent J. Kelly (Catholic), *Forbidden Sunday and Feast-Day Occupations* (1943 ed.), p. 2).

The Catholic Church claims to have the authority of God to change the day of worship. It says the same thing about Purgatory, and by extension to all doctrines. How many Protestant Christians are willing to submit without question to the Catholic Church to determine what they believe as doctrine? A national-poll does not need to be taken, just consider how Christians (both Catholic and Protestant) obey the Catholic Church on the issues of Birth Control, praying to Mary, and Confessionals. These doctrines also “have the authority of God”, being claimed by the Catholic Church. Perhaps the real issue is not who **claims** to have God’s authority, but rather in **believing** the

scriptures which absolutely has God's authority, letting the word of God decide these matters. The word of God tells His followers to worship Him on His day of worship, the Sabbath.

"Regarding the change from the observance of the Jewish Sabbath to the Christian Sunday, I wish to draw your attention to the facts:

"1) That Protestants, who accept the Bible as the only rule of faith and religion, should by all means go back to the observance of the Sabbath. The fact that they do not, but on the contrary observe the Sunday, stultifies {appears ridiculous} them in the eyes of every thinking man.

"2) We Catholics do not accept the Bible as the only rule of faith. Besides the Bible we have the living Church, the authority of the Church, as a rule to guide us. We say, this Church, instituted by Christ to teach and guide man through life, has the right to change the ceremonial laws of the Old Testament and hence, we accept her change of the Sabbath to Sunday. We frankly say, yes, the Church made this change, made this law, as she made many other laws, for instance, the Friday abstinence, the unmarried priesthood, the laws concerning mixed marriages, the regulation of Catholic marriages and a thousand other laws.

"3) We also say that of all Protestants, the Seventh-day Adventist denomination is the only major Protestant denomination that reasons correctly and is consistent with its teaching. It is always somewhat laughable, to see the Protestant churches, in pulpit and legislation, demand the observance of Sunday, of which there is nothing in their Bible." (Father Peter R. Kraemer Catholic Church Extension Society, Chicago, IL.).

"My brethren, look about you upon the various wrangling sects and denominations. Show me one that claims or possesses the power to make laws binding on the conscience. There's but one on the face of the earth, the Catholic Church, that has the power to make laws binding upon the conscience, binding before God, binding under pain of hell fire. Take, for instance, the day we celebrate Sunday. What right have the Protestant churches to observe that day? None whatever. You say it is to obey the commandment, 'Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.' But Sunday is not the Sabbath, according to the Bible and the record of time.

"Everyone knows that Sunday is the first day of the week, while Saturday is the seventh day, and the Sabbath, the day consecrated as a day of rest. It is so recognized in all civilized nations. I have repeatedly offered \$1,000 to any one who will furnish any proof from the Bible that Sunday is the day we are bound to keep, and no one has called for the money.

"If any person in this town will show any scripture for it, I will tomorrow evening publicly acknowledge it and thank him for it. It was the Holy Catholic Church that changed the day of rest from Saturday to Sunday, the first day of the week. And it not only compelled all to keep Sunday, but at the Council of Laodicea, A.D. 364, anathematized those who kept the Sabbath and urged all persons to labor on the seventh day under penalty of anathema.

"Which church does the whole civilized world obey? Protestants call us every horrible name they can think of, anti-Christ, the scarlet colored beast, Babylon, etc. and at the same time profess great reverence for the Bible, and yet by their solemn act of keeping Sunday, they acknowledge the power of the Catholic Church.

"The Bible says: 'Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.' But the Catholic Church says, 'No, keep the first day of the week,' and the whole world bows in obedience." (Father T. Enright, Roman Catholic Priest, Kansas City, MO.).

"Incidentally, there is no proof in scripture that God willed the Sabbath to be changed from Saturday to Sunday, so that those non-Catholics who do not accept the value of tradition as a source of faith, should logically still observe Saturday as the Sabbath." (This Is The Faith: Catholic Theology For Laymen, Francis J. Ripley, p. 176).

Notice again the certainty that each quote has. There is no mistaking the truth. Each quote boldly teaches that the holy scriptures do not allow for Sunday worship by Christians. Rather, the practice is solely based upon the authority of the Catholic Church. Protestant denominations which keep Sunday, and say they are not under Catholic authority, are fooling no one but themselves.

(11) Protestant Church Confessions

"The extracts that follow are from noted clergymen, scholars and other eminent writers, all of whom doubtless kept the Sunday as a matter of church custom. But they nevertheless bear witness that there is no Bible command for it." (*The Bible Sabbath Association*). Take special notice of the dates of the quotations, this subject is not new, and was never hidden.

ANGLICAN:

Sunday worship is not biblical, it is tradition.

"And where are we told in the Scriptures that we are to keep the first day at all? We are commanded to keep the

seventh; but we are nowhere commanded to keep the first day ... The reasons why we keep the first day of the week holy instead of the seventh is for the same reason that we observe many other things, not because of the Bible, but because the church, has enjoined it." (Isaac Williams (Anglican), Plain Sermons on the Catechism, vol. 1, pp. 334, 336).

Sunday worship is not practicing the fourth commandment, it is tradition.

"The Lord's day was merely of ecclesiastical institution. It was not introduced by virtue of the fourth commandment." (Jeremy Taylor (Church of England), Ductor Dubitantium, part 1, book 2, chap. 2, rule 6, secs. 51, 59 (1850 ed.), vol. 9, pp. 458, 464).

Early Christians worshipped on the Sabbath.

"The Primitive Christians had a great veneration for the Sabbath, and spent the Day in Devotion and Sermons. And 'tis not to be doubted but they derived this Practice from the Apostles themselves." (A Discourse in Six Dialogues on the Name, Notion, and Observation of the Lord's Day, p. 189).

BAPTISTS:

The transfer of Sabbath to Sunday worship is not biblical.

"There was and is a commandment to keep holy the Sabbath day, but the Sabbath day was not Sunday. It will, however, be readily said, and with some show of triumph, that the Sabbath was transferred from the Seventh to the First day of the week ... Where can the record of such a transaction be found? Not in the New Testament, absolutely not." (Paper read Aug. 20, 1893, by Dr. Edward T. Hiscox (Baptist), at a Baptist ministers' meeting at Saratoga, New York).

"The Lord's Day is not sanctified by any specific command or by any inevitable inference. In all the New Testament there is no hint or suggestion of a legal obligation binding any man, whether saint or sinner, to observe the Day. Its sanctity arises only out of what it means to the true believer." (J. J. Taylor (Baptist), The Sabbatic Question, p. 72).

CONGREGATIONALIST:

Sunday worship is not the same thing as Sabbath worship.

"It is quite clear that, however rigidly or devotedly we may spend Sunday, we are not keeping the Sabbath ... The Sabbath was founded on a specific, Divine command. We can plead no such command for the obligation to observe Sunday ... There is not a single sentence in the New Testament to suggest that we incur any penalty by violating the supposed sanctity of Sunday." (Dr. R. W. Dale (British Congregationalist): The Ten Commandments, pp. 127-129).

Sunday worship is not biblical, and was not originally called the Christian Sabbath.

"The Christian Sabbath (Sunday) is not in the Scripture, and was not by the primitive church called the Sabbath." (Timothy Dwight's Theology (American Congregationalist) says: Sermon 107 (1818 ed.), vol. 4, p. 49).

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST:

Sabbath day worship could never have been changed to first day worship.

"'But,' say some, 'it was changed from the seventh to the first day.' Where? when? and by whom? No man can tell. No; it never was changed, nor could it be, unless Creation was to be gone through again: for the reason assigned must be changed before the observance, or respect to the reason, can be changed !

"It is all old wives' fables to talk of the change of the sabbath from the seventh to the first day. If it be changed, it was that august personage changed it who changes times and laws 'ex officio' I think his name is Doctor Antichrist." (Alexander Campbell (the founder of the Disciples of Christ); The Christian Baptist, Feb. 1, 1824, vol. 1, no. 7).

"The first day of the week is commonly called the Sabbath. This is a mistake. The Sabbath of the Bible was the day just preceding the first day of the week. The first day of the week is never called the Sabbath anywhere in the entire Scriptures. It is also an error to talk about the change of the Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday. There is not in any place in the Bible any intimation of such a change." (First Day Observance, pp. 17, 19).

LUTHERAN:

Sabbath day worship practiced by early church.

"We have seen how gradually the impression of the Jewish sabbath faded from the mind of the Christian Church, and how completely the newer thought underlying the observance of the first day took possession of the church. We have seen that the Christians of the first three centuries never confused one with the other, but for a time celebrated both." (The Sunday Problem (1923 ed.), a study book of the United Lutheran Churches, p. 36).

Sunday worship has always been a human tradition.

"The festival of Sunday, like all other festivals, was always only a human ordinance, and it was far from the intentions of the apostles to establish a divine command in this respect; far from them, and from the early apostolic

church, to transfer the laws of the Sabbath to Sunday.” (The History of the Christian Religion and Church, Dr. Augustus Neander, p. 186).

METHODIST:

Other non-biblical practices are excused because of worshipping on Sunday.

“It is true there is no positive command for infant baptism ... Nor is there any for keeping holy the first day of the week.” (Methodist Episcopal Theological Compend, by Amos Binney, pp. 180, 181).

Today many Protestant denominations attempt to use isolated scriptures and logic to “prove” that Sunday is now the Christian’s day of worship. However, their attempts are baseless. The leaders of the Catholic Church and the Protestant denominations know that there is not one scripture in the Bible which gives God’s permission to worship Him on any other day except on the Sabbath day. This single fact reduces all of their spiritual sounding logic and quotations of isolated scriptures into the domain of “human reasoning”. Men are not a Christian’s authority, and neither is a Church.

(12) Sabbath Day Worship And Christian Salvation

There is no doubt, historically or biblically, that God intends for Christians to worship Him and His son Jesus Christ on the Sabbath day, which is Saturday by our Roman calendar. But what about the millions of Christians which are not doing this, and worshipping Jesus Christ on Sunday? To ask the question in the language of most Protestant denominations, “Is Sabbath keeping required for salvation?” The answer is no, it is not required for salvation.

Salvation is given to a Christian by God’s own sovereign choice. Salvation is given as a gift, and is made possible through the righteousness of Jesus the risen Christ. The individual’s own righteousness does not obligate God to give them salvation. There is nothing that a Christian can do, or not do, which will obligate God to grant His gift of salvation. No “work” or combination of “works” can buy salvation. Therefore, keeping the Sabbath will not earn salvation, and for those millions of Christians who are not keeping the Sabbath, that practice will not cause them to lose salvation.

What then does Sabbath keeping gain a Christian? The answer is rewards. Once a Christian is given salvation, they are then given rewards by Jesus Christ. The amount of reward given is based upon their works. When discussing subjects like the Sabbath, or any other topic dealing with Christian conduct, a Christian’s salvation is not at issue, but the amount of reward that may be received is the reason for discussion.

Since very few modern denominations actively teach about this distinction between gaining salvation and receiving rewards, here are a few scriptures which describe this distinction: Please read 1Corinthians 3:6—17, 1John 3:4—7, Colossians 3:24—25, Luke 19:15—19, and Revelation 2:23.

(13) Conclusion

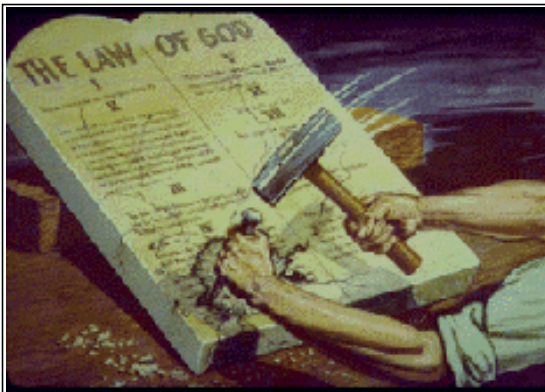
By God’s grace Christians are saved through our Lord Jesus Christ. Christians are to live their lives in such a manner which is pleasing to God, and to show others about Jesus Christ through example and lifestyle. Jesus Christ warned about listening to preachers who use His name, but in actual fact are leading people into errors and false practices. The practice of worshipping God on Sunday instead of on the Sabbath day is just such a deception. This deception has been forcefully and purposefully taught as truth by the bishops of Rome for over 1600 years. The other side of the issue, telling the side of the other Christian Bishops who refused to go along with Sunday worship, has not been taught. Today, most people are completely unaware that Sunday worship has no basis in scripture, that it was rejected by most of the early church leaders, that the numerous denomination’s leaders know this, and that its observance is a proof-example of the authority of the Catholic Church.

In contrast, the Sabbath day is the memorial of God’s creation. It represents the day of the Creator, in contrast to the day of the sun-god. To worship God and Jesus Christ on the Sabbath day, the only day God has set aside as being sacred time, recognizes that God is the authority on earth, not men, and not a Church.

May the sovereign Creator of the universe grant you grace through His Son Jesus Christ, and lead you into a more rewarding Christian lifestyle.

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(This article [originally ©July 4, 1992] is part of the author’s ongoing research titled “Christian Technical Notes.”) Wayne Atchison is also the author of “The Seventh Circle in Bible Prophecy” (Vantage Press, New York); <http://www.z2cs.com> . Wayne and family reside in Bend, Oregon. Comments are welcome: z2cs@bendnet.com



Grafted-In Ministries maintains a substantial reference website at "<http://www.GraftedIn2Torah.org/>" that documents the move away from the teachings of the Apostles and the original followers of THE WAY and their keeping of the Biblical Sabbaths to the present apostasy of Sunday-keeping. Berean study e-mail forums are maintained on the internet and can be joined by sending an email to "Feasts-subscribe@egroups.com" AND/OR FOR WOMEN ONLY "MessianicSisterhood-subscribe@egroups.com".

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"Sabbath Roots: The African Connection,"
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Mr. Bradford traces the history of African Sabbath-keepers. A must-read for all of those interested in the documentation of Sabbath keeping in Africa. This book is now available from the Bible Sabbath Association for \$15.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Just received "The Sabbath Sentinel" - Sept/Oct issue. I tore it into pieces and thrown it into the rubbish. (T)his is Paul's answer to your remarks on his preaching concerning how women ought to behave: 1 Corinthians 14:37-38. And this is Peter's response: 2 Peter 3:15-16. Repent of your error! Please remove my name from your list. I don't any relationship with any False Teachers.

Grace be with you, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love. [2 John 1:3].

Mariappan Eddiah
Negeri Sembilan, Malaysia

I read the scriptures you quoted and in response I would like to remind you of several scriptures. First, Proverbs 18:13, where it states that giving an answer before you hear it is foolishness. Second, 1 Corinthians 7:6, where Paul admits that he is speaking his own opinion, and not of a command of God. Third, in 2 Timothy 2:15, we are cautioned to study so that we can rightly divide the word of truth.

I found it interesting in your electronic mail message to me that you demand that I "stop twisting and perverting the scripture" yet you forwarded the same scriptures with which the article dealt as proof of your point. At the same time, you did not deal with how Paul could have written such things in the face of the clear manner in which God dealt with women in the Old Testament, and Christ in the New.

What you find written in the pages of The Sabbath Sentinel is not intended to be gospel. They are the writings of men and women that are intended to enlighten others—or at least to get others to consider scriptures in a different light. They are not intended as writings on which you should base your theology. Indeed, if you accept what is written in these pages as truth without independent study and verification, you are accepting the doctrines of men in place of the commandments of God.

One clear command is that we prove all things. Inherent in that command is that we disprove also. Your response was not a rational explanation of the error of the article, but was the irrational response of tearing up the magazine and throwing it in the rubbish. How then will you come to grow in knowledge if your response to any new understanding is to reject it out of hand and refuse to consider it in light of scripture? As a brother, I caution you to consider proving error, so that you can reject it.

That stated, I pray that nobody reading this magazine uses it as the basis of biblical understanding. Much truth is found within these pages, but nobody can perform a complete biblical study on any subject in the few pages allotted to a writer here. It is up to the readers to "prove all things."

Ed.

I read with great interest Mr. Wong's article on the Sabbath movement in China, as well as his following interview. However, I believe that there needs to be a correction. Mr. Wong stated that the first Christian group to reintroduce the seventh day Sabbath to China was the Seventh Day Adventist Church in 1896. Actually, Seventh Day Baptist history states that there was a Seventh Day Baptist sabbath school in Shanghai, China as early as 1884. Among the superintendents were D. H. Davis, Dr. Ella Swinney, and Gideon Henry FitzRandolph. Mr. FitzRandolph's wife, Lucy Greene FitzRandolph, gave birth to at least two of their children while living there. A Seventh Day Baptist Church building was built in 1910.

May you be blessed as you continue to spread the truth about the Sabbath of the Bible. Sabbatarian christians have much to gain by edifying each other in the name of Jesus Christ.

Kenneth Monroe

Thanks for the insight. Perhaps Paul Wong can look into your insight and bring some more information to TSS in a future article. Indeed, it sounds as if you have some background in this area yourself. How about an article from you?! Write me at the address below if you would be interested in doing an article! Or, email me at rmitchel@flash.net.

Ed.

A friend in California made us aware of a recent article in the Sabbath Sentinel magazine about Sabbath keepers in China. Would you be able to email us the article? Also, would you give us permission to reproduce the article in PETAH TIKVAH MAGAZINE? We will, of course, give full credits including the address for our readers to contact your publication for a subscription. Also, could you send us a copy of the China Sabbath issue? (By the way, we do supply you with Petah Tikvah Magazine.)

Rick Aharon Chaimberlin

Your crediting TSS and the Bible Sabbath Association for the article is appreciated. We are always looking for ways to spread the truth about God's Sabbath. With more people reading and helping, it will be easier to get the message out. Many hands do indeed make light work. In the event that you did not know, the subscription is free to the magazine. Subscribe on line at www.biblesabbath.org or write to Bible Sabbath Association, 3316 Alberta Drive, Gillette, WY 82718. You may also call at 307-686-5191.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(CONT.)

This is in answer to your recent article—"The Issue"—published in the Sept/Oct 2000 issue of the Sabbath Sentinel. It disturbs me that you seem to think we have to be able to give an answer to the New Covenant Theology (NCT), or anyone for that matter, as to why we keep GOD'S HOLY SABBATH. Your article seemed to say to me that if we can't find new and convincing arguments, then we have to succumb to these folks. *HOG-WASH!!* I don't keep the Sabbath with the idea I have to justify my actions to any man or manmade organization. I keep the Sabbath because GOD created it, sanctified it and set it apart as Holy (Gen. 2:2-3) I keep God's Sabbath because GOD placed it as a sign of his people as a perpetual covenant (Exodus 31:13-16).

I don't have to justify my actions to the NCT because Christ tells us to present the Gospel and if anyone doesn't accept it, to shake the dust off our feet and move on. I don't keep the feasts on a regular basis because there is nowhere in the old or new testaments that commands it according to the present day method of keeping them. There is no place in the Bible that says the Feast of Tabernacles stands for the millennial reign, for example. Or that the Feast of Trumpets stands for the last trumpet sound. The only explanation for the feast is given in the old testament and no one keeps them according to the instructions given. There is no authorization for man to choose at random different cities and towns as vacation sites and call them feast sites. And God says in Deut. 16:16 that three of them are to be kept in the city of Jerusalem and that's not being adhered to, either.

Eph. 2:15 tells us that the laws contained in ordinances were abolished and the Feast Days and the ceremonies that accompanied them were called ordinances in Numbers 9 and 10. We don't need to worry about whether we can justify our obedience to GOD according to the NCT or any other man made organization. We just need to worry about justifying our actions before GOD. If we please him, that's all that matters. If we seek him first and serve him with all of our being, GOD will take care of the NCT and others like them according to his time table, not ours.

Let's just keep the Sabbath and admonish others to do so according to the plain Bible truth. If they refuse to accept it, that's between them and GOD. Amen!!

Kenny James

Thank you for reading The Sabbath Sentinel and for your comments on the president's message. To be sure my articles provoke comments both pro and con. May God continue to strengthen your resolve to do his will and your conviction regarding his Sabbath truth.

Dr. Sidney Davis, Pres.

I want to sincerely thank you for the fine job you are doing as editor of TSS. I do have a question for you, and that is, I am having a little trouble interpreting the pictures on some of the magazine covers. You know how some magazines put a small picture of the cover on the inside with an explanation, "About Our Cover"? You may want to consider that, then dummies like me won't have to wonder what the message is, when you are obviously sending one on the cover....

I read your article on a woman's role in the church. Even if that were the best article I had ever read on the subject, and even if I agreed with every point you made, I would still ask the following question: Is the TSS the right vehicle for this type of article? I suspect the article will cause some subscribers to react in a negative way....

While no one does a perfect job, you have been doing an excellent job as editor, and you are my friend and brother in Christ. I have taken the liberty to express myself to you in love and respect and I hope you will receive it in that spirit.

Darl Arbogast

Thanks for your insight. I had not given much thought to whether or not our covers were understood, assuming that everyone was getting the idea that was being conveyed by the picture. Your idea about explaining the cover has merit, and I will try to incorporate an explanation as I have time and room. It could even become a short one page regular feature within TSS. I like your idea, and I really appreciate your taking the time to send it to us.

As to TSS being the right place for such an article on women's roles, I wonder, what more correct place could there be? You mentioned in your lengthy letter that some other publications might be more appropriate for the publication of that article. I appreciate your concern. There is only one publication that reaches across all corporate and organizational lines to Sabbatarians everywhere, The Sabbath Sentinel. The improper and inappropriate treatment of fellow children of God who happen to be born with internal instead of external reproductive organs crosses all of those same lines. It has resulted in stifling the gifts of God that He says we all have been given. With that in mind, what more appropriate place can there be at this time?

We have had a few negative responses. They have been outweighed by the many positive ones, from people who recognized the disparity of treatment of women by God and Christ, and what we interpreted from the writings of Paul. But I do recognize your concern and you may rest assured that I would not have broached the subject if I had not seen a need for it. Thank you again for your support and encouragement.

Ed.

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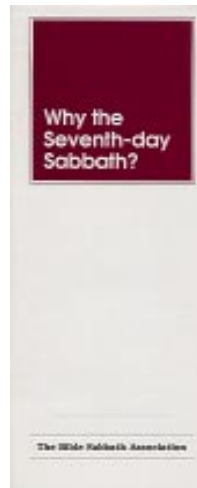
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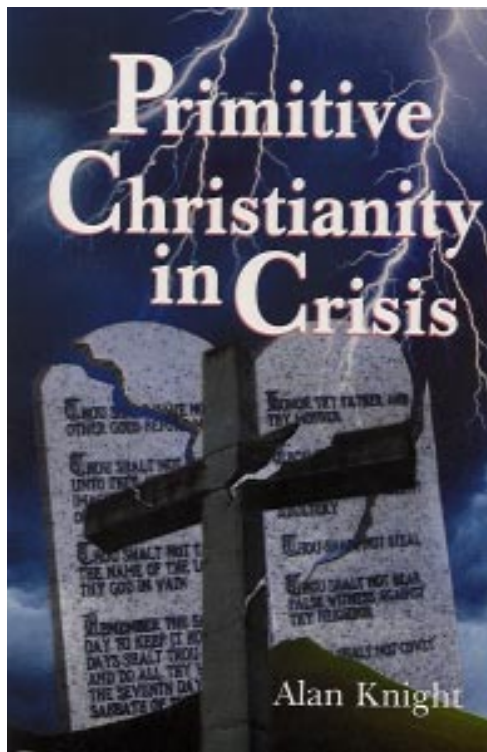
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Gnosticism, Past and Present

Seventh-day Adventist James Arrabito says that Gnostic cult theology is dominant in today's Protestant and Catholic theology. In his VHS NTSC video, "Gnosticism, Past & Present," Arrabito lists several Gnostic traits that we should watch out for today: (1) Allegorization or mythologization of Scripture to fit one's pre-conceived views, (2) Belief that only the spirit part of man is redeemable (disavowal of the bodily resurrection), (3) De-emphasis of eschatology in favor of the existential movement, (4) Minimizing of sin, miracles, denial that demons are in high places, (5) Spiritualize away the Word of God, (6) Belief that Christ did not come in the flesh, but He was an emanation of light, and salvation is ascending to a higher plane of belief, (7) Hatred of "Jewish" law.

These and other Gnostic traits have great appeal in our day. Arrabito shows how we can resist today's pull of Gnosticism. The VHS NTSC video, "Gnosticism, Past & Present," is available from The Bible Sabbath Association, 3316 Alberta Drive, Gillette, WY 82718 for \$15.00, or \$5.00 for 14-day Loan.

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