“I will put My Spirit on Him,
and He shall declare judgment to the nations.”

BSA—The Bible Sabbath Association

耶稣说，“安息日是为世人预备的。”
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If you’d like more information on the Sabbath Day, please visit www.biblesabbath.org.
Proverbs 18:24 states that a man that has friends must show himself friendly, according to the King James Version. A great example of this was seen at the recent Bible Sabbath Association (BSA) Board meeting, held in Tampa, Florida.

In that meeting, members of different sects of the Sabbath keeping Church met as fellow BSA board members with the common goal of furthering the mission of the BSA to promote the Sabbath Day to the world (along with all of the Commandments of God) and to promote a simple unity in the Church via common beliefs.

Led by the newly-elected BSA President, Kelly McDonald, the Board came together in unity of spirit and purpose to create new programs and revitalize existing programs. The changes you are seeing in this magazine are just a small sample of the new programs to come.

What was exhibited in the several meetings across the last weekend in February could be described as nothing less than newly found friends acting as brothers and sisters while they worked together toward a common goal.

Jesus once said, “By this all shall know that you are My disciples, if you have love toward one another.” He never said that we would be His disciples by finding the one group or entity with all of the exact right truth. He never said that we would be His disciples if we rooted out all of the heretics and unbelievers who have the temerity to not believe exactly the same thing that we do. In fact, the only place we find a separation is when sin was involved, as in 1 Corinthians, or where some could not get along such as we see between Paul and Mark in Acts 15. What you never see is brethren indicating that someone is not a brother because of some different belief. Obedience to Christ with love for all was/is the standard.

Jesus told us that we would be known by our love for one another. We can read that in John 13:35. We can read in 1 Corinthians 13 that love (translated “charity,” “agape,” a “love FEAST,” in some versions) is kind. Love is never puffed up against a brother or sister.

Love is never manifested in indecent acts toward one another. In fact, those who exhibit love are not easily provoked as we have seen with some who are amongst us.

It is evident that love covers, believes, hopes, and endures all things—even differences in doctrine or understanding. We can look to an example of Jesus the Christ. He never berated or insulated Himself from His disciples who He came to call friends. If ever anyone had all understanding it was Him. Yet, His example was one of tolerance and patience with His friends who knew less.

We are all friends in Jesus having been called by Him into the blessed understanding of His graciousness and love coupled with His mercy. Since we have been so blessed, we also ought to bless one another with the same graciousness we have received.
The future of the BSA is of vital importance to the Sabbath-keeping community. During the last weekend of February (Feb. 26-28), all of the members of the newly-elected board of the BSA came together to discuss important topics that could strengthen the BSA for many years to come. We originally called this a “BSA Retreat,” but we changed the name to the “BSA Advance.” The BSA is not retreating; we are advancing forward. This meeting was hosted in the home of Dr. John and Marci Merritt. We are extremely appreciative of their generosity in hosting this event.

The atmosphere for the meeting was electric. Truly, the Lord prepared our hearts for this time. He was among us, helping us to make important decisions. The unity of Acts was present; the urgency of Paul to “run the race” burned within each of us; God gave us wisdom. We agreed upon changes to bring the BSA to a new level. Each board member contributed invaluable suggestions and refreshing ideas.

We voted on 12 major motions to make needed changes to the BSA. There was not a single “NAY” vote on any motion. We each agreed upon the suggestions made. Below, I will review each of these motions.

We agreed to approve a Sabbath Sentinel Blog, Facebook, and Twitter Account. Most major magazines/publications already have an online presence, and we will utilize the TSS blog to project the BSA on social media.

We agreed to field applicants for an assistant treasurer to the BSA. We believe that in our current culture, financial records are important. The assistant treasurer will serve as an “understudy” to the treasurer. In the event something were to happen to the treasurer, the assistant would seamlessly fill this void. This allows the BSA to maintain flawless and continuous record keeping on a long-term basis.

We agreed to make a more concerted effort to reach out to Sabbatarian groups on behalf of unity.

To boost our ability to project the BSA into the international sphere, we agreed to have some of our trifolds translated into lan-
guages such as Spanish, Kenswahili, Russian, Telugu, and Tegala.

We agreed to publish links on the BSA website where family members and friends could seek legal services in the event they were persecuted for their religious belief concerning the Sabbath. Please note that the BSA is not offering legal advice. We are going to provide links to the resources that will help Sabbatarians with legal cases. We will have a disclaimer about this on the website.

We agreed to field web designer candidates to upgrade the current BSA website. The plan and design will be approved by officers when a candidate and design has been selected.

We agreed to add three or more links on the BSA website where people could shop for goods and services through vendors such as Amazon. These links will pay a percentage back to the BSA of the total amount a person spends through that vendor (when the BSA link is used).

We added two new levels of membership: Bridge Builder and Pillar. Bridge Builder is a person who gives $10 a month or $100 a year. Pillar is a supporter who donates $20 a month or $200 a year. These levels of support are for members who believe strongly in the BSA Vision and have a desire to participate in that vision through service. All monthly payment options are set up via the BSA website through Paypal.

We agreed to increase the present membership fees as follows: $35 a year for individual or $5 a month and $60 a year for family or $7 a month. Institutional membership is $100 a year or $10 a month. Lifetime membership is now $700. All monthly payment options are set up via the BSA website through Paypal.

We agreed that a family membership now has two votes instead of one. The other levels of membership still have one vote.

Royce Mitchell moved and the Board approved the motion that The Sabbath Sentinel Editor be eliminated as a paid position. We agreed that this may be changed in the future.

The final motion was to express our enthusiastic appreciation to John and Marci Merritt for their generous and gracious hosting of the BSA Board meeting.

As President, I have to say that I am honored to serve with each and every board member. We have a board with experience, diversity, and drive. I am excited about the next four years.

How Can You Help?
These goals are achievable; it will take a team effort. We are asking for volunteers in the following areas:

- Writers for the Sabbath Sentinel Blog
- People to help make posts for Facebook
- An Assistant Treasurer (please send resume or qualifications)
- A web designer to upgrade the website (please send resume or qualifications and sample work)

If these are areas you wish to contribute, please email us at: biblesabbath@comcast.net.
The walls of the old parish church have seen thousands of baptisms, thousands of weddings, and thousands of funerals. The cycle of life’s events have echoed around its sanctuary for as long as anyone in the city can remember.

It’s the church where my grandparents were married. It’s where their children and grandchildren were baptized. It has hosted family weddings, first communions, and funerals.

It’s the church where my mother was baptized and where she took her First Communion. She was confirmed there and married there.

In the book of Ecclesiastes Solomon tells us that the house of mourning is better than the house of feasting, for that is the end of us all, and in our mourning we all take that to heart.

This house of worship has seen its share of both mourning and celebration, and today the cycle of life has completed another course as my mother lies resting peacefully at last near this same church’s altar.

This all brings me back to the greatest gift my mother gave me. It’s the greatest gift any parent can give a child.

When I came back to Niagara Falls for a visit last August, I made sure to thank her for that gift. She suffered the last years of her life from a disease that some have called The Long Goodbye. That is an apt name for the illness she bore. That disease robbed her of all she was, and because of that I don’t know if she understood a word of what I was saying.

I told her that the best gift that she gave me was her teaching about God—that there is a God, that God is good, and that Jesus is his son. She taught me that Jesus died for me to save me from my sins, and that God raised him from the dead so that I could someday live forever.

She taught me that God has expectations of us for how we live our lives, that we should love God with all our heart, souls, and minds, and that we should love our neighbors as ourselves.

Except for a brief period where I rationally questioned that teaching, only to quickly prove her right, that teaching is with me to this day.

I don’t know if she understood what I said when I thanked her for that, but it was something I had to tell her.

Douglas C. Gresham in his foreword to C. S. Lewis’ book *A Grief Observed* said that ”all human relationships end in pain. It is the price that our imperfection has allowed Satan to exact from us for the privilege of love.”

Gresham’s statement is profound because whenever we love someone, whenever we care about someone, it will always in one way or another end in pain. It is the way of the world, and it has ever been so since the early days in Genesis.

But from the beginning that was not God’s plan. It is the way the human race has chosen for itself. The great contemporary British theologian N. T. Wright in his book *Surprised by Hope* reminds us that God’s great, sweeping plan is to set the world to rights. By that he means that God will fix what’s wrong with this world, echoing what the Apostle Paul says in his Epistle to the Romans.

“For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope, because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the
whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.” (Romans 8: 20 - 22 NKJV).

As Genesis begins the story, Revelation ends it, bringing us the full cycle back to our Creator. John in his vision tells us:

“I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, the New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

“And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, ‘Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people. God himself will be with them and be their God.

“And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain for the former things have passed away.’” (Revelation 21: 1 - 4 NKJV).

The pain, the suffering, the horrible illness my mother had—the suffering all the creation has—will one day be set to rights. The cycle will be complete. The original intent of the Garden in Genesis will be recaptured.

The Long Goodbye will be no more. The Adversary will no longer extract his pound of pain as the price for love. The cycle will be complete.

Lenny Cacchio


Our thanks go out to Lenny for reminding us what a precious gift we all have in the lives of our Mothers. In the U.S., the month of May contains our annual official celebration of our Mothers, although I’m certain that we all celebrate them every day. The BSA takes this time to thank all of our readership Moms for their unselfish contributions to the betterment of the world around us!

—Ed.
Sacrifice

Close your eyes and imagine for a moment that you’ve raised a pet calf or lamb since it was a newborn. You’ve fed it by hand with a bottle and later with solid food every day of its life. You’ve cared for it through sickness and health. You’ve protected it from predators. You’ve sheltered it from bad weather. You’ve named it and it knows the sound of your voice. It comes to you when you call. It is a part of your household...a part of your family.

Now imagine that you are told you must put a knife to its throat and take its life for some wrong you’ve done.

When the moment comes you clasp your hand over its mouth and raise its head. You slide your other arm over it and put the blade of your knife to its exposed throat. You have to firmly hold it in place while you press your knife to its flesh. It doesn’t move because it trusts you. You then feel the flesh rip open as you draw your knife across its throat opening its veins and arteries; its esophagus and wind pipe. You hear it cry out and feel its body shudder in your hands and arms. Blood spills from its throat.

You feel the shock and the terror it experiences at its life being taken by a trusted caregiver. You hear it gasp for its last breath and you feel the life pour out as blood spills over the ground at your feet. You have to tighten your grasp to hold it in place. In a few moments, that seem longer, it finally relaxes and goes limp as the last nervous reflex is spent. Its lifeless body slumps in your arms.

You’ve just taken a life to pay for something you did.

Disobedience is something you now realize earns death. You feel the loss of the pet you’ve raised since birth. It had to die because of your disobedience. It took your place. The seriousness of your act is pressed home by the life you’ve just taken to pay for it. That’s how a sacrifice should feel—personal.

Now imagine that the very Son of God steps out of eternity into a mortal body to walk among us. His love for us is so great that He offers Himself up as a sacrifice for our disobedience. A part of the Eternal God who created everything we can perceive, who created you, a speck of dust, on a planet that is one of billions in a galaxy that is one of billions in an unimaginably endless universe. You, this speck of dust, are so important to God that He was willing to submit to that cruelty, to that humiliation, out of love...for you.

Disobedience to God’s law is that serious. That is a part of the Gospel, the Good News, of God to mankind.

To accept that sacrifice, to feel the loss personally, to accept responsibility for the actions that demanded it...that’s what we are called to do in calling ourselves Christians. Our calling goes beyond that though.

Our calling is to return to obedience to our Creator. That’s what repentance means—to return to obedience. He gave us His law as a gift for our good. His
Interested in Membership?

BSA membership gives you the privilege of electing BSA Officers. Members are also entitled to free postage on all orders for literature.

Supporting the Bible Sabbath Association through your membership helps promote the Sabbath, and co-operation among Sabbath-keeping groups.

There are now more membership levels:

1. **Regular Members** (annual membership fee is $35 for an individual or $60 for a family),
2. **Institution membership**, ($100 fee),
3. **Lifetime Members** (those who have contributed at least $700 in one year and request a life membership),
4. **Bridge Builder Membership**, ($100 fee),
5. **Pillar Membership**, ($200 fee).

Bridge Builder and Pillar Membership bring with them the opportunity to participate in other of the Bible Sabbath Association’s goals of promoting God’s Sabbaths and fellowship between Sabbath Keeping Brethren.

Contact BSA at biblesabbath@comcast.net or 888-687-5191 for more information or to pay over the phone using a credit card. You can also pay for membership at our web site www.biblesabbath.org using PayPal or by writing to us at PO Box 7707, Bonney Lake, WA 98391.

Thank you for supporting our efforts to spread the message of God’s Sabbath rest to the rest of the world.

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The Crucifixion and Resurrection as They Pertain to the Sabbath

Luke tells us that Christ was crucified on a preparation day before the Sabbath. “And that day was the preparation, and the Sabbath drew on” (Luke 23:54). John 19:31 says that Sabbath day, which Luke says “drew on” was a high day. Matthew describes an event which occurred on this high day Sabbath thus, “Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate, Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again. Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day... (Matthew 27:62-64).

Now, on which day of the week did the crucifixion occur? The preparation of the Passover and the festival Sabbath could have fallen on any day of the week. Could the preparation of the Passover have fallen on a Friday and the next day, a festival Sabbath, fallen on a Saturday as the majority of Christians believe? The Hebrew Matthew gives us an indication that the crucifixion fell midweek.

The Hebrew Matthew was the first document given concerning the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ. Jerome (AD 382) wrote, “Matthew, who is also called Levi, was first of all the evangelists to compose a Gospel of the Messiah in Judea in the Hebrew language and characters, for the benefit of those of the circumcision who had believed. Who translated it into Greek is not sufficiently ascertained. Furthermore, the Hebrew manuscript itself is preserved to this day in the library at Caesarea. … I also was allowed by the Nazarenes who use that volume in the Syrian city of Bo-

The Hebrew Matthew of chapter 27:66 says of Pilate, “And he gave them armed men that they sat opposite the tomb and kept watch over him (Christ) days and nights.”

Notice that we previously observed that the watch was to be made “until the third day.” If Christ was
crucified on a Friday and rested in the tomb that Friday night, and the priests and Pharisees met with Pilate to discuss on the next day (Saturday) to have the tomb watched, then there would be only one more night, Saturday night, to be on guard before the third day, Sunday.

However, Matthew stated “armed men...sat opposite the tomb and kept watch of him days and nights.” Nights in plural, meaning more than one night, at least two nights, the armed men watched the sepulchre.

Thus, if Christ was crucified on Wednesday, rested in the tomb Wednesday night, the priests and Pharisees would have come the next day on a high Sabbath, Thursday, to Pilate and thus two more nights in which the armed men watched the tomb would be Thursday night and Friday night.

The third day on which Christ rose from the dead according to the Hebrew Matthew must have been late on a weekly seventh-day Sabbath (Saturday). According to Jerome, the Hebrew Matthew “employed the significant word 'late' and not 'the evening' and that the Greek translator, led into error by the ambiguity of the term rendered it as 'evening' instead of translating it “late.”

So, instead of reading Matthew 28:1 as it is usually translated from the Greek “in the evening of the Sabbath.” The text must have read in the Hebrew Matthew “Late in the Sabbath...” Thus, the Hebrew Matthew indicates a Wednesday crucifixion and a Sabbath (Saturday) resurrection.

Blaine Neumann

Blaine received his Bachelor of Religion degree from North American Baptist College in 1993 in Edmonton, Alberta. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Canadian Union College in 1995 at Lacombe, Alberta. He also took some seminary courses at Taylor Seminary in Edmonton, Alberta. Blaine authored a book available through the BSA entitled “A History of the Seventh-Day Sabbath Among Christians in Asia, Africa, Europe and North America.”
Following the pope's forceful admonition, the nations of the world have agreed that we do have a monumental problem with the environment. This decision, made at Climate Change conference in Paris last November, was announced almost simultaneously with Francis declaring that he was opening the 'door of mercy for one year' so that men/women can be forgiven of their sins and receive salvation from him and his priests. This is in celebration of his previously announced Year of Jubilee.

Jesus Christ, however, long ago declared that He is the Only Door of Mercy (John 10:9; 14:6; Acts 4:12). The Apostle Paul assures us, "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" (1 Timothy 2:5).

Then he encourages us, "Seeing then that we have a great high priest that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need" (Hebrews 4:14-16). This is a 24/7/365 operation.

But who is right: Paul, Peter, and Jesus or the pope of Rome?

The year was 1965. It marked the completion of the Vatican Council II, the Roman Catholic Church’s initiative to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy by which it would bring the entire world under its control. The underlying theme of that ongoing strategy is unity of all religions and governments. One of its main objectives is to bring the ‘separated brethren’ (heretics before Vatican II) back to the Catholic fold. Today, looking over the religious and political landscape, one can hardly deny the success of Rome’s strategy for world domination as outlined in Vatican Council II.

It has been fifty years now and the current Jesuit Pope, Francis, has declared that this is the year of the Jubilee. In his recent encyclical, LAUDATO SI’ he invokes the Biblical passages of the Old Testament referring to Sabbath, the Sabbatical Year and the Jubilee. He writes, “We see this, for example, in the law of the Sabbath. On the seventh day, God rested from all his work. He commanded Israel to set aside each seventh day as a day of rest, a Sabbath, (cf. Gen 2:2-3; Ex 16:23; 20:10). Similarly, every seven years, a sabbatical year was set aside for Israel, a complete rest for the land (cf. Lev 25:1-4), when sowing was forbidden and one reaped only what was necessary to live on and to feed one’s household (cf. Lev 25:4-6). Finally, after seven weeks of years, which is to say forty-nine years, the Jubilee was celebrated as a year of general forgiveness and “liberty throughout the land for all its inhabitants” (cf. Lev 25:10). This law came about as an attempt to ensure balance and fairness in their relationships with others and with the land on which they lived and worked.” (LAUDATO SI’, Section
His invocation and subsequent re-contextualization of these Biblical concepts are presented as the foundation upon which his prescription for solving the world’s problems is built. Jehovah God intended that His Sabbath, the Sabbatical Year, and the Biblical Jubilee would remind His people that He is their Creator, that they are stewards and that they ought to conduct themselves and manage the earth in a manner that would glorify Him and benefit all humanity. These are prescribed as times of justice, mercy, equity, rest for humanity and the earth, and reflection upon Him who gave it all to us. In doing so, he is in fact attempting to take the place of God; for it is the God of Creation who gave us the Sabbath, the Sabbatical Year, and the Jubilee.

The Sabbatical year (every seventh year) and the Jubilee (every fiftieth year) are extrapolations of the Seventh-day Sabbath given to humanity at creation (Genesis 2:1-3). It is not a Jewish Sabbath. It is the Creator’s Sabbath, the day of rest, bequeathed to all humanity. In giving humanity this sanctuary in time, Jehovah God intended that all would remember Him as Creator. The Sabbatical Year and the Jubilee were instituted to further impress our minds of God’s creative and sustaining power. The Jewish nation was the instrument in God’s hands used to teach this most vital lesson to all mankind. His servant Isaiah declared, “And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth (Isaiah 49:6). He instructed His servant Moses, “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it” (Exodus 20:8-11).

For the Sabbatical year, based upon the seventh-day Sabbath, God further admonished Moses, “Six years thou shalt sow thy field, and six years thou shalt prune thy vineyard, and gather in the fruit thereof; But in the seventh year shall be a Sabbath of rest unto the land, a Sabbath for the Lord: thou shalt neither sow thy field, nor prune thy vineyard” (Leviticus 25:3-4). Regarding the Jubilee, the fiftieth year, Creator God again directed Moses, “And thou shalt number seven Sabbaths of years unto thee, seven times seven years; and the space of the seven Sabbaths of years shall be unto thee forty and nine years. Then shalt thou cause the trumpet of the Jubilee to sound on the tenth day of the seventh month, in the Day of Atonement shall ye make the trumpet sound throughout all your land. And ye shall hallow the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof: it shall be a Jubilee unto you; and ye shall return every man unto his possession, and ye shall return every man unto his family” (Leviticus 25:8-10).

Francis’ subtle, yet blatant usurpation of the God of Creation is evident in his encyclical. He states, “On Sunday, our participation in the Eucharist has special importance. Sunday, like the Jewish Sabbath, is
meant to be a day which heals our relationships with God, with ourselves, with others and with the world. Sunday is the day of the Resurrection, the “first day” of the new creation, whose first fruits are the Lord’s risen humanity, the pledge of the final transfiguration of all created reality. It also proclaims “man’s eternal rest in God” (LAUDATO SI’, Section 237).

How can a mere human being transfer the meaning, sacredness, and sanctity of God’s Sabbath, the 7th day of the week, to Sunday, the first, and by extension relegate the blessings of the Creator’s Jubilee to one he and his church have invented? But this is indeed what Francis is doing in LAUDATO SI’.

Kevin P. Emmert, in his June 19, 2015, article, Why the Pope Is Going Green, in Christianity Today Online, puts Francis’ encyclical in perspective when he observes, “The encyclical, however, is far more than a doomsday letter or a how-to of environmental care. Underlying the warnings and prescriptions, he offers a theology of creation that emphasizes how, by God’s design, human beings and the created world are deeply connected. If we understand this, Francis says, it can change the way we relate to God, to one another, and creation”. But we must relate to God, each other, and to creation based on God’s prescription, His Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:2-17), and not Francis’ LAUDATO SI’ which prescribes Sunday sacredness and the Eucharist in its place.

Francis is not God. Sunday is not God’s Sabbath and the 50th anniversary of Vatican Council II is not His Jubilee. The Eucharist and Sunday sacredness are inventions of his church that are patently opposed to the word of God. The Bible plainly teaches, “So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation” (Hebrews 9:28, 10:14). Contrariwise, the Eucharist is thus defined, “By the consecration the transubstantiation of the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ is brought about. Under the consecrated species of bread and wine Christ himself, living and glorious, is present in a true, real, and substantial manner: his Body and his Blood, with his soul and his divinity (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1413).

Observing the 7th day Sabbath, the Sabbatical year and the Jubilee are acts of worship due only to Creator God. We honor Him by obeying His commandments. Sunday sacredness, the Eucharist, and imbibing a false jubilee are acts of obedience to and worship of another power. Both the prophets Daniel in the Old Testament (Daniel 2, 7, 8 & 11) and John (Revelation 13, 17&18) in the New, clearly identify that you can aid the BSA effort to promote the Sabbath and a Spirit of brotherhood among all who keep God’s Sabbath by becoming a BRIDGE BUILDER or a PILLAR with the BSA? Besides the monthly or annual membership dues which you can find inside the front cover, you can also help with various functions designed to help bring a fellowship of brethren across denominational lines. Some of the opportunities are: Advise and/or consult with the BSA Board of Directors; visiting and interacting with other Sabbatarian fellowships; speaking on behalf of the BSA; Promotion and/or distribution of BSA materials and services; and assisting with this magazine, the BSA Facebook page, Twitter and other social media on projects defined by the Board of Directors.
this power. The Apostle Paul speaks of it thus, “Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God” (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4). The Protestant Reformers were all in agreement. It is none other than the Roman Papacy. Both history and Scripture testify of it as one taking the prerogatives of God, seeking to change God’s law, persecuting God’s true followers, and claiming to take the place of God on earth.

The promises of Francis, its current head, will not bring peace, justice, equity and rest; but rather usher in unmitigated chaos, bloody repression, and ultimately total destruction. The prophet Daniel reveals, “And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book” (Daniel 12:1). Then begins God’s Jubilee (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18; Revelation 20:4).

Quite unlike Francis’ prescription for harmony, equity and security, Creator God warns of a world that is swiftly travelling towards its appointment with a dismal destiny. The ancient seer, Jeremiah, describes it thus, “I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was without form, and void; and the heavens, and they had no light. I beheld the mountains, and, lo, they trembled, and all the hills moved lightly. I beheld, and, lo, there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens were fled. I beheld, and, lo, the fruitful place was a wilderness, and all the cities thereof were broken down at the presence of the Lord, and by his fierce anger. For thus hath the Lord said, the whole land shall be desolate; yet will I not make a full end. For this shall the earth mourn, and the heavens above be black; because I have spoken it, I have purposed it, and will not repent, neither will I turn back from it” (Jeremiah 4:23-28). And why would this be? His fellow seer, Isaiah, who is in total agreement (Isaiah 24:1-4) answers, “The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant” (Isaiah 24:5).

Contrary to God’s loving call to worship Him as Creator by honoring His blessed Sabbath day (Ex 20:8-11; Revelation 14:6-7), Francis’ promises are built upon another foundation: “Christians will naturally strive to ensure that “civil legislation” respects their duty to keep Sunday holy” (Section 67, Dies Domini, July 7, 1998).

The question to be answered now is, when his door of mercy closes what will become of those who refuse to enter in, thus rejecting his church’s tradition of Sunday sacredness in blatant opposition to the God of Creation and His blessed Sabbath day? His ‘door of mercy’ is but yet another step on the path to perdition. Will you rest your hopes on the sinking sand of Francis’ empty promises; or upon the infallible word of Creator God? The choice is yours to make.

Aubrey L. Duncan

Aubrey is Speaker/Director of Advent Truth Ministries and author of the book, God’s Sabbath Truth…a decision to make. You may contact him and learn more about his ministry at www.adventtruth.org.
Here we are into another new year. A time that people make resolutions and promises to live better. According to Forbes Magazine, nearly 50% of all people make a New Years resolution, but only a measly 8% achieve the goal of that resolution. That’s a pitiful performance.

I have always hated Januarys because the gym I attended was always PACKED with people, most of whom were doing New Years resolutions to get back into shape. But every year, it only takes until Feb. 15th to have the gym get back to its much less populated self! 6 Weeks is all it takes to get most people to give up. Now I like working out, and I have done it religiously since high school, but all of us, self included, have Giants in our life, Giants that want to dominate us, Giants that scare us, Giants, that we struggle with, Giants that we surrender to.

Sins, trials, tests, temptations, that want to overwhelm us, the voice of demons, tempters, life circumstances, sickness, disease, loss. Many Giants. There are a plethora of sins and trials, and they know no end. I assure you that everyone reading this is facing a Giant—a life lesson I have learned in my 58 years. When you slay one giant, there will be more giants to face. It may be for that reason that Jesus declared, “that he who endures to the end shall be saved” in Matthew 24:13.

In our life we face trials and sins, some are easy and over quickly, others will require dedication, deep repentance and hard work and many years to overcome. Still others will be with us until our death, or transformation.

The Bible spoke of a giant so terrifying, that not a single man in all of Israel would dare face him. Goliath was a battled hardened veteran, whose spear point alone weighed 25 pounds. His armor weighed as much as a full grown man.

As the fighting force of an entire nation cowered before him, a ruddy faced shepherd boy named David stood up to him. Goliath may have been shielded by hundreds of pounds of armor, but David was shielded by God himself!

David was a man after God’s own heart. David didn’t see a giant, or a beast who could cut him down with a whim. David saw an obstacle that stood in the way of God—one that needed to be cut down, no ANDS, no IFS and no BUTS about it!

Goliath may have been shielded by hundreds of pounds of armor, but DAVID was shielded by God himself!

So, looking to God for help, that’s what he did! His words to the Giant were timeless, “you come at me with spear and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of Hosts, the God of Israel whom you have defied.”

What Goliath represents is the impossible hurdles
in our lives. Trials, the sins and issues that may be too large in our lives for us to see a way thru. The story of a boy, with a sling shot and a stone, illustrates that what is impossible for man, is indeed POSSIBLE for God!

Certainly, some trials and sins seem overwhelming, exhausting, stare us in the eyes, and threaten to crush us physically, emotionally and spiritually. BUT, it is in the shadow of these events that we learn two of life’s most important lessons: 1) who we are, and how weak and fragile we are, and 2) what God can do, and will do for us.

The story of David and Goliath is familiar to most of us. It is found in 1 Samuel 17 and encompasses the entire chapter.

This is an amazing, spectacular account, and I’m sure all agree that it is inspiring, courageous and faithful.

But what are some of the takeaways here that we can use in our own personal battles against giants? I will offer a few.

1) David did not accept the permanence of the situation. He refused to let it have a home in his life. “‘Who is this heathen?’ he declared. “We as God’s people can never settle for, or accept. We must always keep the dream of possibility within our souls, regardless of circumstance.

2) David was willing to listen to counsel. It was not all crystal clear what the plan would be. He was willing to at least try on the armor. He decided on a different course of action, but as the Proverbs admonish, there is wisdom in a multitude of counselors. Seek out advice on your issues. Rely on your brethren and your elders. Nearly everyone has faced a couple of Giants in their life.

3) David used tools and leverage. Using a sling, and a little bit of leverage, can take a small stone and hurl it upwards of 160 miles per hour, making it lethal. Avail yourself of the tools: prayer, fasting, meditation, fellowship, Bible Study. Walk daily with God, and talk with him. All these things are great tools and leverage in our Christian journey.

4) David gave him self some distance from Goliath. He did not try to get too close to the problem. He didn’t smell his breath! With the Giants that we face, give yourself some distance. Is the computer a problem, bad associations and friends? Do you keep things in your house that are frustrating your walk with Christ? Put them away, don’t keep them close to your chest. Do not allow them near you.

5) David had a backup plan: 5 stones, and an attitude that if not successful the first time, then try, try again. It is ok if you stumble, but it isn’t over until you quit! There is no quitting in our Christian calling; have a backup plan, and go forth again.

6) Once you have victory, KILL IT. Kill it once and forever! When David had felled Goliath, he didn’t mess around. He took out Goliath’s sword and severed his head. This created finality, never to be haunted again by the sin of this heathen. When we achieve victory, do not be as the proverbial dog returning to its vomit. Create finality, kill your sins permanently, give them no quarter, no secret spot in your soul to hide. Instead, put on the breastplate of righteousness thru the Holy Spirit, and the Grace of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Whatever GIANTS that we face, we must be willing to do what is right, regardless of punishment, physical discomfort or humiliation. Giants are scared of character, integrity, faith and courage, and are very fearful of the Spirit of God.

CONCLUSION-
It is obvious that God is in the GIANT KILLING BUSINESS. He wants to help us to be champions. He loves us and will never forget us or forsake us. Through the power of Jesus Christ, we too can always know that the giants we face will be defeated, and that we were BORN TO WIN.

Bill Lussenheide

Bill Lussenheide has been a first generation Sabbath Keeper since the age of 17. He and his family attend with the United Church of God in San Diego, CA.
This is the second part of a multi-part series explaining why certain early documents that are claimed against the seventh-day Sabbath are misunderstood and not actually against it.

Many on the internet and elsewhere, have pointed to some basically 19th century translations of certain ancient documents in an attempt to support their contention that Sunday was observed early on by the original Christians. But do they support such?

Perhaps the most commonly cited major claim in favor of early Sunday worship is from Ignatius’ Letter to the Magnesians.

Here is what the Greek states:

Εἰ οὖν οί ἐν παλαιῶς πράγμασιν ἀναστράφεντες εἰς καινότητα ἐλπίδος ἠλθον, μηκέτι σαββατιζόντες, ἀλλὰ κατὰ κυριακὴν ζώντες, ἐν ἡ καὶ ἡ ζωὴ ἡμῶν ἀνέτειλεν δι’ αὐτοῦ καὶ τοῦ θανάτου αὐτοῦ, <ὁν> τινες ἀρνοῦνται, δι’ οὗ μυστήριον ἔλαβομεν τὸ πιστεύειν, καὶ διὰ τοῦτο ὑπομένομεν, ἵνα εὑρεθῶμεν μαθηταὶ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ τοῦ μόνου διδασκάλου ἡμῶν: [1]

Here is a fairly typical 19th century translation of verse 9.1, by Dr. J.B. Lightfoot:

If then those who had walked in ancient practices attained unto newness of hope, no longer observing sabbaths but fashioning their lives after the Lord’s day, on which our life also arose through Him and through His death which some men deny -- a mystery whereby we attained unto belief, and for this cause we endure patiently, that we may be found disciples of Jesus Christ our only teacher [2].

But is that correct?

No, it is not. It should be noted that the word for ‘day’ is not in the Greek text.

Interestingly, like Lake and Hall/ Napier, Dr. Lightfoot also failed to translate κατα, which is in the text [3] as “according to.”

Yet, Lightfoot did translate κατα as "according to" in three other places in this letter (verses 3.1, 10.1, 13.2 [4]). He also failed to do so in his translation of the Didache, where he began verse 14.1 with “And on” [5]-- an apparently intentional and improper translation as discussed above (Lightfoot translated κατα as “according to” five other times in the Didache [6]).

It is sad that these translators, all born in the 19th century, all decided to selectively change the meaning of a word.

Why?

Well, in order to support Sunday worship.

Yet, even noted scholar Guy Fritz concluded that the text in Ignatius is too ambiguous to be used to support Sunday worship:

"in the study of the ‘Lord’s day’ in the early church … [it] cannot at the present time properly be introduced as evidence indicating its [Sunday] observance” [7].

The 19th century theologian John Kitto understood that neither the context nor the Greek required adding the word day. Thus he translated a highly relevant part of it correctly as follows:

…living according to our Lord’s life...[8].

John Kitto also made the following comments about the passage from Ignatius:

Now many commentators assume (on what ground does not appear), that alter κυριακὴν
[Lord’s] the word ἡμέρα [day] is to be understood … The defect of the sentence is the want of a substantive to which ἀναφέρεται can refer. This defect, so far from being remedied, is rendered still more glaring by the introduction of ἡμέρα … the passage does not refer at all to the Lord’s day … it cannot be regarded as affording any positive evidence to the early use of the term ‘Lord’s day’ (for which it is often cited), since the word ἡμέρα [day] is purely conjectural [9]. However, almost all anti-Sabbath websites I have visited have ignored the scholars that understand the truth about Ignatius’ writings as they cite the mistranslations as “proof” of early Sunday observance—even though the actual Greek text does no such thing.

While in Greece, I was able to verify that the word in koine Greek translated as “Lord’s Day” in both the Didache and the Letter to the Magnesians, κυριακήν, could not be translated as “Lord’s Day” as the Greek word for day is not present in the texts nor required by the contexts for either. In Ignatius’ Letter to the Magnesians, like in the Didache (another ancient document some cite for ‘proof’ of Sunday), κυριακήν would be better translated as “Lord’s way” or combined with the Greek word that follows it, ζωντες [10], “Lord’s way of life” or “Lord’s living.” This is also consistent with what Paul wrote:

When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory (Colossians 3:4, NKJV throughout unless otherwise noted).

Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ (1 Corinthians 11:1).

It was the custom of Jesus (e.g. Luke 4:16) and Paul to regularly keep the Sabbath (Acts 17:2). The Sabbath was part of the Lord’s way of life, and Paul imitated Christ that way. Understanding Jesus’ life is critical to understanding Ignatius.

Furthermore, to better understand Ignatius’ letter, we should look at more of the context and not just verse 9.1. out-of-context, as some Sunday advocates have.

A more literal (though not grammatical) translation of the relevant portion from Ignatius’ letter appears to be:

8.1 Be not seduced by strange doctrines nor by antiquated fables, which are profitless.

8.2 For if even unto this day we live according to the manner of Judaic concepts, we admit that we have not received grace: for the godly prophets lived after Christ Jesus. For this cause also they were persecuted, being inspired by His grace to the end that they which are disobedient might be fully persuaded that there is one God who manifested Himself through Jesus Christ His Son, who is His Word that proceeded from silence, who in all things was well-pleasing unto Him that sent Him.

9.1 If then those who had walked in ancient practices attained unto newness of hope, no longer keeping sabbaths contrariwise according to the Lord’s way of life, on which our life also arose through Him and through His death which some men deny – a mystery whereby we attained unto belief, and for this cause we endure patiently, that we may be found disciples of Jesus Christ our only teacher –

9.2 if this be so, how shall we be able to live apart from Him? Seeing that even the prophets, being His disciples, were expecting Him as their teacher through the Spirit. And for this cause He whom they rightly awaited, when He came, raised them from the dead.

According to a scholar of koine Greek who I consulted with, Dr. Theony Condos (a non-Sabbathkeeper), the first portion of 9.1 would grammatically be better translated as:

“If then those who had walked in ancient practices attained unto newness of hope, no longer [Judicial] keeping sabbaths but according to the Lord’s way of life…” [11]

This is because she insisted that the term ‘but’ (or ‘contrariwise’ as translated earlier above) had to refer to the “Lord’s way” instead of the Sabbath.
There are at least two reasons for this. The first is that the godly prophets had been keeping the seventh day Sabbath. And the second is since the portion of the Greek term translated as the first part of “no longer” is a ‘qualified negative’ [12] the context supports that the ‘Judaic concepts’ (verse 8.2) are part of the qualification. It may be of interest to note that the terms first, day, or Sun are not in the above passages.

She confirmed with me that this section is certainly speaking about the same ancient prophets throughout, hence since they actually kept the Sabbath (and not Sunday), she felt that the idea of Judaically would have had to been in Ignatius’ mind. And that this type of reference was required in English to properly understand what Ignatius was writing (and I also had this confirmed by others with a working knowledge of koine Greek).

This assessment is also consistent with later testimony from Jerome who mentioned that the Sabbath-keeping Christians he ran into did not adhere to the Jewish traditions—in other words, although they kept the Sabbath, the Nazarenes did not keep the Sabbath Judaically:

Jerome declares:

"On Isaiah 9:1-4

"The Nazarenes, whose opinion I have set forth above, try to explain this passage in the following way: When Christ came and his preaching shone out, the land of Zebulon and Naphtali [the region of Galilee] first of all were freed from the errors of the Scribes and Pharisees and he shook off their shoulders the very heavy yoke of the JEWISH TRADITIONS. Later, however, the preaching became more dominant, that means the preaching was multiplied, through the gospel of the apostle Paul who was the last of all the apostles. And the gospel of Christ shone to the most distant tribes and the way of the whole sea. Finally the whole world, which earlier walked or sat in darkness and was imprisoned in the bonds of idolatry and death, has seen the clear light of the gospel" (p.64).

In this passage, we find that the Nazarene Christians -- like Yeshua the Messiah, Peter, James, John and especially Paul -- rejected Jewish traditionalism, invention, and additions to the Torah or Old Testament. They referred to them as the "very heavy yoke of the Jewish traditions." [13].

Thus, instead of proving Sunday and disproving the Sabbath, Ignatius (and indirectly even Jerome) seems to be warning against incorrectly observing the Sabbath as certain Pharisaical Jews insisted, with their antiquated fables. Or in other words, Ignatius was condemning the observance of traditions of men over the Bible.

Dr. Noel Rude, a self-described “grammar-freak” and linguist, felt that perhaps the following would be even more grammatically correct for the first part of verse 9.1:

"If then those who had walked in ancient practices attained unto newness of hope, no longer (Judaically) keeping sabbaths but living according to the lordly way..."[14].

And that seems to be consistent with how I feel this verse should be translated.

Ignatius was teaching that the godly prophets, who lived in ancient times, lived in accordance to the ways of Jesus Christ, and not after improper Judaic concepts. There is no doubt that the ancient prophets (such as Isaiah) kept the Sabbath on the day now known as Saturday.

References


[5] The Didache. Translated by J.B. Lightfoot. Apos-
Corrections

The Sabbath Sentinel Editorial Staff have created this Department to list changes from the information contained in Bible Sabbath Association’s Directory.

If you find a correction is needed, or your information has changed, please let the editor know at royce.mitchell@rocketmail.com and it will get posted here.

Corrections will be highlighted in bold italic print.

Corrections:

Page 79—True Jesus Church East Bay House of Prayer, 1190 Davis St, San Leandro, CA 94578; www.tjc.org; Phone number listed is not accurate but matches the TJC.ORG website phone number. Attempts to secure the new phone number are not successful at this point. PLEASE do not call the old number.

Page 80—Yahshua Lives! Church of God 7th Day, Elder John Johnson, POB 1495, Des Moines, IA, 50305; Phone: 515-244-8432; Email: J_E_J1948@yahoo.com.
I just got the latest Sentinel and it looks Great! It has a much ‘cleaner’ look. I’m looking forward to what you do with it. One thing...it would be nice to see more reader feedback if possible. Just a thought.

Terrell Perkins

Thank you so very much for your kind words and for your contributions to the edification of our fellow brothers and sisters, Terrell. As you have noticed, there have been some changes in format and content in the magazine. This edition will show you even more. We are trying to broaden the scope of the magazine so that it will have a greater appeal to all of our brethren everywhere. The message of “good will toward all men” should be doubly extant within the group of people who “keep the Commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.” We hope that everyone will be as pleased with the changes as you are!

As to more reader feedback, that’s beyond my control! It takes interested people like yourself who care enough to write to us in order to have feedback to print. Rest assured that if our readers will write to us we’ll do our best to include their letters!

I received the Sabbath Sentinel today and read it from cover to cover. I noticed an article called “Corrections.” I could not find anything at the website that helped with the directory. Perhaps it might be good to copy this article to the website so if someone was looking for a church in a certain area they could get an update. Another thing that might be good is to develop an app with the Directory that would be easy to correct or update. Most people have at least one smart phone or tablet in the family and could lookup congregations when traveling, etc. It could be sold for a nominal price and help both the members and the finances of the Bible Sabbath Association.

Mildred Ayers

Thank you for your suggestions! We are on the same page with you with regards to the Directory and hope to be able to make these changes happen soon.

The Directory of Sabbath-Observing Groups (2015 edition) gives locations and contact information for thousands of churches in North America plus these added values:

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