



The Sabbath Sentinel

*July-
August
2017*



And the Spirit and the
bride say, Come. And let
him that heareth say, Come.
And let him that is athirst
come. And whosoever will,
let him take the water of
life freely.

BSA — The Bible Sabbath Association

Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life."

The Sabbath Sentinel July-August 2017

Volume 71, No. 4, Issue 585

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!...MY appointed feasts.!

In this edition, my long time friend and brother, Calvin Burrell, responds to my editorial related to one understanding of the scriptures that the Church should be keeping God's Holy Days from the scriptures.

I appreciate the love and patience which my long-time friend exhibited in his response. His response is a good example of the principles of the Bible Sabbath Association in action.

It should be clear to readers of both articles that my brother and I disagree as to what the scriptures are saying about our need to keep the Annual Sabbaths listed with the weekly Sabbath in Leviticus 23. Yet, I can state unreservedly the affirmation that Calvin is my brother in Christ—and that I am his!

With that said, there are a few things that should be said with regard to what my brother wrote.

Calvin wrote that the Holy Days mentioned in the New Testament were just days that the brethren used for timing. The problem with that rationalization is that, while the apostles nowhere write that those days should continue to be kept, they also nowhere write that they no longer need to be kept. We read in Leviticus 23 that those days are God's Days, and they are listed with the weekly Sabbath which we all understand needs to be kept. It would appear to me to be reasonable that unless and until God states that they are not to be kept that we should do so!

You see, those days are not "Hebrew ritual festivals" as brother Calvin asserts. They are God's Feast Days and God makes that clearly understood to Moses when He states, "Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, Concerning the feasts of the LORD, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, even these are my feasts."

Brother Calvin asserts that by the logic of that article most of the 613 laws of Moses would need to be kept. That certainly sounds logically derived. However,

many of those laws were related to sacrifices for sins and other uncleanness. There can certainly be no doubt that the Passover Lamb decreed in those old laws was replaced by THE Passover Lamb hence rendering those sacrificial laws moot.

Paul does attempt to show a spiritualization of some of those principles found in the law. For instance, while Paul fights mightily against the Jews who tried to convince the new brethren that they needed to be circumcised to be saved, he also goes on to state that circumcision IS required, but that it is of the heart. Many of the rest of those laws can be described as good ideas, such as the laws related to washing. It has been shown that the laws related to marriage are a good idea, although we certainly do not, in general, accept that God *intended* that men have multiple wives at the same time.

My brother Calvin states that if Jesus didn't say that we should keep the Holy Days then we shouldn't require them of our brethren. This is an unfortunate rationalizing around the requirement. We know that the One who became Jesus created all things, that all things were created by Him and through Him. If so then Jesus, as YHVH, did in fact speak to us that we should keep those days. Moreover, if we want to believe that it was the Father who stated that those were His days, then we have to deal with Jesus' statement that He did not come to do away with the Father's Laws. Therefore, either way, Jesus or the Father gave us His Days and ordered them to be kept forever. As an aside here, it is not up to us to require anything of our brethren. It is God whose requirements we should meet and Him to whom we answer.

My dear brother attempts to rationalize away Zechariah 14 by stating that the prophet did not grasp the "greater light of Jesus." The problem with this rationalization is that it was God who gave the vision. The vision was not something that Zechariah

conjured up to put into his writing. It was God giving a prophecy to a holy man of old who wrote it down for us, for our edification and understanding.

It is puzzling as to why Zechariah wrote of a sacrifice in the Kingdom of God. However, what we don't read there is the nature and purpose of those sacrifices. Certainly, our lack of understanding of the sacrifice mentioned does not give rise to stating that the prophet didn't know what he was writing or that God didn't mean what He said when He commanded the Holy Days forever or stated that they would be kept in the Kingdom of God.

That said, my brother makes the unsubstantiated leap to there being animal sacrifices discussed in Zechariah 14 when there is no mention of animal sacrifices. Yes, we do see sacrifices mentioned there, but Paul himself wrote that we are to present our bodies as a living sacrifices well after the start of his ministry; sacrifices still exist!

Christians are indeed blessed with a better covenant based upon better promises, as brother Calvin states. That statement is often used to "prove" that we don't have to obey plainly written commandments. It is used by Sunday-keepers to show that people don't have to keep the weekly Sabbath.

However, it is worth nothing that what we read in Hebrews does not say that it is based upon better or different laws, rules or requirements. It is based upon better *promises*, which promises are eternal life and Sonship with the Father and the Christ. Those promises were not made to Israel in exchange for obedience to God's law. If we accept that Hebrews is saying that we don't have to keep the Holy Days then we have to accept that it means that we don't have to keep the weekly Sabbath, also. They stand or fall together via Leviticus 23. All were spoken as commandments forever by the Word of God.

Calvin states that the weekly Sabbath is rooted in the Creation account of Genesis but that the Holy Days are not. On the surface that appears to be true. But, even so, we have to assume that lack of proof is proof of the lack of that requirement for that point to be relevant. Indeed, there are those that argue that the annual Sabbaths were also hand-

ed down in the Garden by the way some verses related to the Patriarchs read, and that Leviticus was merely a restatement to Israel after nearly 400 years of lost contact with the religion of Abraham. It really doesn't make much difference that Genesis doesn't make direct reference to other than the weekly Sabbath. The facts remain that God said that those days were to be kept forever. Certainly the Word/YHVH, in the days of the Old Testament, knew and understood about the coming of Christ for sin, didn't He?

My brother makes the statement that we can't truly know the correct day on which to keep those days so they must not be meant to be kept. That does fly in the face of God's command to keep them forever. However, again, that same logic is used by Sunday keepers to say that we can't really know which day is the true Sabbath Day so Sunday is as good as any other day! Once again, these days stand or fall together because it was God who spoke and commanded those days forever, not Moses.

In conclusion, it is clear that my brother Calvin and I have serious differences in understanding related to the keeping of the Sabbath just as we saw with the idols discussion in previous issues.

I'm not writing to say that I am absolutely correct or that my brother is in error; we are showing that sincere brethren can have sincere and rational differences of understanding and still be brethren.

There is one thing on which we can all agree. Whatever good we KNOW to do we need to be doing it. If we don't, it is sin to us. Nobody is expected to change their understanding or take action based upon what we have discussed here. We should all be like the noble Bereans and search the scriptures daily, proving for ourselves what is the truth.

We know that the Spirit will lead us into all truth, including the love for each other that exemplifies those who are Jesus' disciples. I thank my brother, and long-time friend, Calvin for his well-written article. As always, he remains my brother in Christ with whom I look forward to eternity in service to our loving Father and His Children!

—Ed.



Developing the Next Intelligentsia for the Sabbath Community

“And the Lord answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it” (Habakkuk 2:2).

Miriam's Webster dictionary defines the word intelligentsia as: intellectuals who form an artistic, social, or political vanguard or elite. As it relates to this article, an intelligentsia is simply a group individuals that promote ideas to the larger society and guard them from outside.

I propose that the Sabbath Community must begin to form a new intelligentsia. Many of the great historians and thinkers of the Sabbath community have either passed away or are older (no offense intended). Some of our passed away leaders would include, but not be limited to, Dr. Samuel Bacchiocchi and Dr. Herman Hoeh. Those that are still with us include, but are not limited to, Calvin Burrell and Dr. Bob Thiel.

In the Bible, we can find a pattern of the older generation passing the torch down to the next generation. Moses guided the nation of Israel, but Joshua was in the wings being prepared to take them into the Promised Land. Elijah was the leading prophet to the nation of Israel, but Elisha was being trained to take his place. Additionally, there was a company or school of the prophets that traveled together prophesying. As Paul was preaching the gospel, he had spiritual sons such as Timothy and Titus that he raised up to continue the work of God after he passed away.

As the older Sabbath leaders pass away, it is important that there are others in the community who can step up to fill these roles. I am asking every individual in the Sabbath community to pass on your

understanding of the Word of God to younger individuals in the Sabbath community. If possible, pass it on to individuals from multiple age groups: teens, twenties, thirties, forties, and even fifties. You may only be able to find one other person to mentor, and they may not be that much younger than you. Do what you can.

How can we do this? Start specialized Bible studies in homes or after church. Maybe you connect with people over social media or conduct conversations over the phone or via Skype. Take a journal and write down your personal life experience with the Sabbath to leave a history for the next generation. Note different ways you honored the Sabbath and made the day special.

Write down trials that you went through as you kept the Sabbath in the face of persecution. How did you deal with the persecution from friends, family, and co-workers? What verses, stories, or literature helped you to stay strong? As each of us does our part, we will pass on a heritage of Sabbath understanding to the next generation. The goal is to prepare leaders and strengthen those that come behind us.

We cannot live in fear of each other. The mentality of the Kingdom of God is to contribute for the benefit of the whole.

I also encourage churches and organizations to include younger people on the board or other decision-making bodies. As part of this process, I am encouraging different Sabbath churches and groups to communicate with each other. Cross-pollinate ideas with each other as it relates to this topic. Hold fellowship or even leadership meetings with each other.

At the end of the day, we must remember that we all belong to the same Body of Christ. We might be called by different names – Seventh-Day Baptist Church, Church of God, Seventh Day Adventist, Messianic, or Hebrew Roots. However, we share the same Savior and the same Word of God.

We cannot live in fear of each other. The mentality of the Kingdom of God is to contribute for the benefit of the whole. We can accomplish so much more if we look at each other as a single unit rather than separate entities or even worse – enemies.

Though I am only 31 years old, I am doing my part. I have begun a series of books and booklets delving into the history of the Sabbath and Bible prophecies that pertain to the Ten Commandments. I have also begun to involve younger people in the BSA and connect with younger Sabbath leaders.

Just as the natural body needs strengthening and nourishing, so does the spiritual Body of Christ. I understand there are not as many young people in the Sabbath community as there once was. Instead of lamenting this, let's work with what we have. Let's take the time to strengthen those we can – one person at a time.

As Elijah was taken to Heaven, he left the mantle to Elisha. The mantle represented the anointing and power of God operating in his life. However, Elisha did not leave the mantle to anyone else before he died. Sometime after his death, a dead man was thrown on the bones of Elisha. There was so much anointing left on his bones that the dead man came back to life!

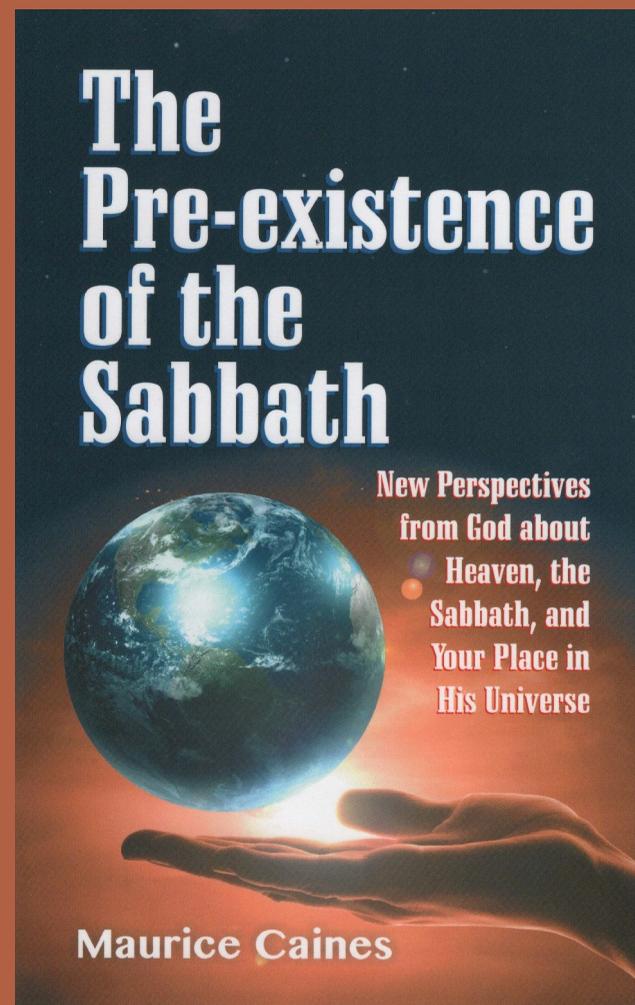
As Habakkuk 2:2 exhorted us, let's write down the vision and run with it. Don't be like Elisha. Find a way to impart before you depart!

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Darl Arbogast is also the writer of the Newport Plain Truth monthly Newsletter.

Holy Days: A Different View

By Calvin Burrell

In “Which Days Are God’s?” (*Sabbath Sentinel*, May-June 2017), our editor gave reasons why all annual Sabbaths and holy days of Leviticus 23 should be kept by Christians. Ending his editorial, Royce Mitchell invited “those having a different opinion to submit an article showing the other side of the discussion.” This is that.

The first reason our editor gave for keeping the annual holy days now is that they are mentioned in the New Testament after the death and resurrection of Christ. “If those days in Leviticus 23 are done away with by the sacrifice of Christ, then why are they used as reference points for the new Christians in the letters [and Acts]?” (p. 3, May-June TSS).

A partial answer to this is found in the question itself: these days were used as easily understood “reference points” for early Christians—not as carryover commands for the early church. The mention of Pentecost (Acts 2:1; 20:16; I Cor. 16:8) and the Days of Unleavened Bread (Acts 20:6), then, is not a mandate for their observance in the New Covenant, any more than the early Church’s use of the Jerusalem temple or a Jewish synagogue is a mandate for permanent church worship in these facilities.

Rather, these late mentions of Holy Days show that early Christians, most of them converts from Judaism, continued keeping annual Sabbaths during this time of transition when the implications of Christ’s death and resurrection were not yet fully grasped. It took more than a week, a year, or a generation for those believers to harmonize their thinking and practice with the new light and freedom the Spirit intended for God’s people under the New Covenant. The Jerusalem council of Acts 15:1-33 is a prime example of the church’s growth

in grace and knowledge (2 Peter 3:18). Gradually, over several years or decades, Hebrew festival rituals were discontinued by most of Jesus’ followers, who came to see them as replaced by something greater in Him.

The second reason given by our editor is that the holy days are God’s laws (Leviticus 23, etc.), “and we never see any statement from any writer of a letter/book of the New Covenant stating unequivocally that the celebration and keeping of those days should now be abandoned” (p. 4, May-June TSS).

This reasoning implies that every law in the Old Covenant is automatically written into the New Covenant unless the New clearly states that it has been revoked or abandoned. By this logic most or all of the 613 laws of Moses in the Torah are still God’s law for Christians today. But this puts a yoke on the neck of Christ’s disciples that neither our fathers nor we were able to bear, according to Peter (Acts 15:10; see also Acts 13:38, 39; Galatians 5:1-3; Ephesians 2:15).

More compelling evidence than this is available for us to know what laws are normative for Christians. The commands and words spoken or affirmed by our Lord in the New Scriptures become law for the followers of Christ. If Jesus didn’t teach them, Christians must not require them in the Church. This logic accepts at face value the statement that since there has been a change in the priesthood (from Aaron to Christ), a change in the law must also occur (Hebrews 7:12, 18).

For Christians, Moses is not the lawgiver—Jesus is! The New Covenant affirms this in many ways, not least of which is the voice from Heaven when Christ appeared in glory with Moses and Elijah on the mount of transfiguration: “This is My beloved Son. **Hear Him!**” (Luke 9:35; John 1:17).

The third reason given is that the holy days will be observed in the Millennium, according to Zechariah 14:16-21. "Why is it that God commanded Israel to keep those High Sabbaths . . .we don't have to keep them now . . .but then God has the nations and families keeping them during the Kingdom days under pain of the curse of rainless skies?" (p. 4, May-June TSS).

The commands and words spoken or affirmed by our Lord in the New Scriptures become law for the followers of Christ. If Jesus didn't teach them, Christians must not require them in the Church.

But Zechariah 14 describes the Lord's return from the perspective of Jerusalem and the Old Covenant. Israel's ideal future would mean celebrating the Feast of Tabernacles at the place God had commanded, including animal sacrifices at the altar of a Levitical temple. Had the prophet known the greater light of Jesus and the New Covenant, he would have likely written the ideal future in different terms, terms of grace and truth for all nations that came most clearly through Christ and the apostles (Hebrews 1:1; 2 Peter 1:10-12).

Christians are blest with a better covenant based upon better promises than Zechariah knew. Since the New Covenant was sealed in Jesus' blood shed once and for all at the cross, it is unthinkable that the future Millennial kingdom will see a return to the Mosaic religion of animal sacrifices—which nev-

er take away sin. Let us read the law and the prophets, including Zechariah 14, in the greater light of Christ and the gospel, not vice versa. Prioritizing Jesus' grace and truth allows us to read Zechariah 14:16-21 in spiritual, Christian terms, not in the fleshly [i.e., carnal] terms of an obsolete covenant (Hebrews 7:22-28; 8:6, 7; 9:9, 10, 11-28).

Final points to ponder: The familiar list of annual Sabbaths and other holy days in Leviticus 23 is topped by the weekly, seventh-day Sabbath (v. 3). Are the weekly and annual Sabbaths forever linked, then, in all respects? Consider . . .

- That the weekly Sabbath is anchored in creation week (Gen. 2:1-3), but annual Sabbaths are not mentioned until the Exodus, more than 2,000 years later.
- That the weekly Sabbath was written by the finger of God in the heart of Israel's moral law, the Ten Commandments; but annual Sabbath were written in Moses' book of the law, along with dozens of other Levitical ordinances.
- That the weekly Sabbath is observed according to a seven-day solar cycle attested by secular history, most calendars, Christians and Jews. Annual Sabbaths, on the other hand, are tied to an ancient lunar calendar whose full parameters are not found in Scripture. The uncertainty of translating dates from that Hebrew calendar to modern times often generates confusion and debate among those who insist on a calendar-based observance of those days.

As a memorial of Creation, a type of our rest in Christ, and a shadow of eternity to come, the weekly Sabbath is a day of grace—not the works of the law. Annual Sabbaths and holy days, on the other hand, are more closely tied to the history, geography, and rituals of Israel, the Old Covenant and its Levitical priesthood.

I thank our editor for his invitation to print other views on this topic, and for his several appeals for love, acceptance, and forgiveness among Sabbath-keeping believers, even though we often disagree about many things in Scripture.

The Body of Believers

By
John Mattithyah

**Building houses unto our God
Where sermons are taught from His Word
And songs of praise sung loud and proud
Are heard by the ears of the Lord,**

**With pews made of wood, each a matching grain,
Up on the roof a grandiose steeple,
With stained glass windows in every pane
By the craftsmanship of the people**

**The doors of solid Oak, hung on a strong hinge
The carpet so beautifully woven
The candles are lit and burn by a singe
And the Bread of Communion is pulled from the oven**

**Synagogues and Temples, a Chapel in the woods
The draping beads of a Hindu Shrine
An Islamic Mosque in the Arabian desert
Are these all Sanctuaries of the Divine?**

**There is a church where Yahweh desires to dwell
And the stoning of Steven should serve to remind
And the house God wants is the one He builds
The home of the gentle and kind**

**Christ holds in his hand a cup to fill
And He pours of His Spirit generously
Do we hold out our hand and do His will
And receive of His love graciously?**

**For the One who was despised by the religious achievers
The stone once rejected by the builders
Has for us now become the Chief Corner Stone
In the Body of the Believers**

Ten Words that Will Transform a Nation

By Lenny Cacchio

We speak of them as the Ten Commandments, but the Hebrew word translated "commandments" in this context can just as easily be translated "words". (Compare Exodus 20:1 and Exodus 34:28). In an interesting lesson in this morning's TGIW, a Wednesday morning men's Bible Study here in town, I was intrigued at a comment Rod Handley made about "The Ten Divine Rules for Human Conduct", as he put it.

He was quoting another source which I have been unable to find, but the lesson is a good one. His source reduced each of the Ten Commandments to one word and pointed out that any society would prosper if they were to respect and live by these ten words. By the same token, any society that ignores these ten words would find itself in decline.

The ten word summary of the Ten Commandments is:

GOD

- 1: Do not worship any other gods
- 2: Do not make any idols
- 3: Do not misuse the name of God
- 4: Keep the Sabbath holy

MAN

- 5: Honour your father & mother
- 6: Do not murder
- 7: Do not commit adultery
- 8: Do not steal
- 9: Do not lie
- 10: Do not covet

1. Religion
2. Worship
3. Reverence
4. Time
5. Authority
6. Life
7. Purity
8. Property
9. Tongue
10. Contentment

Kind of sums it all up, don't you think?

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ARE MEN FULFILLING THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES?

Part 2

God has commanded husbands to love their wives as Christ loves the Church and gave Himself for it. It would be good for us to review a few of the ten biblical tips we were given to enable us to live contented happy lives.

#1. We must realize first of all that Christ really did give up his earthly physical life for His church. We are His family; He expects nothing less from fathers and husbands than to love their wives, to trust and respect them just as he loves, trusts and respects himself.

This is very important and it really matters! Ephesians 5:25 NKJ "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for it." With this frame of mind, the children are happy, the wife is happy and we all enjoy a happy, contented household.

#2. Ephesians 5:28 thru 33 NKJ "So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. 30 For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. 31 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.' 32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. 33 Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband."

#3. Sometimes when your wife is not feeling well, show respect and do not create unnecessary noises in the house, loud

music or TV, be available to render her aid. She may need a couple of hours of bed rest so keep the children occupied and quiet. Probably checking on her from time to time would also be appreciated.

Remember to ask God to help you understand her needs and to show you ways to be more considerate and your wife will love you for it.

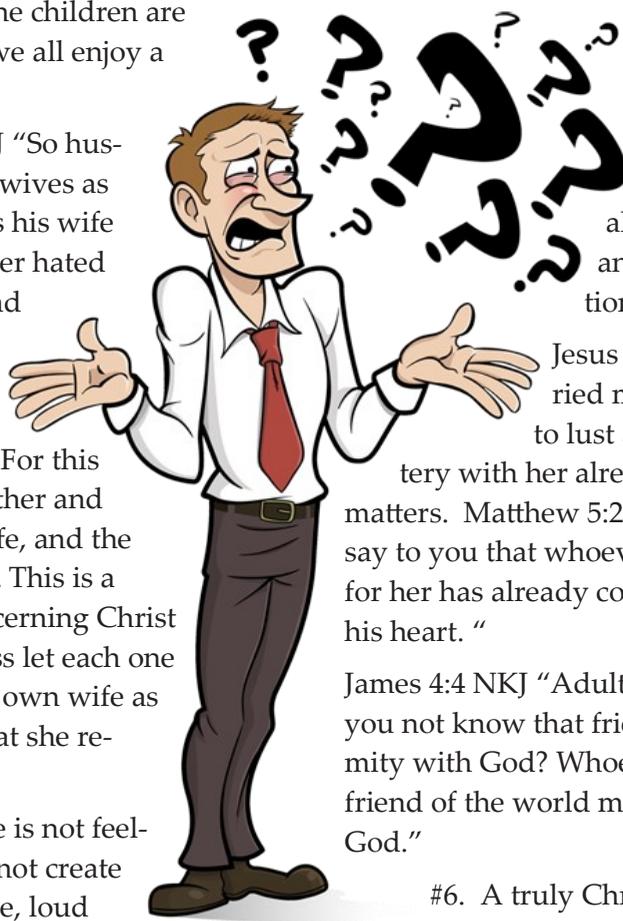
#4. Remembering to be tender hearted and kind is always a plus, never to be harsh with her or the children. Remember they are God's gift to you, be thankful always for them. Life would be very lonely without your mate so being careful not to use irritated tones of voice or to be impatient really matters.

#5. Always remember no married man should look at another woman lustfully; his wife probably would appreciate some thoughtfulness along with a compliment or two and she would love the attention.

Jesus Christ warned us that a married man who looks upon a woman to lust after her has committed adultery with her already in his heart; this really matters. Matthew 5:28 NKJ – (Jesus said) 28 "But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. "

James 4:4 NKJ "Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God."

#6. A truly Christian woman is a modest



woman who behaves in the manner of a lady. Her hair style, her clothing, her manners reflect her inner self, her character. This type of woman is a jewel of great price and brings a great sense of pride to her husband. A husband who is worthy of his salt so to speak will let her know how much he appreciates her and how proud he is that she is his wife. Men should treat their wife the way they would want to be treated; this really matters.

I Timothy 2:9, 10 NKJ "in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, 10 but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works."

#7. Husbands must be very careful not to compare the way their wife looks or compare her beauty to other women and the way they look. If other women turn your head when you are with your wife don't think she hasn't noticed and what will she think you do when she isn't with you? It is very important and it really matters the way a husband acts toward his mate as he can hurt her emotionally and spiritually.

#8. Remember when you and your wife were dating? Continue to build her up, give her self-esteem, brag on her. Let her know she is the greatest woman on earth! Praise her and compliment her for diligently tending to the home and to your needs and the needs of the children. Women love being acknowledged and appreciated as much as men do and perhaps a little more. Keeping this in mind is a priority for which you will be adequately rewarded by a very happy woman.

#9. Make a practice of reading in your Bible, the book of "Song of Solomon" every now and again. This may sharpen your mind to see things in your wife you may be taking for granted. Never criticize or make fun of any part of her body. If you see a flaw then she knows it is there and she may be self-conscious already. Besides what would it benefit to humiliate her and lose favor with her? Your wife will feel enamored and delighted if you show her

proper appreciation for the way she looks. There is a time to speak and there is a time to be quiet and this really matters.

#10. The Bible says a virtuous woman is a jewel of great price and where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. Keep the romance alive in your relationship with your wife in your marriage. Your marriage will reap huge benefits if you do and will last a lifetime.

Let your wife always be the apple of your eye. Give her genuine interest and listen intently when you are conversing let her know she is the most important person in your life; she needs to be reassured regularly.

A good wife is a tremendous blessing from God so be thankful daily to Him for giving you this person with which to spend your life; this is something that really does matter.

To have the best of happiness and abundant living is to trust in God, have trust in your mate, love and appreciate everyone in your family and sphere of friends. You will prosper, you will have a happy home, and you will have a lot of friends. These are all things that really matter!

To be a good husband and a leader of the home takes work! Contentment takes time, it takes wisdom and the desire to serve God first, then your family, then yourself.

We look forward to the day when the home will be as God designed it to be for every household of every community on earth involving every race of people. This future time is when Christ returns and we will sing "peace on earth and good will among men and women," when the earth is populated with people who have love toward each other as Jesus said in Matthew 22:37 thru 39 NKJ "Jesus said to him, 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor (your wife is your closest neighbor) as yourself.'" (This is the ultimate contentment).

144,000: Who, What & Why

by Daryl Prindle

The remainder of 2017 will be a momentous year. This is the year after a Shmita or Land Sabbath year, the year of release occurring every seven years in Yahweh's calendar. After a cycle of seven Land Sabbaths comes the year of Jubilee, which according to the calculations of many, also makes this year the year of Jubilee. The blood moons have portended things of great importance; being some of the immediately preceding events to the Tribulation. Our entire monetary system will probably change. Perhaps there will be other signs in the sky such as the woman with child (Revelation 12).

But, what is really in store for Yahweh's church in these End Times? There are a couple of things that are consistently overlooked regarding prophecy, and that is the fulfillment of Joel 2:28-32 and Revelation 7 & 14.

A question that has plagued theologians for centuries is "Who are the 144,000?"

Joel 2:28-32 states: "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit. "And I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. And it shall come to pass that everyone who

calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the LORD has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the LORD calls."

On the day of Pentecost 2000 years ago Peter partially quoted this passage.

"...These are not drunk, as you suppose (since it's only the third hour of the day), but this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: 'It will be in the last days, says Yahweh: I will pour out from my Spirit upon all flesh; your sons and your daughters will prophesy; your young men will see visions; your old men will dream a dream. In those days I will indeed pour out from my Spirit upon my male slaves and upon my female slaves, and they will prophesy. I will show wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth below: blood and fire and smoke vapor. The sun will be turned into darkness and the moon into 'blood' before the great and glorious day of the LORD will come. And it will be: whoever calls on the name of the LORD will be saved!'" Acts 2:15-21

Notice that he never used the word "fulfilled" in referring to Joel. Contrast that with Yahshua's words in the synagogue when He read out of the book of Isaiah.

"and He began by saying to them, "Today, this Scripture in your ears has been fulfilled"." Luke 4:21.

In other words, what happened on Pentecost was a partial fulfilling of Joel's words. The final fulfilling



will be during our days, or more accurately, the Day of the Lord. Joel unconditionally states that.

Regarding the 144,000, there are two scripture passages that specifically deal with them.

"Then I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. 2 And I heard a voice from heaven like the roar of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder. The voice I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps, 3 and they were singing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders. No one could learn that song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. 4 It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins. It is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These have been redeemed from mankind as firstfruits for Yahweh and the Lamb," Rev 14:1-4.

"After this, I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, so that no wind would blow on the earth, or on the sea, or on any tree. I saw another angel ascend from the sunrise, having the seal of the living Yahweh. He cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was given to harm the earth and the

sea, saying, "Don't harm the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, until we have sealed the bondservants of our Yahweh on their foreheads!" " Rev 7:1-3

Who are the 144,000? I was brought up to believe that they were virgin Jewish men who would evangelize their Hebrew brethren to bring them to conversion. However, when I began to realize just how much symbolism is in the book of Revelation, I realized that my thinking was wrong. The phrase "not defiled themselves with women" refers to not following false doctrine. Several times the Bible compares women with false doctrine. (No sexism intended.) Revelation 2:20 springs to mind.

"Yet I have this against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess and by her teaching leads astray My servants, so that they commit fornication and eat what has been sacrificed to idols." (Rev 2:20)

Then, the Bible identifies each of twelve tribes of Israel from which the 144k are chosen. Of special interest here, just who are the "lost tribes of Israel," those Hebrews who were dispersed after captivity of the Northern Kingdom of Israel? For the sake of time, suffice it to say that many of the tribes migrated from the Middle East where their captivity began, and established themselves in and among every nation and tribe around the world, and sadly, forgot their spiritual and physical heritage in the process. They were and are assimilated into all of the nations. But, they are not lost to Yahweh. Yahweh knows who belongs to which tribe, and He states that 12,000 will come from each one. In fact, we are surrounded by them.

A much ignored biblical fact in mainstream Christianity today is that true believers are the "Israel of Yahweh" according to Galatians 6:16: "And as for all who walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon

them, and upon the Israel of Yahweh." Also, we have been grafted into the root stock of Israel. (Romans 11:17-24) "A true Jew is not one physically, but one whose heart has been circumcised." (Romans 2:28-29) "So then, remember that once you physical Gentiles—called 'uncircumcision' by the so-called 'circumcision' (that made in flesh with hands)—that at that time you were apart from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and strangers to the covenants of the promise, having no hope and without Yahweh in the world. But now in Christ Yahshua you who once were far away have come to be near through the blood of the Christ." (Eph 2:11-13).

So, in Yahweh's eyes, Christians are:

- * Israel of Yahweh
- * Grafted into the root stock of Israel
- * True Jews

* Citizens of Israel

This is huge! The body of Christ is NOT made up of two separate groups: Jews and Gentiles. We are ONE in Christ, and we are the Israel of Yahweh. (Col. 3:11) Presently, we are part of the firstfruits of the prophecy "Two Sticks becoming One" mentioned in Ezekiel 37:15-28. Obedient believers are the true Israel of Yahweh, and the 144,000 will be chosen from that group. They will be sealed (protected) by Yahweh for their work right under the noses of authorities during the last 3½ years. And, a vital work it is!

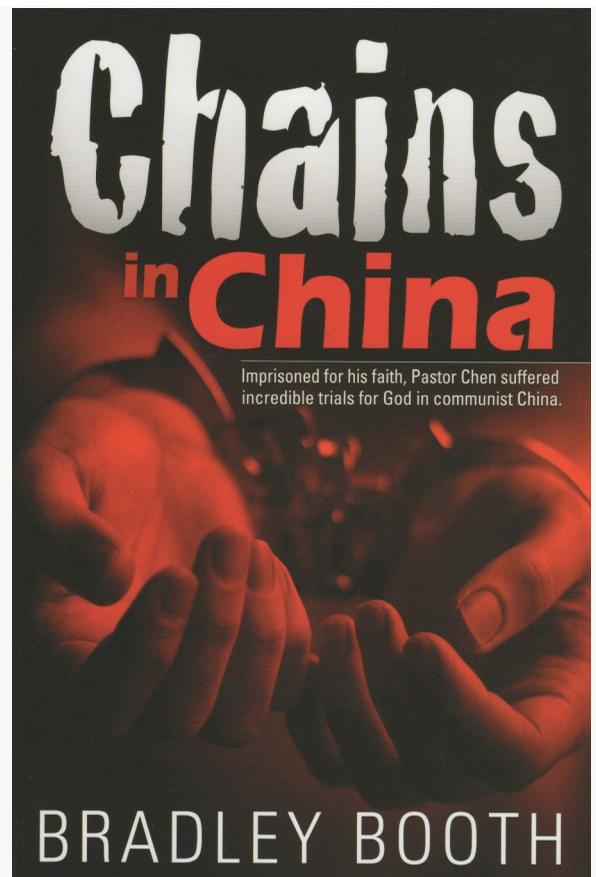
This brings us to Joel 2, which Peter quoted on the day of Pentecost almost 2,000 years ago. He did NOT say that that time was the fulfillment, but "what was spoken of by the prophet Joel." The complete fulfillment of Pentecost will happen with Yahweh's spirit being poured out on all flesh, prophesy-

CHAINS in CHINA

by Bradley Booth

In 1960, Chen, a faithful young Seventh-day Adventist, was imprisoned and thrown into "the cage" for refusing to work on the Sabbath. In spite of living in the worst kind of filth and subsisting on a starvation diet, Chen looked for every opportunity to tell his fellow prisoners and prison officials about the loving God he served.

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ing, dreams, visions, blood moon, eclipses of the Sun, and smoke columns. In the same way that those 120 disciples spoke the Word on that day of partial fulfillment of Pentecost, the 144,000 and the Two Witnesses will speak out the Eternal Gospel during the Great Tribulation. According to Daniel they will do so with accompanying exploits.

"Such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he pervert by flatteries; but the people who know their Yahweh shall be strong, and do [exploits]. Those who are wise among the people shall instruct many; yet they shall fall by the sword and by flame, by captivity and by spoil, [many] days. Now when they shall fall, they shall be helped with a little help; but many shall join themselves to them with flatteries. Some of those who are wise shall fall, to refine them, and to purify, and to make them white, even to the time of the end; because it is yet for the time appointed." (Dan 11:32-35)

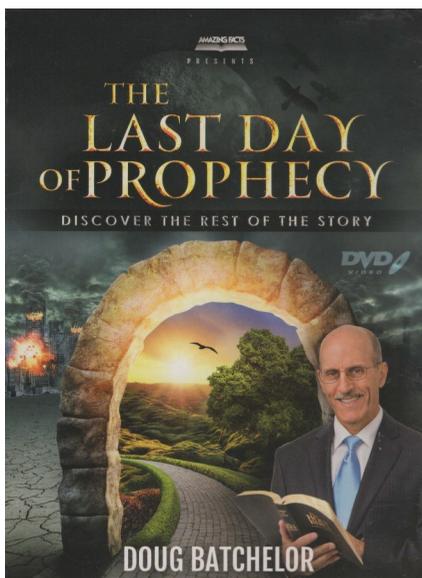
Another prophecy for consideration is the parable of the Fig Tree. In Psalm 90 Moses states that a generation is 70-80 years, and 2017 marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of modern Israel, when counting in Biblical years, which is how Yahweh counts years. (In solar years 2018 will be the 70th

anniversary.)

Presently, the Eternal Gospel of the Kingdom falls on mostly deaf and stubborn ears of those in mainstream Christianity, but after those same people realize they their pre-tribulation rapture did not occur and that they are in the Great Tribulation, the stubbornness of many if not most will disappear (10 Virgins Parable). From heaven, Yahweh will reveal His ark of the Testimony (it contains the Ten Commandments) to current "Christians" who have deviated from Yahweh's original commandments. (Rev. 11:19) They will realize that they have been disobedient to Yahweh's commandments. Then, they will have the same response as those Jews of old, "Brethren, what must we do?" This time, their question will be to the 144,000, and the answer will be, "...Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Yahshua Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." (Acts 2:38)

Yahshua counsels them to:

"buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not



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by Doug Batchelor

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be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see." (Rev 3:18)

Also,

"Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price." (Isa 55:1).

Again,

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them." (Matt 5:14-17).

And again,

"After these things I saw another angel coming down from Heaven, armed with great power. The earth shone with his splendor, and with a mighty

voice he cried out, saying, "Great Babylon has fallen, has fallen, and has become a home for demons and a stronghold for every kind of foul spirit and for every kind of foul and hateful bird.

"For all the nations have drunk the wine of the anger provoked by her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have grown rich through her excessive luxury." Then I heard another voice from Heaven, which said, "Come out of her, My people, that you may not become partakers in her sins, nor receive a share of her plagues. For her sins are piled up to the sky, and Yahweh has called to mind her unrighteous deeds." (Rev 18:1-5).

This humongous group of people will make up the Innumerable Multitude spoken of in Revelation 7:9-17.

"After this I looked, and a vast host appeared which it was impossible for anyone to count, gathered out of every nation and from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in long white robes, and carrying

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palm-branches in their hands. In loud voices they were exclaiming, "It is to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb, that we owe our salvation!" All the angels were standing in a circle round the throne and round the Elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces in front of the throne and worshiped God. "Even so!" they cried: "The blessing and the glory and the wisdom and the thanks and the honor and the power and the might are to be ascribed to our God, until the Ages of the Ages! Even so!" Then, addressing me, one of the Elders said, "Who are these people clothed in the long white robes? And where have they come from?" "My lord, you know," I replied. "They are those," he said, "who have just passed through the great distress, and have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason they stand before the very throne of God, and render Him service, day after day and night after night, in His sanctuary, and He who is sitting upon the throne will shelter them in His tent. They will never again be hungry or thirsty, and never again will the sun or any scorching heat trouble them. For the Lamb who is in front of the throne will be their Shepherd, and will guide them to watersprings of Life, and God will wipe every tear from their eyes." (Rev 7:9-17).

While Yahweh will preserve His Witnesses (the 144k and the Two Witnesses for at least a limited time), those of the Innumerable Multitude must go through testing, like all of Yahweh's children must. After one makes the decision to obey Yahweh's commandments he must "count the cost" and will be tested.

And then, at the end of the Great Tribulation, in the seventh month, on Tishri 1, the Last Trumpet will sound and the resurrection will happen. Praise Yahweh! (Six prior trumpets will potentially have

sounded on the first day of each of the preceding six months. What year will that be? The Tribulation lasts 7 years and it has not begun, obviously. If the sign in heaven of the woman with child (from Revelation 12) occurs this September 23 as predicted, then that may very well signal the beginning of the Tribulation.

Regardless of the timing, we must pray for purity and unity among our commandment keeping churches. "I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." (Eph 4:1-3). We must pray that Yahweh will prepare and send workers for that great harvest. "Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly [is] great, but the laborers [are] few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest." (Luke 10:2).

EVERY major prophetic event has occurred or will occur on one of Yahweh's holy days. Passover, Wave Offering, Unleavened Bread and Pentecost (partially) have been fulfilled to the exact day. The Feast of Trumpets, Day of Atonement and the Feast of Tabernacles remain to be fulfilled. It only makes sense that if Yahweh established those holy days to lay out His plan of redemption for mankind we should honor and celebrate Him on His holy days: these are His Sabbaths. It is a very deceived group of "believers" who think that those days are "Jewish holy days" and/or that somehow Yahweh changed His mind about worshiping on His weekly Sabbath. Yahweh killed many thousands of His own children in the Old Testament BECAUSE they disobeyed His Sabbaths. Has He changed His mind about that?

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Pocketful Of Truth

By Doug Ankney

“I have the truth. It’s written on a paper, and I keep it in my pocket. I bring it out three times per day and worship it.”

If I said that to you, would you think I’m in ignorance and idolatry? What if I instead committed this “truth” to memory—such as Bible verses about the Sabbath and the various feast days as well as the mode of baptism and so forth? If I worshipped these would it be ignorance and idolatry?

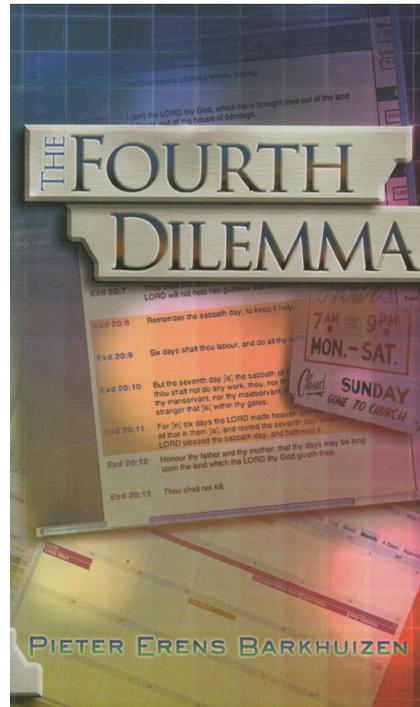
We must be careful not to mistake the means for the Goal. If a potential Bride marries a man because she wants the ring—and not the man giving the ring—what relationship is that?

If we want a relationship with the Beloved of us all, we may not all agree on how He wants us to express that relationship.

When we open ourselves without pretense, lay ourselves—our innermost being—bare before God in whatever need we may have at the time (courage, forgiveness, strength, encouragement, etc.) we all go to the same “place” before the same Presence.

And when we are in that Presence, we worship and that’s NOT idolatry.

The Truth isn’t something we know. Truth such as facts and bible verses are a form of truth. But the TRUTH is SOMEONE we know. That TRUTH will set you free, set anyone free who wants freedom.



The Fourth Dilemma

by Pieter Erens Barkhuizen

Is it possible to get the Ten Commandments back into our schools, workplaces, and hearts—and at the same time nail them all to the cross?

Discover why this dilemma even exists.

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Letters to the Editor



I want to say that I enjoy your publication and share it with other men who are a part of my congregation here... I would like to understand something. Your claim is that you cater to a wide variety of faiths that keep the Sabbath (as you stated in the latest edition of your publication...). If this is true, why is it that I have only read articles from Adventist and Church of God members? ... Do you have a response to this or does your organization only cater to Christians? ... In order to have true unity, everyone should be heard, whether you agree with what they believe or not. ...

Richard Shafer

Thank you for your rather lengthy letter, Mr. Shafer. Unfortunately, I could not retype the entire thing into this LTE section. I did want to address your issues, though. I do this not because your complaints are valid but because you don't have the information at your fingertips to discuss the concerns of those in your group. It is not true that we only feature the writings of Seventh Day Adventist and Church of God members. In fact, we have also featured articles by Seventh Day Baptists, Hebrew Roots, Messianics and other Sabbath keepers. We have also featured articles from independent Sabbath keeping members, those not aligned with any of the other groups. We do appreciate that you wish to help improve our magazine, but you should know the facts so that you can understand what is happening with this magazine.

On your second point, it is the very definition of a Christian from the scripture that they would "keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." See Rev. 12:17. Your question seems to indicate that non-Christians should be allowed to submit articles for publication. It is the policy of the BSA to promote the commandments of God and the saving sacrifice of Jesus Christ, His only son. If the organizations you are thinking about are of that ilk, then by definition they are Christian as the BSA defines it. Articles from those groups would gladly be considered for publication. If members of the groups you are thinking about—and since you did not name them I can't know who it is that you were thinking about—do not have those two basic tenets of beliefs in common with the brethren who read this magazine then it is very likely that any article that they submit would not be in conformity with the BSA guidelines.

On your next point, you don't appear to have been paying attention to the writing of the authors of various articles in this magazine. It is my belief that our differences are used by Satan to drive a wedge into the Church. For that reason, I have entertained the idea of having different viewpoints from brethren on topics published. I do this to disarm the differences so that we can see our brethren past them. We had this tactic displayed recently with the Second Commandment question, which you must certainly have seen in the issues previous to the one about which you are complaining. In the last issue published in May, I put forth the proposition that the brethren should be keeping all of God's Sabbaths, not merely the weekly ones. In that article, I invited the respectful contrary in articles from others. I invite you to read more closely the articles in the magazines—as well as to more adequately explain your complaints. Please be advised that hand-written letters have to be retyped and time to do that is precious.

To sum up, you've made decisions about how we publish articles submitted that are not based in fact. We invite articles from any member of any group, independent or associated, who meet the basic criteria of being a Christian as defined in Rev. 12 and which are not divisive or in some way a negatively worded submission. The respectful contrary, coupled with being a Sabbath keeping Christian is the key to getting an article published.

—Ed.

I just read your editorial in the March-April issue of The Sabbath Sentinel. Moments before I had determined to be removed from your mailing list, but the Lord used your timely letter to change my mind.

Doug Ankney

Thank you for your encouraging letter, Mr. Ankney. I'm not sure why you felt like you needed to cancel your subscription but I'm glad that you saw something in the editorial that month that encouraged you to stay.

I also appreciate the short article you submitted. While I don't normally accept hand-written articles because it is too cumbersome to try to type it all in, yours is short enough that I took the time to do so. Thank you for your submission and please feel free to send more!

—Ed.

More Letters to the Editor

Thank you for your editorial, "What if you DO have the truth?", in the March/April edition of TSS. Bravo! I wish every church leader could read it. It was very well-written and a gentle, kind, loving rebuke that did not name names or church organizations.

Doesn't the bible teach us to be humble and to esteem others more highly than ourselves? Please save the editorial, Dr. Mitchell, and publish it at least once a year!

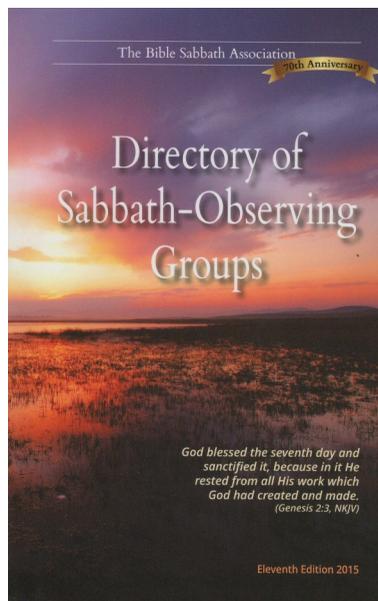
—Tim Dixon

Thank you for your kind words, Mr. Dixon. I'd like to take credit for them but the truth is that fellowship despite differences, coupled with loving and respectful discourse on those differences of understanding, are the way spoken of in the scriptures. It is my hope that every magazine that we publish will be an example of such for anyone to see what you saw.

It isn't my desire to rebuke anyone for a different understanding. It is my desire, and I firmly believe God's also, that we let the love we have through God's blessings flow out to all of our brethren despite differences in understanding of non-critical dogma. Certainly, everyone wants to do what is right in God's eyes, in my opinion. Like Paul wrote, though, sometimes we take our eye off the ball and get invested in what we believe and then allow that to create a division. But, if there is a need for rebuke, I will do it. But, that should, for all of us, be the seldom experienced exception to the rule of "loving despite," rather than "loving because."

The BSA has been attempting to show this road to peace in the Church for many years. There will come a time when we will all need to come together to focus on the real enemy. Making enemies of our brothers is not conducive to closing ranks against the emissaries of the Evil One who will come against us one day.

—Ed.



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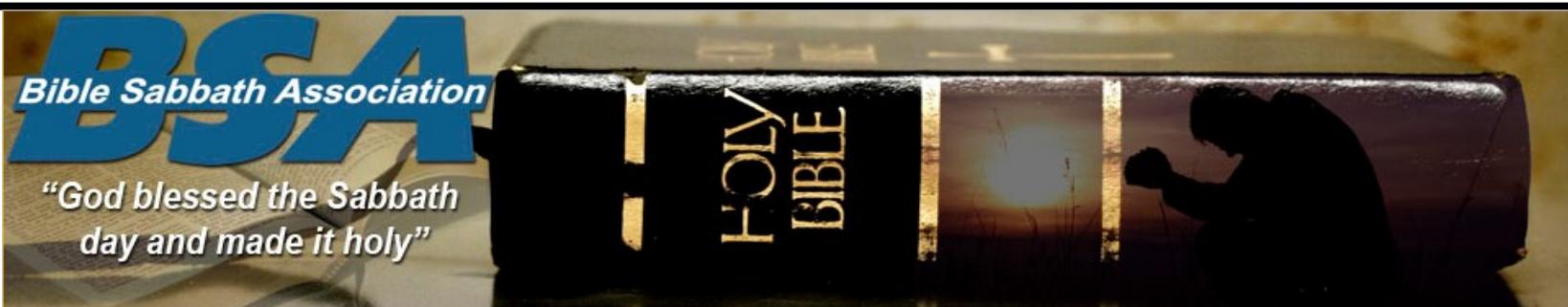
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