



# *The Sabbath Sentinel*

*Jan.-Feb  
2019*

truth

**"Truth Before Doctrine"**

**BSA — The Bible Sabbath Association**

*Jesus said, "Sanctify them through Your truth. Your Word is truth."*

# The Sabbath Sentinel January-February 2019

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# Your First Love—Now!

Rev 2:1-7 states as follows: *“To the angel of the church of Ephesus write: He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands, says these things.*

*“I know your works and your labor and your patience, and how you cannot bear those who are evil. And you tried those pretending to be apostles, and are not, and have found them liars.*

*“And you have borne, and have patience, and for My name’s sake you have labored and have not fainted.*

*“But I have against you that you left your first love.*

*“Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent, and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and will remove your lampstand out of its place unless you repent.*

*“But you have this, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.*

*“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat of the Tree of Life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God. “*

Many bible scholars claim that the verses related to the Churches of Revelation 2 and 3 are successive Church eras. This may or may not be true; that is not important for this article. We do know that those churches were on a postal route in John’s day. It is certain that there were churches in those cities and perhaps they each had problems that the Christ wanted John to make known to them.

It is my opinion that the picture the Christ was trying to paint was one of warning for everyone in the Church down through the ages. With that in mind, let us consider the warning to the Church in Ephesus.

In particular, I would like to focus on verse 10 wherein the Church was warned by the Christ that they had left their first love. Jesus, or Yeshua, or

whatever other appellation you might find comfortable to indicate the Christ, certainly was not concerned about someone’s “puppy love,” or even the love of a man for his wife in their beginning. Yes, one of the things men and women need to do as the years go by in their marriage is to remember those early days of their love and to rekindle them often. But, the Christ was not talking about that.

He, the Christ, was referring to something we experience when we first come into the initial blush of understanding of what it is that God is doing with us, and with all of mankind. I’m sure we all remember those days when we saw God’s truths and plan to be so simple that we thought everyone should be able to understand it. We told everyone who would sit still (or we could trap!) everything we knew about this wonderful truth we’d been blessed to know.

Why is recapturing this “first love” important? It obviously is important to God because, having fallen out of that first love, we are warned that He would remove His lampstand from its place unless we repent.

We all know that “repent” means to change direction, to turn around and go the other way. In this context, we are being told to get back to that first love we had. This doesn’t mean that we should abandon the wisdom we have gained since then. We should recognize that people are not swayed by our words but how well we demonstrate Christ living in us. We are not being encouraged to grab everyone we know by the lapels and try to make them understand God’s way.

When we first came into a clear understanding of God’s Way, we did, as Israel did at Sinai, commit unconditionally to walk in “every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.” We committed ourselves to not only pray, but to engage in regular

study of the scriptures. We thought on, or meditated on if you prefer, those scriptures we had studied. We even fasted for the things that are pleasing to God. We ached to know more!

As time as progressed, how many of us have let the cares of this world weigh us down, distract us from being “instant in prayer?” Indeed, how many times have we suddenly realized that we have not prayed today at all?

As men and women, we all recognize that first love we had for our mates. We could hardly stand to be away from them when we had to leave them at their door after a wonderful evening with them. Our attention hung on their every word, the meaning of each sigh, or smile. We worried that maybe that love was not requited in the way that we desired. This is the kind of love for God the Father and Jesus the Christ that we need to be rekindling.

We don't have a God who keeps us in the dark as to His love for us. He tells us plainly that He loves us and wants to spend eternity with us. He tells us that He loves us so much that He designated the One who became the Christ and His Son, from the beginning of creation, to come to earth to reconcile His sinful children to Him. There are very few people who would give up their lives for people who are so rotten to them. Yet, the Christ did!

Moreover, the One who became the Christ had to be willing to take on that mission, to love the Father so much that He was willing to divest Himself of all things, and then come to live as one of us, then to die horribly as the only possible sacrifice for that reconciliation. This love far exceeds that yearning of our first love for our mates.

Yet, that is the example the Christ instructs John to write down for us. He says “Remember your first love.” Like that first love we had for another human being, we need to rekindle the flame that was in our opened mind for the Father and His Way.

We all can easily understand the analogy of the first love. But, like a long time marriage, the question becomes “How do we get back to that point?” It certainly can't be impossible to do or the Christ would not have cautioned us to do it, even going to the

point of warning us what would happen if we did not. So, how, then, do we do this?

God never gives us instruction without showing us the “how” of the instruction. If we are having a problem with our first love of God, then we need to remember who we once were and what joy filled our hearts when we learned that “Daddy” had provided us forgiveness and that all we needed to do was to repent and then obey.

Next, we have to enthusiastically return to the tools that led us to the understanding that brought such joy. Have we let our prayer life slip? We are the only one who can fix that! Have we slacked up on the bible study thinking we know what God wants? If so, we need to remember that even the noble Bereans eagerly searched the scriptures daily!

What about fasting? When was the last time we took our lack of “first love” to Daddy in a fast? We fast for God to help us and others in ways that we cannot understand. If we don't understand how to recapture that first love, we should fast for God to show us from where we have slipped.

The fourth tool for recapturing that first love is for us to meditate on what God has said to us. When we were new to the Way, we thought about what we had learned from God all the time. Do we do that today? If not, we can't begin to get back to our first love any sooner than this minute.

When we study the Word, God speaks to us. When we pray, we have God's promise that He will hear. When we meditate, we go past merely considering what God has said and consider how those words apply to us. Meditation is that “alone time” that allows us to think about what God has said. Finally, when we fast, we ask God for help with those things we cannot do.

In short, getting back to our “first love” of God restated is this: we need a revival. There is no doubt that the Church is in need of revival. If it was not, the Christ would not have left us the warning He sent to Ephesus through the Apostle John. I encourage everyone to consider whether or not that first love still burns in their breast, and to act according. Nobody wants to lose their lampstand.



## The President's Corner

### Seven Factors that Influenced the Sabbath in the Early Church

(Part 4)

*Kelly McDonald*

In this edition of The Sabbath Sentinel, we will finish our discussion of the seven factors that influenced the Sabbath in the early Church. The last two factors are: the allegorizing of Scripture and the relationship between the Roman Empire and the Roman Church.

The allegorizing of Scripture had a significant influence on the Sabbath. You may not be familiar with this concept, but allegorizing is a unique method of interpreting the Bible. It does not fully consider the literal meaning of the verses being examined. Instead, numbers and details in the Bible are treated as symbols and then applied in a way that is subjective to the interpreter. Those using this method usually come to conclusions that negate the literal meaning of the Bible.

Among the first writers to allegorize the Bible was Justin the Martyr. We have mentioned him throughout this series. He especially allegorized the Bible as it related to the Sabbath and the resurrection. We have two excerpts below:

“For righteous Noah, along with the other mortals at the deluge, i.e., with his own wife, his three sons and their wives, being eight in number, were a symbol of the eighth day, wherein Christ appeared when He rose from the dead, forever the first in power” (Dialogue with Trypho, chapter 138).

“The Lord our God does not take pleasure in such observances: if there is any perjured person or a thief among you, let him cease to be so; if any adulterer, let him repent; then he has kept the sweet and true Sabbaths of God....” (ibid, chapter 12).

In the first quote, he allegorized the number eight

from the story of Noah and used this number as a reason to transfer the Sabbath to the first day of the week (which he calls the eighth day of the week). In another chapter of the same work, he does the same thing with circumcision (see chapter 41). His allegorical attack on the Sabbath has obvious problems with the literal meaning of the Scriptures. Firstly, God never described the week as having eight days. Secondly, Jesus did not rise from the dead on Sunday. Third, not a single Bible writer connected circumcision or Noah to the Sabbath.

In the second quote above, Justin portrayed a sinless life as the true way to honor the Sabbath. Again, this is a problematic interpretation. The Sabbath is the weekly day of rest – keeping other commandments cannot replace its absolute requirements. If someone abstains from stealing, then they have done well and honored that specific commandment. However, if the same person works on Sabbath then he/she has violated the fourth commandment. If we use his same logic, people can justify breaking any commandment they wish.

Two other authors contributed greatly to allegorizing the Scriptures: Clement of Alexandria and his pupil Origen. Clement studied at the Alexandrian school of theology, which taught this method of interpretation. In other places, he and Origen decried honoring any specific day as special.

“Whence not in a specified place, or selected temple, or at certain festivals and on appointed days, but during his whole life, the Gnostic in every place, even if he be alone by himself, and wherever he has any of those who have exercised the like faith, honours God, that is, acknowledges his gratitude for the

knowledge of the way to live” (Clement, Stromata, 7, 7).

“If it be objected to us on this subject that we ourselves are accustomed to observe certain days, as for example the Lord's day, the Preparation, the Passover, or Pentecost, I have to answer, that to the perfect Christian, who is ever in his thoughts, words, and deeds serving his natural Lord, God the Word, all his days are the Lord's, and he is always keeping the Lord's day. He also who is unceasingly preparing himself for the true life, and abstaining from the pleasures of this life which lead astray so many — who is not indulging the lust of the flesh, but keeping under his body, and bringing it into subjection, — such a one is always keeping Preparation-day” (Origen, Against Celsus, 8:22).

Origen allegorized away any day with special significance and ranked them all the same. He thus contradicted the example of Christ and the early Apostles, who clearly made distinctions between days that were holy and those that were not. His theology had serious problems, which would take another entire book to analyze.

Allegorizing Scriptures would contribute to misunderstanding the Sabbath for centuries to come. A substantial number of Christians were influenced by the Alexandrian school of Theology. This form of interpreting the Scriptures has existed in some form down to our present times.

The last factor that influenced the Sabbath was the relationship between Roman Emperors and Roman Bishops. Beginning with the time of Constantine, the Roman Church became intertwined with the Roman Empire. Constantine de facto made the Roman Church an institution of the state. In return for the support, Roman Emperors starting with Constantine would codify Roman Church practices into Roman law.

In 321 AD, Constantine ruled that people could leave property to the Roman Church at death (Codex Theodosianus: 16.2.4). In 326 AD, he passed a law and granted the Roman Church special privileges. All other Christian groups were not

allowed these privileges and were bound to public service (CT: 16.5.1). He regulated the number of clergy in Christianity (CT: 16.2.6 [326 AD]). Secular judges were even required to enforce the decisions of Christian Bishops (CS: 1 [333 AD]).

In 379, Theodosius became the Eastern Roman Emperor. After hearing the perspectives of different Christian groups, he sided with the Roman Church. All houses of prayer run by Arians (which had Sabbatarians among them) were given over to the Roman Church. In 380 AD, he passed a law forcing that all peoples under his rule follow the Roman Catholic religion. We have an excerpt from this decree below:

“To the residents of Constantinople: It is our will that all the peoples whom the government of our clemency rules shall follow that religion which a pious belief from Peter to the present declares the holy Peter delivered to the Romans, and which it is evident the Pontiff Damascus and Peter, bishop of Alexandria, a man of apostolic sanctity, follow; that is, that according to the apostolic discipline and evangelical doctrine we believe in the deity of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit of equal majesty in a holy trinity. Those who follow this law we command shall be comprised under the name of Catholic Christians; but others, indeed, we require, as insane and raving, to bear the infamy of heretical teaching; their gatherings shall not receive the name of churches; they are to be smitten first with the divine punishment and after that by the vengeance of our indignation, which has divine approval” (CT: 16.1.2).

His laws relating to religion were sometimes fanatical. People were not allowed to discuss religious matters in public (CT: 16.4.1 [388 AD]). Non-Roman Catholic groups were forbidden from owning churches or meeting together to have services. They were not allowed to have bishops or hold councils. At one point, non-Roman Catholic groups were banned from even having priests.

Theodosius' relationship with the Roman Church would pave the way for celebrations of the Roman Church, including Sunday, to be enshrined as en-

# TIME is the Ally of Deceit

Richard Rives

Many aspects of Traditional Christianity cannot be found in the Bible. They can however be traced directly to the worship of pagan gods which predate Christianity by centuries. How is it that precepts that have nothing to do with Christ and everything to do with pagan sun worship have found their way into our churches? History reveals that there is one very good answer.

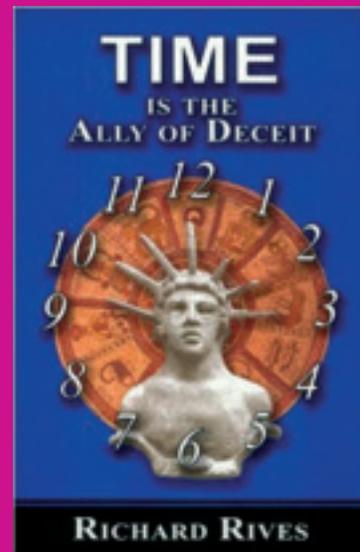
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forced law. The first Sunday law in history that was issued with any mention of Christianity was in 386 AD by Theodosius (CT: 2.8.18). From 386 to 469, there were seven laws enacted that specifically regulated some aspect of Sunday rest or worship (386 by Gratian, Valentinian, and Theodosius; 389 Valentinian, Theodosius, and Arcadius; 392 by same rulers; 399 by Arcadius and Honorius; 409 by Emperors Honorius and Theodosius II; 425 by Theodosius II and Valentinian III [see CT title 2, section 8 for these laws]; 469 by Emperor Leo I [Codex Justinus: 3.12.10]).

Other Roman celebrations were promoted, such as January New Years, Emperor's birthdays, and even Christmas (for Christmas, see: CT 15.5.5 [425 AD]). During this time period, Sunday was cemented as the day of rest in the Roman Empire. This would last for centuries to come and even transfer to other European monarchies that used Roman law (such as the Frankish people under Charlemagne).

In conclusion, the Sabbath was attacked and slandered for centuries through these seven factors: 1) Persecution of Christians, 2) Destruction of Jerusalem (twice), 3) Quartodeciman Controversy, 4) Anti-Semitism, 5) Syncretism, 6) Allegorizing Scripture, 7) The relationship between the Roman Empire and the Roman Catholic Church.

Despite these influences, most Christians still honored the Sabbath into the 400s AD (see quotes from John Chrysostom, Socrates Scholasticus, Sozoman, John Cassian, and Augustine). In the future, we hope to provide more of the latest, most up to date historical research and analysis of the Sabbath.

## BSA President's Speaking Schedule

The Bible Sabbath Association's President, Kelly McDonald, will be appearing at several locations in January and February. For updates: [kellymcdonald\\_lu08@hotmail.com](mailto:kellymcdonald_lu08@hotmail.com).

### Tentative January Schedule

Jan. 5 – Athens, GA  
Jan. 12 – Corinth, MS and Jackson, TN  
Jan. 19 – Murfreesboro, TN  
Jan. 26 – Cleveland, TN

### Tentative February Schedule

Feb. 2 – Athens, GA  
Feb. 9 – Corinth, MS and Jackson, TN  
Feb. 16 – Murfreesboro, TN  
Feb. 23 – Cleveland, TN

# Truth Before Doctrine

Charles E Jordan

*(All scriptures quoted from King James Version unless otherwise noted.)*

At Embassy of God, where I pastor, we have a motto which proclaims, "Truth before Doctrine." We not only say it and put it on our wall and on our literature, we try to live by it.

That being the case, perhaps we should start by asking an old question: "What is truth?"

Pilate asked that question when Jesus was standing before him, accused of treason and blasphemy.

*"Pilate therefore said unto him, 'Art thou a king then?'"*

Jesus answered, *"Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Everyone that is of the truth heareth my voice."*

*"Pilate saith unto him, 'What is truth?' And when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and saith unto them, 'I find in him no fault at all.'" (John 18:37 - 38).*

Not too many hours before, knowing that He was about to be delivered up to die, Jesus had prayed for His disciples, asking the Father to keep them in the truth. And He defined truth as the word of God – the Holy Scriptures.

*"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." (John 17:17).*

In John 10:35, Christ says, *"... the scripture cannot be broken."*

When Jesus said that, the only scripture in existence was the Old Testament. In fact, the Old Testament, or "Tenach," which comprises the whole law, the prophets, and the writings, constituted the only inspired scriptures in existence until the Apostle John canonized the Old Testament and the New Testa-

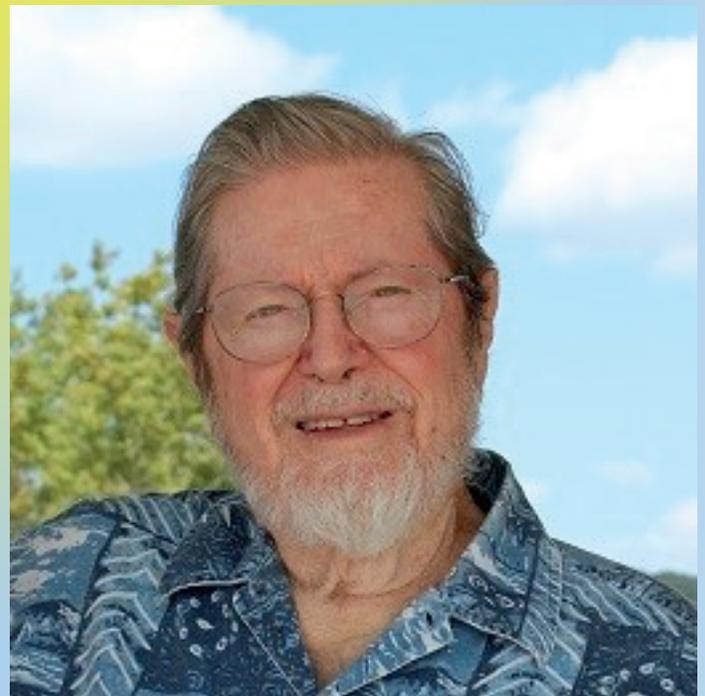
ment together circa 95 A.D.

In II Timothy 3:16 we read, *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."*

This is true because the Bible came by inspiration from God – both the Old Testament, written in Ancient Hebrew and dialects, and the New Testament, mostly written in the Greek language used at the time Christ was physically on earth.

If any doubt remains, the Apostle Peter clears this up in II Peter 1:20-21. *"Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation (or "origin" as it can also be translated). For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit."*

Now let me ask a couple of questions: First, do you sin on a regular basis? For the answer, let's look at Romans 3:23, which says, *"all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."*



In this passage, it seems “sinned” is past tense – something you did before you were converted, perhaps. Okay. Fair enough. But, I John 1:8 says, *“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.”*

Here it is in present tense. And it means not only YOU, but ME as well! So, as I write this, acknowledging my sinfulness, I’ll ask the second question: Am I, as an acknowledged sinner, qualified to teach the word of God?

And here’s my answer: Yes. I am qualified. Provided I don’t use my own words or ideas, provided I teach from God’s inspired word, which is always true.

Translators, today, as well as in the past, because of their beliefs or traditions, have not always translated the scriptures correctly so they can appear misleading and confuse the reader as to the identity of the true God. Men who call themselves ministers of the Word sometimes wrest the scriptures for their own purposes, or because their understanding is clouded. (II Pet. 3:1-6).

Still, we need not fear. Throughout the Bible – the Old Testament as well as the New Testament – the word of God reveals a way for those who will humble themselves before Him to know the true Creator God.

*“In that hour, Jesus rejoiced in spirit and said, ‘I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes: even so, Father, for so it seemed good in thy sight.*

*‘All things are delivered to me of my Father, and no man knoweth who the Son is, but the Father; and who the Father is, but the Son, and he to whom the Son will reveal him.’*

*And he turned him unto his disciples, and said privately, ‘Blessed are the eyes which see the things that ye see: For I tell you that many prophets and kings have desired to see those things which he see, and have not seen them and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them.’”*

We see then that these things are revealed

knowledge. They can be understood only by those who’ve been given eyes to see and ears to hear. It is God and Christ who reveal knowledge of Themselves to us as the Father sees fit.

The book of Kings (18: 21-24) tells the story of a time when the nation of Israel was mingling the worship of God with paganism. Elijah challenged the priests of Baal to a demonstration of power. He proposed they prepare a sacrifice to their god and that Elijah would prepare a sacrifice to the God of Israel.

*“And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, ‘How long halt ye between two opinions? If the Lord by God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him.’ And the people answered him not a word. Then Elijah said unto the people, ‘I, even I only, remain a prophet of the Lord; but Baal’s prophets are four hundred and fifty men.*

*‘Let them therefore give us two bullocks’ and let them choose one bullock for themselves, and cut it in pieces, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under; and I will dress the other bullock, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under:*

*‘And call ye on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD: and the*

*God that answereth by fire, let him by God.’ And all the people answered and said, ‘It is well spoken.’”*

The pagan priests prayed from morning until noon, shouting and arguing and drawing blood with their knives to get the attention of their pagan deity, but with no results.

Then Elijah prepared his sacrifice.

*“And Elijah said unto all the people, ‘Come near unto me.’ And all the people came near unto him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD that was broken down.*

*And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, unto whom the word of the LORD came, saying, Israel shall be thy name:*

*And with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD: and he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain two measures of seed.*

*And he put the wood in order, and cut the bullock in pieces, and laid him on the wood, and said, ‘Fill four barrels with water, and pour it on the burnt sacrifice, and on*

*the wood.'*

*And he said, 'Do it the second time.' And they did it the second time. 'And he said, Do it the third time.' And they did it the third time.*

*And the water ran round about the altar; and he filled the trench also with water.*

*And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, 'LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word.*

*'Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the LORD God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again.'*

*Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.*

*And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, 'The LORD, he is the God; the LORD, he is the God.'"* (1 Kings 18:30-39).

And so, fire from heaven showed who was the true God. Will we see this kind of proof again?

In the end times, fire from heaven will not be proof of who is the true God. We know this because of what we read in Rev. 13: 11-15. *"And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spoke as a dragon. And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men."*

In those days, the beast power will use frightful signs to make his false prophets and teachers seem to be men of God – signs which are so convincing they would even deceive God's people, if they are not on the alert.

*"For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders, insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect."* (Matt. 24:24).

So how does God reveal Himself and His servants in the New Testament?

*"And he said unto the, 'Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned (judged).*

*'And these signs shall follow them that believe; in my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; and they shall take u serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.'"*

At the beginning of the New Testament church, these were indeed the signs that showed who had the truth of God. But are they still?

Notice Matt. 7:21-23 *"Not every one that saith unto me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.*

*Many will say to me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?'*

*And then will I profess unto them, 'I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.'"*

Though they have signs and miracles, Christ says he would not even know them. So we see that at the end time, or in the latter days, neither fire brought down from heaven, nor religious signs and deeds and miracles will reveal the true God.

We can read about it in II Thess. 2:8-13. *"And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders. And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: that they all might be damned (judged) who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness."*

When God sends strong delusion, you will be deluded and you will be judged. That alone tells what the converted individual must have to be able to

rightly divide the word of truth and not be ashamed.

Daniel the prophet was given a glimpse of what would take place in the last days.

Dan 12:1-10 *“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.*

*And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.*

*And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.*

*But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.’*

*Then I Daniel looked, and, behold, there stood other two, the one on this side of the bank of the river, and the other on that side of the bank of the river.*

*And one said to the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, How long shall it be to the end of these wonders?*

*And I heard the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and sware by him that liveth for ever that it shall be for a time, times, and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished.*

*And I heard, but I understood not: then said I, O my Lord, what shall be the end of these things?*

*And he said, ‘Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end. Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.’”*

There will be only one thing that prevails to show us the way we should go.

2 Tim 2:15 *“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a*

*workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”*

So even though some will be deceived and misled, if we have a love of the truth, which comes from God’s Spirit, we need not be afraid. For God’s Spirit is not the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. (II Tim. 1:7).

The way of God is a walk in the truth. As we walk, each truth is a gate which opens to a beautiful meadow in which we develop a little, and which then narrows down to another gate of truth we must walk through on our individual journeys. The gates of truth are our growth portals that we encounter time after time. The broad meadows are times of peace and rest where we practice and put to use the truth we’ve learned to be able to understand and to know God better.

And what is the most important truth in God’s word?

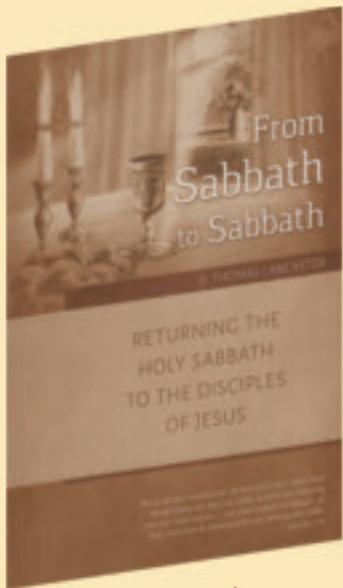
*“Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”* (Matt. 22:37 – 40).

1 John 5:1-3 *“Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.*

*By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments.*

*For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.”*

***Pastor Charlie Jordan was the pastor of the Embassy Church of God in San Antonio, Texas. He was a long-time servant in God’s Church. Sadly, he passed away suddenly on October 18, 2018, just a few weeks after submitting this article for publication. He was a long-time friend to your editor and a great teacher to many.***



# From Sabbath to Sabbath, Returning the Holy Sabbath to the Disciples of Jesus

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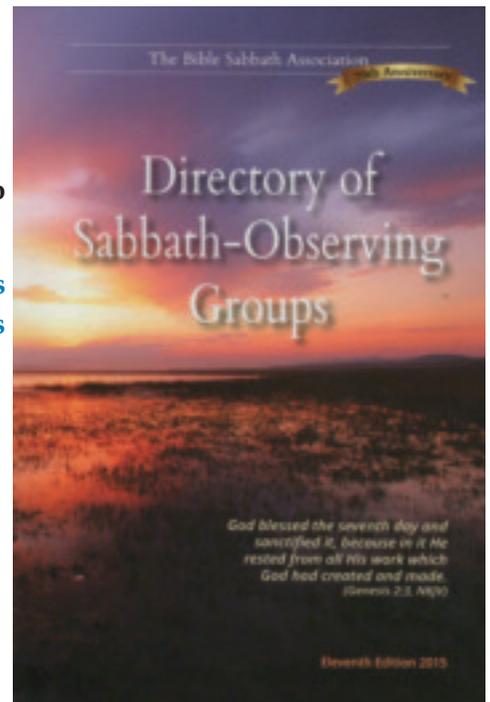
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# PRAYING FOR ANSWERS - PART 2

*Bryant Buck*

In our previous study we looked at three circumstances under which God doesn't generally answer our prayers – not praying the prayers in the first place, praying with wrong motives, and praying while we regard iniquity in our hearts. Then we started looking at three things that we can do to increase God's answers to our prayers. In the previous study we considered the first of these three things – praying according to God's will. In this study we will consider the other two – praying in faith and putting our hearts into our prayers.

In Luke 17:5-6 (NAS) we read this exchange between the twelve apostles and the Lord Jesus: "The apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our faith.' And the Lord said, 'If you had faith like a mustard seed, you would say to this mulberry tree, "Be uprooted and be planted in the sea"; and it would obey you.'" The twelve apostles acknowledged their spiritual deficiency here; they realized that they needed more faith. Virtually all of us have the same spiritual deficiency; we need more faith. So we need to start at the same place the twelve apostles did – that is, we need to ask the Lord to increase our faith.

Likewise in Hebrews 11:6 (NIV) we read: "And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him." The Scriptures are emphatic that to get answers to our prayers we must pray in faith. But you might say, "I really don't have any faith." Then that is what you should pray for; if you lack faith, then faith is definitely what you should pray for. Recall the first reason that many prayers don't get answered: "You do not have, because you do not ask God." (James 4:2 NIV) Most Christians lack faith

because they fail to ask for faith. The Bible testifies over and over that Yahweh wants us to walk in faith. However, the devil comes and lies to us that Yahweh won't give us faith even if we ask for it. Yeshua wouldn't have put such an emphasis on faith if He didn't want us to have it. If you lack faith, ask for it. And then keep on asking for it. Don't give up on your prayer for faith even when Yahweh begins increasing your faith. Even if we are truly victorious Christians, we can always use more faith.

So where does faith come from? Above all, faith from Yahweh comes through His Son Yeshua Messiah. That is why we stress developing a relationship with Jesus Christ through daily Bible reading, prayer, and listening to His voice. "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you." (James 4:8 NAS) The more you draw near to God, the more He will draw near to you. And the nearer He is to you, the more faith you will have when you pray. Jesus Christ has the Spirit of faith within Himself; so the more you come into His presence, the more that Spirit of faith infuses into your life.

Furthermore, faith is built up by reading and studying the Scriptures of the Bible. When you read the New Testament, you repeatedly find the apostles quoting Scriptures from the Old Testament. So it is obvious that the apostles read and studied the Bible to learn the very words which God Almighty spoke. In fact, they did more than just read and study the Scriptures; they memorized vast portions of the Word of God. And look at their results: the apostles turned the Roman world upside down with the miracles that resulted from their living faith. Regular reading and study of the Scriptures builds faith. Plus Scripture memorization builds

even more faith.

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” (II Timothy 3:16-17 NIV) The New American Standard version renders the first part of verse 16 “All Scripture is inspired by God.” The words of the Bible are inspired by God – that is, they are God-breathed. Don’t you think that your faith would increase if God breathed some of His very life into you? That’s exactly what you are promised when you read the Word of God. The book of Hebrews expresses the same truth this way: “For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.” (Hebrews 4:12 NIV) If the Word of Yahweh can divide joints from marrow, what can it do to build faith in your heart?

“So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.” (Romans 10:17 NAS) The Greek word rendered “word” in this verse is “rhema.” Rhema indicates a right-now word from Christ. In contrast, the word usually rendered “word” in the New Testament is “logos.” Logos indicates the total revelation of Yahweh through the Scriptures. But rhema is not logos; rhema is the right-now word that Jesus Christ speaks to your heart. When you know that Yeshua has just spoken to your heart, you have faith to believe what He has just said to you. Right-now words from Christ produce faith.

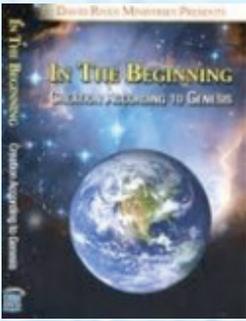
“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.” (John 10:27 NAS). When you accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, you became one of His sheep.

Christ’s promise to us as His sheep is firm; He promises that we hear His voice. The promise is not that we “might” hear His voice; the promise is that we “hear” His voice. So how do we hear His voice? Through right-now rhema words that He speaks to our hearts. If you don’t feel that you have heard from Yeshua lately, claim His promise that “My sheep hear My voice.” Then ask Him to speak to

you and believe that He will. Don’t let the devil lie to you and tell you that Christ won’t speak to you. Since you are one of Yeshua’s sheep, when He declared “My sheep hear My voice,” He meant you.

The third thing that we can do to increase Yahweh’s answers to our prayers is to put our hearts into our prayers. Yahweh is interested in our hearts and is looking for us to make our petitions to Him with our hearts. Yahweh is definitely not interested in vain repetitions as He tells us so more than once in His Word.

Most of us recognize this prayer: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.” (Matthew 6:9-13 NIV) The New American Standard adds: “For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.” Not only do most of us recognize this passage of Scripture as the Lord’s prayer, but also many of us recited it in unison with our fellow churchgoers for years. The truth is that Jesus encouraged us to pray after the pattern of this prayer. (See the beginning of Matthew 6:9.) However, He did not encourage us to pray this prayer as a vain repetition. On the contrary, look at what Jesus admonished us just before He counseled us to pray in this manner. “And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.” (Matthew 6:7-8 NIV) The King James version translates verse 7: “But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.” The problem with the prayer life of much of Christianity surfaces right here: the very prayer Yeshua instructed us not to turn into a vain repetition is the very prayer that we recite as a vain repetition. When we pray a prayer as a vain repetition, we don’t give any real thought to what we are saying. Jesus doesn’t want us to pray vain repetitions just to get our prayers over with; He wants us to pray with our hearts.



## In the Beginning Creation According to Genesis

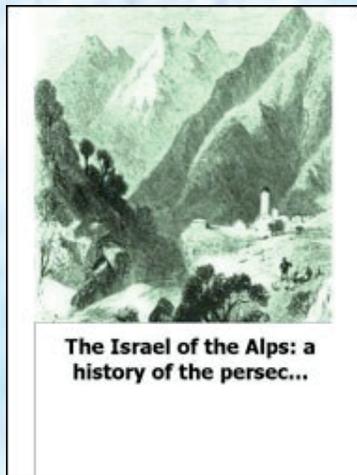
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That record begins in the book of Genesis, which in the Greek language means "Origins."

In the original Hebrew it is known as "B'reshit" — Beginning — and in the very first sentence, the foundation of the whole Bible, we learn that "In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth." So let's start at the VERY beginning.

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In Jeremiah 29:13 (NAS) we find this promise that Yahweh made to His people: "You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart." Isn't really getting in touch with God one of the things that we want to accomplish when we pray?

The Almighty promises that when we seek Him wholeheartedly, we will indeed find Him. So when we pray with all our heart, we will find Yahweh answering more of our prayers. God is not interested in halfhearted prayers prayed just to get the prayers over with; God is interested in sincere prayers prayed with all our heart.

In Psalm 119:10 (NAS) we read these words: "With all my heart I have sought you; do not let me wander from your commandments." David was a man who had prayer after prayer answered; David had many of his prayers answered because he sought Yahweh with all his heart. Later in this same psalm David declared: "At midnight I rise to give you thanks for your righteous laws." (Psalm 119:62 NIV) After thinking about this verse for a moment, I asked myself: When was the last time I got up at midnight to give thanks and pray? Very few people will deliberately break their sleep to pray unless their heart is really into their prayers.

Most Christians know that they should pray; moreover, most Christians know that they should pray MORE. The problem is that most of us really don't want to pray more than we feel we have to. Often we pray just to make sure that we have prayed while trying to finish our prayers as quickly as possible. What is the real problem here? Our hearts are not into our prayers. If we are praying just to finish praying as quickly as possible, probably we should pray this prayer: "Lord, give me a heart to pray. Let me want to pray. Let me really desire to spend time with You." Devotions done just to get them over with are generally burdensome; devotions done because we really want to spend time with Yahweh are filled with blessing.

# The Mark of the Faithful Remnant

*Daniel Botkin*

There has been a significant movement among believers in the past several decades to rediscover and reclaim that which could be called the neglected elements of the Torah.

This movement is especially obvious among Messianic Jewish believers in Yeshua, but it is by no means limited to Jewish believers. Because so many non-Jewish believers are now involved in this movement, some people prefer to use terms like “the Messianic Faith” or “the Messianic Movement” rather than “Messianic Judaism” or “the Messianic Jewish Movement” - not to exclude Messianic Jews, but to more accurately describe a movement that now consists of more non-Jews than Jews. In recent years the term “Hebrew Roots Movement” has become popular.

Regardless of which terminology is used to describe this movement, it is an awakening and a phenomenon that is continuing to grow. Even Mainstream Christians are taking note of it and responding to it. Much of the response is unfavorable, but at least Christians are taking note of it. Every sincere believer should prayerfully consider what is happening.

When comparing the Messianic Faith with Mainstream Christianity, an observer will notice four distinct practices emerging in the Messianic Movement that differentiate it from Mainstream Christianity. The four differences can be summarized and categorized as follows:

## **MESSIANIC FAITH**

1. Honors the seventh day (Saturday) as the Biblical Sabbath for rest and worship.
2. Celebrates the Biblical holy days of Leviticus 23.
3. Follows Biblical dietary laws.
4. Practices miscellaneous laws that could be called “the least of the commandments” (fringes, beards, mezuzahs, etc.)

## **MAINSTREAM CHRISTIANITY**

1. Uses Sunday morning as a time of worship.
2. Celebrates holidays that are adaptations of pagan holidays.
3. Ignores Biblical dietary laws.
4. Ignores miscellaneous commandments and labels them as “just for the Jews.”

Some believers think that this dichotomous arrangement is what God intends for His people. But does our heavenly Father really want a paganized “Gentile Church” that meets on Sundays, celebrates Christmas and Easter, and has church-sponsored hog roasts, while a “Jewish Church” keeps the Sabbath, celebrates Biblical holy days, and eats a kosher diet? If Jewish and non-Jewish believers in Yeshua are to be one body in practice, and not just in theory, the above arrangement will not do.

What is the significance of these polar opposites of Sabbath versus Sunday, Biblical holy days versus Christianized pagan holidays, Biblical dietary laws versus no dietary laws, doing the least of the commandments versus not doing them? We can gain some insight into these four areas by examining one of Ezekiel’s visions.

Ezekiel was one of the Jewish exiles in Babylon. The glory of God had departed from the Temple. In Ezekiel chapter 8, the Spirit brought the prophet “in the visions of God to Jerusalem” and showed him Israel’s sins that had caused God’s glory to depart. These sins were in four categories.

In the vision, Ezekiel was first told to look toward the north gate of the inner court of the Temple, where he beheld an “image of jealousy.” The Lord then said to him, “*Son of man, seest thou what they do? even the great abominations that the house of Israel committeth here, that I should go far off from My sanctuary? But turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater abominations.*” Greater abominations were coming, but even this first abomination, which we could call “the least of the abominations,” was enough to cause the glory of God to begin its departure.

# Did you know...?

that you can aid the BSA effort to promote the Sabbath and a Spirit of brother-hood 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.

Secondly, Ezekiel was told to dig into a hole in the wall at the entrance of the Temple court. Ezekiel dug until he came to a door. When he went through the door, he saw "creeping things and abominable beasts" portrayed on the walls, and seventy of the elders of Israel standing before them. God again told him, "Turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater abominations that they do."

The third abomination that Ezekiel saw was "women weeping for Tammuz" at the north gate of the Temple. Weeping for Tammuz was a custom associated with a pagan holiday. Every year, pagans mourned and fasted forty days for the pagan god Tammuz, in preparation for the spring festival and its perverse fertility rites. Again God said to Ezekiel, "Turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater abominations than these."

The fourth and final abomination that Ezekiel saw was "about five and twenty men, with their backs toward the temple of the LORD, and their faces toward the east; and they worshipped the sun towards the east."

So the four abominations were: an image that provoked to jealousy, unclean animals, women participating in a pagan holiday ritual, and men worshipping the sun. The correlation between these four abominations and the four areas of Torah that are re-emerging in the Messianic Movement is quite striking. Let's consider the correlation.

The first abomination Ezekiel saw was "the least of the abominations." Mainstream Christianity ignores "the least of the commandments," while the Messianic Faith is reclaiming the least of the commandments.

The second abomination Ezekiel saw was the leaders of Israel standing with unclean animals. The leaders of Mainstream Christianity teach that unclean animals may be eaten by God's people, while the Messianic Faith teaches that God's people should obey God's dietary laws.

The third abomination that Ezekiel saw was women participating in a pagan festival at the Temple. In Mainstream Christian churches, Christians celebrate religious holidays that have their origin in pagan idolatry, while Messianic believers celebrate the holy days that God commanded in the Bible.

The final and the worst of the four abominations was that of Israel's spiritual leaders turning their backs on God's sanctuary and worshipping the sun. The spiritual leaders

of Mainstream Christianity turned their backs on God's sanctuary in time, the seventh-day Sabbath, and replaced it with the observance of Sunday, the day which pagans devoted to the sun god. Now Messianic leaders are calling on God's people to turn around and start honoring God's Sabbath.

According to an article in *Biblical Archeology Review*, the reason Christian leaders changed the Sabbath to Sunday was three-fold: 1) to "show contempt for the Jews"; 2) to "avoid appearing to observe the Sabbath with the Jews"; 3) to make Christianity more appealing to the pagan masses, who were already using the first day of the week ("Sunday") to honor the sun god. (See Samuele Bacchiocchi, "How It Came About: From Saturday to Sunday," *BAR*, Sept./Oct. 1978, 32-39.)

Of course Christians today do not go to church on Sundays to worship the sun god, nor observe Lent and Easter to worship Tammuz. But when we learn about the reasons that Mainstream Christianity turned its back on God's Sabbath and holy days, we should then turn our backs on the observance of Sun-god day and pagan holidays, and return to the Biblical Sabbath and Biblical holy days. In like manner, we should also return to keeping the dietary laws and the least of the commandments.

Ezekiel's vision of the four abominations was immediately followed by a vision of the slaying that took place in Jerusalem as a result of these abominations. But before the slaying began, Yahweh told an angelic being with a writer's inkhorn, "Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof." Other angels with swords were told to follow and slay all who did not have the mark of protection, beginning at God's sanctuary.

There are similar passages in Revelation about God's faithful remnant receiving a mark of protection upon their foreheads before God's final judgment falls on the earth. (See Revelation 7:3, 9:4, 14:1, 22:4.)

God's mark of protection is not some physical mark like a tattoo. What is the "mark"? In Ezekiel 9:4, the Hebrew word translated "mark" is *tav*, which can mean a mark, a sign, or a signature. According to the Gesenius Hebrew Lexicon, *tav* can also mean "a cross," and is in fact translated "cross" in the New Jerusalem Bible. For followers of

Yeshua/Jesus, this aspect of the mark of God's protection should be obvious. To have the mark, a person must have faith in the One who died on a cross.

But I see a second aspect of this mark in light of the four abominations that Ezekiel saw, and the four corresponding elements of Torah that are re-emerging in the Messianic Movement. *Tav* is also the name of the last letter of the Hebrew alphabet, and corresponds to our English letter "T."

In the context of Ezekiel's vision, what Hebrew word could the letter *tav* stand for? Among Bible students, probably the best-known Hebrew word beginning with *tav* (or "T" in English) is the word Torah. The idea that the faithful remnant in Jerusalem would be marked with a *tav* for Torah makes sense in light of the fact that the abominations that they were grieving over were simply the abandonment of certain elements of the Torah.

So by viewing the *tav* as both "a cross" and as the initial letter of Torah, we can see that God's faithful remnant today is characterized by two things: faith in the One who died on a cross, and the keeping of God's Torah.

We also see the faithful remnant in Revelation marked with these same two characteristics, as it is written: "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God and the faith of Yeshua" (Rev. 14:12).

We see it again in Revelation 12:17: "And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Yeshua Messiah."

We know Satan hates Jews. Even though they have not put their trust in Yeshua as their Messiah, they have preserved the Torah. Satan also hates Christians. Even though they have not honored the Sabbath, holy days, dietary laws, and other miscellaneous commandments, they have preserved the testimony of Yeshua. Satan is troubled by the Jews because they keep Torah, and he is troubled by Christians because they have kept the testimony of Yeshua. People who decide to do both things - put their faith in Yeshua and keep the commandments - are double trouble for the Devil. These are the remnant who greatly anger the Adversary. Those who have the *tav* - both the Torah and the Cross - will be targets for the rage of the Enemy. So be prepared, but do not fear. We shall overcome!

# *Cry Aloud! Spare Not!*

*Darl Arbogast*

I read the article 'Wanted: Black Robe Regiment' in the Sabbath Sentinel with great interest. Today Sabbath keepers are vastly outnumbered by Sunday keepers and to turn that around would take a miracle—but by believing 'faith can move mountains.' We may not wear a uniform of a regiment but we can join forces like a regiment in the Army of God; we are known by the company we keep.

Recently I sent letters to President Trump, Marsha Blackburn and Bob Corker regarding 'What Caused the Ills we face as a Country.' They have responded but there is a limit to what can be done. They are sympathetic but their hands are tied by our own Constitution. An Amendment to the Constitution would be required to correct the following:

- Wording of our Constitution allows all pagan religions equal status with Christianity.
- We call our nation a Christian nation but our Constitution allows every existing pagan religion on the earth citizenship and to worship here; not only that but what is equally ridiculous is we allow them to participate in our political system, run for political office and write our laws.
- The freedom of religion clause should be amended to say freedom to all Christians and Christian practicing people, God fearing people or words to that affect.
- This Amendment would be a long compli-

cated process and it would not pass.

Writing an Amendment like this is a political and a spiritual combination. Spiritually it would be short circuited because most professing Christians claim Sunday as their Sabbath. No one wants to open a political can of worms, neither the Democrats nor the Republicans.

Question: What does God say in Genesis 2:1 thru 3 and Exodus 20:1,8 regarding the Sabbath? The Bible tells us Sunday worshippers teach an erroneous Christianity. *1 Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. 2 And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. 3 Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made. 1 And God spoke all these words, saying: 8 "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.*

The issue of the Sabbath looms large within Christian circles. Many Church going friends are well educated, good outstanding members of our society but they disobey the Words of the Holy Bible, they reject the words of our God referring to the fourth Commandment as they hold preference to Sunday worship instead.

We understand their eyes are blinded and they cannot see why it makes any difference to God; but it does! If our nation is to be saved, the people of our nation need to understand and obey God. Two very important things God wants us to obey are the com-

mandments concerning Passover and the Sabbath; both of these probably have more meaning than any one person can visualize completely. We could lose the greatest Country this world has ever seen through careless disregard for God. Since He is the One Who gave us this land to live in, to keep our land we must heed and obey Him.

Another important matter to look at is the complete picture of sacrificing babies! The Israelite women came to be like the other nations and sacrificed their babies to Moloch and Chemosh the deities of Moab and Ammon.

Aborting our babies clinically today amounts to the same thing only today these gods are narcissism, greed, convenience and pleasure. Our laws permit abortion for any reason; but know this, God is not pleased. Murder is sin!

Ancient Israel and Judah went into captivity for killing their babies and America is in grave danger, too, for allowing abortion.

I see that our job right now, today, is to declare righteousness and expose evil! We need to flood the media devices with the truth about the Sabbath. In the past, far too many, for too long have been timid and afraid of "push back" from Sunday keepers. God has given us a myriad of tools to preach the true gospel so why are so very few speaking out and why are we not doing more? Perhaps by joining forces, working together to become stronger, ignoring intimidation by blatherskites or being held back by corporate church leaders, we can accomplish more and be better witnesses.

God can and will protect our nation if we obey Him! A military with lots of weaponry is not the answer because God will grant victory to our mil-

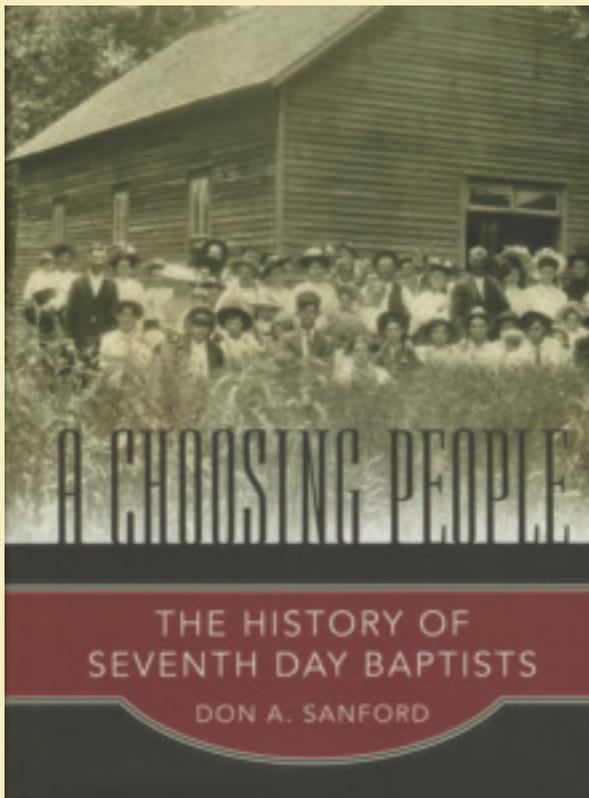
itary if we as a nation please Him. Our message and our plea to the people and to our leaders should be "Get your Heart Right with God!" We as a people are not perfect therefore asking God for forgiveness and asking for His answers solves all problems.

Most Sunday preachers preach a "Sweet Jesus" message but the Bible tells us Jesus sent the angel of death to slay 185,000 Assyrians in one night, Isaiah 37:36 NKJ - 36 *Then the angel of the LORD went out, and killed in the camp of the Assyrians one hundred and eighty-five thousand; and when people arose early in the morning, there were the corpses--all dead.*

Jesus killed each first born of Egypt in one night and in the future 200 million people are yet to be killed by Him and the angels. In Ezekiel 33:11 NKJ - 11 *Say to them: 'As I live,' says the Lord GOD, 'I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?'*

It is probably true that Jesus regretted doing these things but He did it and will do it again!

Remember tough love and that Jesus the Christ has the power to resurrect; He is the Creator and Giver of life. Jesus declared justice, mercy and faith to be the weightier matters of the law. 1 Corinthians 13:13 NKJ - 13 *And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.* Matthew 23:23 NKJ - (Jesus said), 23 *Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.*

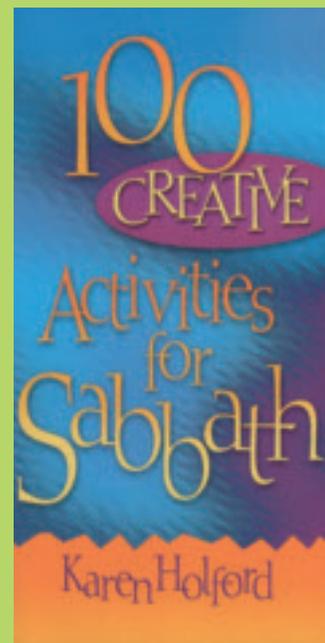


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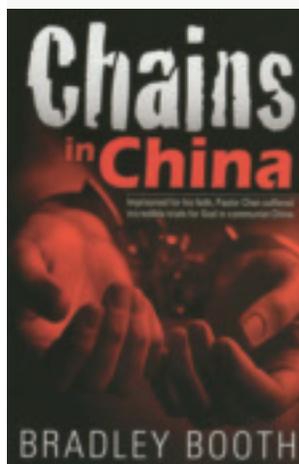
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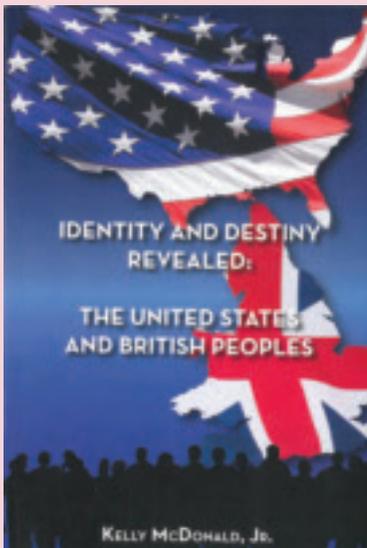
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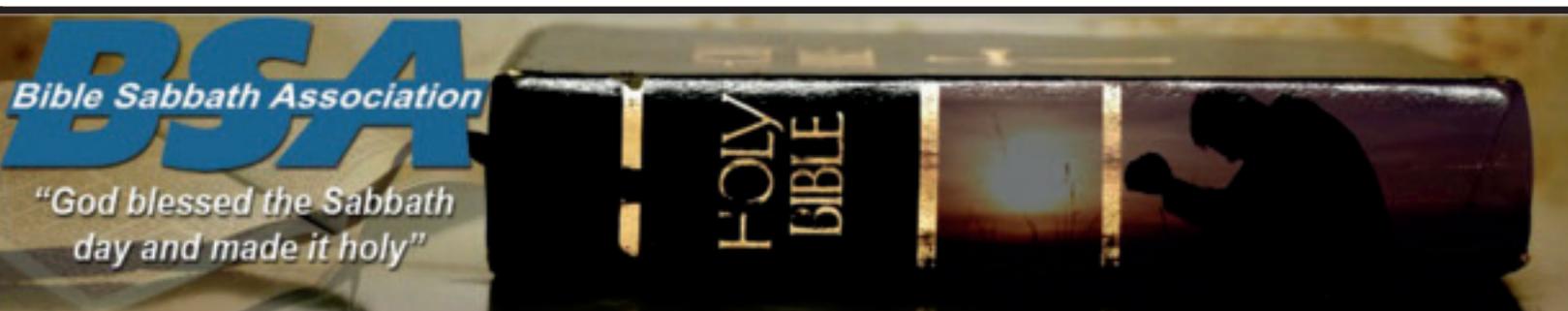
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