



The Sabbath Sentinel

*Jan.-Feb.
2018*

*Bear one
another's burdens,
and so you will
fulfill the Law of
Christ.*



BSA—The Bible Sabbath Association

Jesus said, "For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light."

The Sabbath Sentinel January-February 2018

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New Year, New Cycles

Editorial

June Narber

January has arrived and with it a new year on the Roman calendar that rules our current world time cycles. What kind of year will it be? What new trials, tribulations, and problems will pursue us? Do you ever think like that? After living in fear of the end of the world for over thirty years, I have concluded this is not the way Yahweh, Creator Father wants us to live.

New cycles will always be part of our lives. Human life is part of the physical time cycle that flows like a river: unstoppable, always changing, and vibrantly churning with various elements and components.

Some of us had a rather negative 2016. And to top that off, that gloom and doom lingers trying to swallow up yet another cycle of life. Regardless of what comes our way, there are some truths we must remember: God is always in control. It is natural to have a life that is full of both highs and lows. However, the secret is to praise God during the low cycles and not to forget Him when things are going well. Every situation is temporary, so it will eventually change.

An epiphany hit me recently as I listened to yet more church leaders arguing over an issue that is simply unknowable on this side of eternity: humans are mere clay and instead of dwelling on the positive elements, we keep migrating toward the negative and insignificant, often blowing such out of proportion, triggering arguments, and further splits in the Body of Messiah. Why can't we simply agree to disagree and show our spiritual siblings a little respect and love? Until we learn to love each other,

we are not ready to take on more responsibility for the sake of the Gospel of the Kingdom.

If humans could only learn to look beyond the physical, we could see the glory that is going to come when we get to our timeless existence that will span into eons of eternities in the forever Kingdom that will know no end. This is not a pipe dream but hard cold reality. It is going to happen beyond a shadow of any doubt. But as we reside on this side of the immortality cycle (as we are still human), we need to take a hold of ourselves and harness the power of the Holy Spirit and learn how to respond better to the negative things that happen. We do not always have to argue every point as some issues are just to minor to even talk about.

It does not matter what 2017 was like. 2018 is another year to sample the truth of scripture; to be good neighbors and friends; to be an inspiration to others; to learn new work skills; to explore new opportunities; and to further our causes on the physical and spiritual planes.

Yes, I know our calendar system is not the biblical system. However, it is the annual time measuring device used by secular society for all business, academic and daily living. Therefore it is okay to acknowledge a new cycle in these terms, a beginning.

Try to stay positive and look to the hope we have that things will change; new cycles will begin and old one's cease. And most importantly, remember that God has GOT this. May God bless our endeavors and help us to shine His truth, character, and light even more strongly in this new year.



A Forgotten Weapon of Spiritual Warfare

Kelly McDonald

In many ways, our culture has had an impact on how we view attending church. For example, American society is very fast paced. We try to get everywhere as fast as we can so we can pursue our heart-felt desires. Among the hustle-bustle pace of our society, I believe that we are forgetting the power of fellowship. We come to church and leave so fast that we neglect to tend to each other. There is great power in working together. Let's take a moment and consider the example set by the early church.

"When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place" (Acts 2:1).

"And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers" (Acts 2:42).

"And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved" (Acts 2:46-47).

"And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ" (Acts 5:42).

"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2b).

These few examples help us see that the early church understood the power of fellowship. They prayed together, ate together, and visited one another with heart-felt affection. One way to restore the community feeling to our churches is through fellowship. Our focus has to change from showing up to church for service and then leaving as soon as

it ends. Over time, this can lead to making church impersonal. I can remember God correcting me in this area many years ago. How can we truly be a blessing to others in the body unless we take the time to get to know each other?

The influence of culture has also made us selfish. Some want personalized church where every song is the song they like, every sermon is on their favorite subject, and the altar service is done the way they want. Some people may read a few internet articles and deem themselves the expert on issues; this attitude will often disregard those who have toiled for years in obedience to God. Instead of these attitudes, let's gather for church with the heart of service for God's will, not our own. Consider the vision of your local church/ministry and what is best for the entire congregation. "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves" (Phil 2:3). Remember to show honor to those in leadership.

Our perspective must change. Envision attending

Envision attending church as an opportunity to grow with other believers as we worship together. It is an opportunity to bless other people in the Body of Christ and also to receive help in our time of need.

church as an opportunity to grow with other believers as we worship together. It is an opportunity to bless other people in the Body of Christ and also to receive help in our time of need. We each have a unique relationship with God and a unique life experience. Other people need to hear what you and I have learned. At the same time, there are areas where we need to improve and learn from others. In our fellowship, we must be honest with areas of improvement.

I would like to share with you some history that will help you understand how fellowship helps in spiritual warfare. The Romans used to fight with a shield called a scutum. This shield was four feet tall and two feet wide. It was designed to cover the majority of a soldier's body. A group of Roman soldiers with these shields fought in a single unit. Those in the front linked their shields side by side. Those in the second row would lift their shields over the heads of the soldiers in front of them. The third row would do the same. This formed a "turtle" formation of protection as they marched forward.

In Ephesians 6:12-18, Paul talks about the shield of faith. The Greek word for shield is *thuros*. The root word for *thuros* means a door. It is a direct reference to the scutum shield from Roman times. This reveals to us a great spiritual truth.

In order for God's army to be effective, we must learn to link our faith with the faith of others. As Solomon said: "11 Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? 12 Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken" (Ecclesiastes 4:11-13).

When we read the Bible, God's people always worked together. Moses worked with Joshua and the elders under them. Jesus sent the 70 out two at a time. The Apostles worked together to resolve issues and transact Kingdom business. Paul worked with Timothy and the elders under them.

Each of us has strengths and weaknesses. We may struggle in areas that others have victory and vice versa. Working together helps us to sharpen one

another. We were made to work together. It is good to have another perspective. When we fellowship, we impart counsel to one another, often without knowing it. My early days of spiritual growth were spent drinking in what others had to say so I could live God's way. Many times people didn't know what I was going through, but someone would usually say something in fellowship that I needed to hear.

Godly counsel from those with wisdom is imperative (Proverbs 25:22, 11:14, 26:4). Someone else has the encouraging word for us when we are weary (Isaiah 50:4). We all need affection and correction. People are going through trials and they need clues to help them persevere. We need to pray, study, and even eat together.

Outside of the local church, we can also link faith with believers from different backgrounds. We can link our faith with Seventh-Day Baptists, Church of God Seventh Day, Seventh Day Adventist, Church of God groups, and other Sabbath believers. Why not? We have so much in common. "For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established; That is, that I may be comforted together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me" (Romans 1:11-12).

Will we have differences? Of course we will. The Bible tells us: "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another" (Proverbs 27:17). When iron and iron hit each other, there are sparks. When we fellowship, there will be differences of personality, but we mature by working through these differences.

I encourage you all to go to church early. Stay late. Spend some time getting to know people you don't know right now. We need each other. Let's be the Body of Christ to each other and to the world.

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching" (Hebrews 10:24-25).

Michael Suned

The Second Pillar of Wisdom—“Principle”

Isn't it amazing that our level of wisdom is directly connected to our intellectual ability and is highly affected by our surrounding, corresponding physical and financial conditions? The perfect way to have in-depth understanding of the ups and downs of our level of wisdom on a daily basis would be to check the chart of the “stock market” of our wisdom. Just as all of the critical elements come together to cause a decrease or increase of stock market values daily, and can be illustrated or traced by a chart, our level of wisdom can be illustrated as well. Through study and analysis of the background facts and the graph of a stock market, we easily see why and how the values have changed across time.

The same concept applies to the analyzing of our wisdom. We see that there are many corresponding factors that determine the level of wisdom that one possesses at any certain time. Our life is the best institution in which to learn how to acquire a higher level of wisdom; it is also the best laboratory for testing it. In order to determine the kind of life each one might pursue, we know that our purpose or intention is the cornerstone, or the starting point, which determines the direction and the level of successful results that will be acquired.

The second pillar of wisdom can be more easily understood using construction terminology. Recalling the Great Sichuan earthquake of 2008, we can still be touched with deep pain and sorrow when reflecting on the images of the many ruined buildings that come into our memory and where we know those uncountable precious lives were buried. At the same disaster site, there were many remaining buildings that withstood the devastation without having major damage. Why they didn't collapse brought even greater sorrow to the world because those buildings that remained standing are evi-

dence that the heart-breaking toll in lives need not have occurred. This heart breaking historical event illustrates how important it is to satisfy building codes while a structure is being built.

Comparing those ruined buildings with the ones that were left standing, we can see the major benefits of dedicated following of the well-tested principles of building construction versus jerry-rigged or slipshod construction techniques. Unfortunately for the victims of substandard construction, the truth will always show itself when least expected and with disastrous results for the victims and for those who believe that erecting a safe building can be done by cutting corners or by manipulating the design, workers and materials.

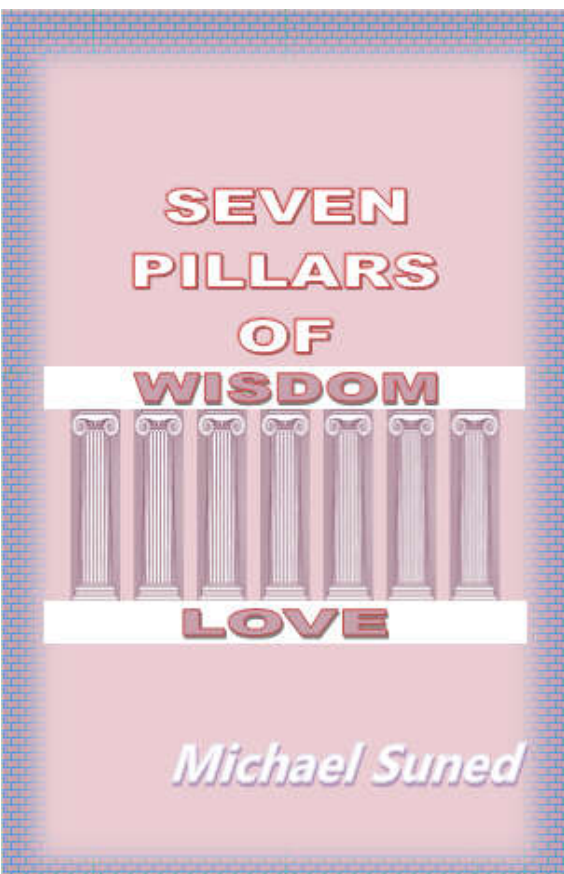
If we apply these basic ideas to our daily business activities, we are able to see that our intentions and motivations are the helm for lives, ours and others. Knowledge of that ruling principle directs a person to successes or failures that will provide us with the ability to eliminate our endangering the lives of other people. We are then capable of proceeding, making a 180 degree turn, in a manner that benefits others who might be affected.

Nailing down our understanding of this pillar in a clear and precise way will help us to have better insight as to how to make much better decisions with regards to whom we believe and trust. It explains to us why we are sometimes incapable of making a right decision as to whether or not to trust a certain individual on a particular matter.

This pillar also determines who we follow or accept as a leader. In order to have a better understanding of how this pillar greatly affects our lives we can observe the political world. We do our best to determine who it is that we support by figuring out which candidate has similar principals or visions to our own through learning about them from the news sources, people we trust and people around

us as we interface with them. Verbal interface with audiences, both immediate and via various media outlets, is the only way for those politicians or candidates to cause people to understand who they are, what their positions are and why they are the best person for the position. In order to be recognized and win the election, they make promises about what they will do if they are elected. Political promises are not only sometimes unfeasible or unreasonable, but often times are deception designed to corrupt our wisdom through dissemblance of bad information.

For instance, it will become apparent how you will be able to identify good politicians and bad politicians by understanding the kind of principals that they have. The politician seals his or her own fate through their principal-based action, or the lack thereof. Life seems to entitle them whether they are good politicians or bad. It is hard to come to total agreement about true principles upon which to make judgments since “professionals” have compromised the standard of principles greatly, have separated law and morals as valid tools of discern-



ment, and because human society has exceedingly been manipulated by many deliberately-purposed leaders and their beliefs for thousands of years.

It doesn't take long to determine a person's intentions and motivations, no matter how much they try to hide all the possible ways they deceive, if you have sound principles. In order to have these sound principals we must first come to the point of putting our feelings and emotions aside, then observe and digest the available information from a multi-faceted perspective, growing ourselves to a higher level of maturity and understanding. When we grow mature enough to apply the second pillar, principal, we can see how those “bad politicians” believe people to be “Dummies” or treat people as “Stupid.” We can see how those “Bad Politicians” will eventually receive the effect of judgmental decisions by the average constituent sooner or later and are dumped or unseated, or sometimes even sentenced to jail, by an angry populace leading a movement to correct their mistake in judgment—if not outright criminality.

Everyone is moved to watch out for their own self-interests. Principals of safety govern our daily activities. They impress upon us the wisdom of making decisions to maintain or disconnect a relationship with someone or something. We don't need to learn philosophy in universities to understand what kind of principals we should have as we live our numbered days on this planet—provided that we build our first pillar strong. This is an on-going process which we will perfect daily throughout our lives, thus establishing our pillars of wisdom accordingly.

Having been told about principals from scripture, we as humans constantly fight against those principalities. We compare the principles we learn from the pillars of wisdom and try to arrive at better, if not Godly, principles to govern our lives, thus turning our backs upon the principals that determine to direct us away from wisdom. In order to have long lasting wisdom, building one's principles is considered second to having proper fear or awe of God, in my estimation.

SABBATH — DAY OF GRACE

Calvin Burrell

Most people of faith understand that Sabbath is linked directly to the Bible's first chapter, its first story. We know and could tell, if we would, that God made all things in six days, then stopped working and set aside the seventh day as special from the start (Genesis 1 and 2:1-3).

In the creation story, we learn that Sabbath is the Day of Rest for a God who is never tired. Sadly, not all His people see the need of a weekly rest-day for themselves. In spite of Sabbath's uneven observance in these troubled and toilsome times, the Bible's 52 days-off each year remain available to all who recognize their need for the gift of rest and receive it by faith.

First then, if not foremost, the seventh-day is a Day of Rest for God who invites us to join Him in the weekly respite. But there is more than a first for this truth of Sabbath.

The same Sabbath that was a day of the Law is now a Day of Grace?

After its introduction in the second chapter, the seventh day is writ large again in the Bible's second book—a book of the law: “Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy” — i.e., keep it set apart and separate. This command in Exodus prompts some to presume that Sabbath is little more than a piece of

the law.

We gladly affirm that a seventh day's rest from six days of labor was engraved on stone tablets at Mt. Sinai. There it joins other noble words of immense benefit for people, written and recommended by God: put Him first; don't blaspheme His name; honor your parents and treat others' lives, spouses, properties, and reputations with much respect. These commands are the top ten moral laws God gave to Israel or to anyone, prior to the gospel (Exodus 20:2-17).

Its written repository within the Decalogue, then, is no discredit to the Sabbath. To refute the seventh day's sanctity because it's a Day of the Law is to show ignorance of the role God ordained for His holy commandments in both old and new covenants. (Deuteronomy 6:24, 25; Hebrews 8:8-12 and 10:15-17).

Still there is more. Having said that Scripture's Sabbath was primarily a day of Rest and secondarily a day of the Law, we now state our climactic conviction about the Bible's one and only seventh-day Sabbath. An astonishing claim it is: ultimately, Sabbath is a day of Grace!

"What?" you exclaim with unfeigned surprise. "The same Sabbath that was a day of the Law is now a Day of Grace? How can that be? Isn't God's grace in direct contrast to His law? You have your work cut out for you on this one, sir!"

Stay with me, then, for three main reasons why Sabbath is a day of grace, and I'll let you go.

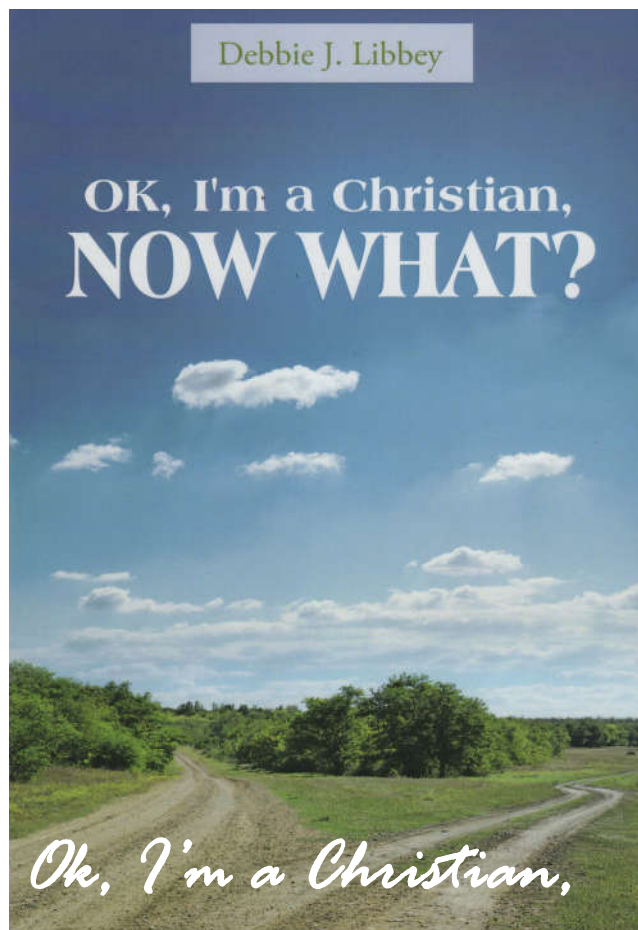
1. Because it was celebrated by the Lord of grace and truth, Sabbath may be regarded as a day of grace in truth. Jesus regularly assembled on the seventh day for prayers (i.e., at the throne of grace), for learning (i.e., to grow in grace and truth), and for helping and healing others (i.e., grace to live and thrive). He taught that Sabbath was God's gift (i.e., grace) for all people, not just for Jews. (John 1:14; Luke 4:16; Mark 2:23-3:4; Matthew 11:28-12:13)

2. Because it is celebrated by resting and trusting—much like salvation is received, the seventh day is a dramatic re-enactment of our first love for Christ in whom we rest and trust to be saved. Sabbath and salvation, then, are alike at the core, the one a symbol and reminder of the other. Both flow from God's generous grace, and are neither attained nor maintained by works. (Ephesians 2:8, 9; Hebrews 4:1-11)

3. Because it reminds us of an eternal rest yet to be realized, Sabbath is a gift of God's ultimate grace. In its true nature of rest, grace and peace, every seventh day of the week stands as an enduring symbol of God's consummation until Christ returns at the end of the age. Then the weekly shadow will become the true Sabbath reality—an eternal totality of rest, grace, and peace. (Romans 6:23; Hebrews 4:1-11; Revelation 21:1-7)

Now we lay our pen to rest. We trust the Holy Spirit to complete the work by convicting us that Sabbath is much more than a day of rest and a day of moral law—although it is both.

Ultimately, Sabbath is a day of amazing grace because it illustrates God's unmerited favor toward us in Christ in astonishingly accurate ways, as set forth above. This grace-centered view of Sabbath matches well with a Christ-focused people of God saved and sustained by rest and peace in Him.



*OK, I'm a Christian,
NOW WHAT?*

By Debbie Libbey

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Becky is a new Christian looking for a home church. A church that will answer her question; What is sin? For the Bible says, "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God." And it says to "repent and sin no more." How can she "sin no more" if she doesn't know what sin is? She prays for guidance and is lead to a home church. A church she never thought she would end up at. So which church will she chose? The traditional main stream church or this unconventional home church?

Sabbath-Post New Testament

Bob Thiel, Ph.D.

This is the fifth part of a five-part series explaining why certain early documents that are claimed against the seventh-day Sabbath are misunderstood and not actually against it.

In my previous articles, I explained that the Greek word Κυριακήν did not mean Sunday and many have misinterpreted writings from the Didache and Ignatius of Antioch's Letter to the Magnesians as endorsing Sunday. Thus, the earliest claimed post-New Testament documents cited as "proof" that the seventh-day Sabbath was done away truly did not do so.

Is there other proof?

Yes.

If Jesus and/or His apostles did away with the Sabbath as many claim, then it would be reasonable to conclude that the later faithful disciples would not keep it. Yet, other records and writings demonstrate that the faithful did continue to keep the seventh-day Sabbath.

It is well known that from the first century until about 135 A.D. the first fifteen bishops/pastors of Jerusalem all kept the seventh-day Sabbath and were all circumcised Jews (Eusebius. The History of the Church, Book III, Chapter V, Verses 2,3.& Book IV, Chapter 5, Verses 2-4, pp. 45, 71).

Although they have their own biases, even the historians Philip Schaff and Johann Gieseler correctly noted:

"The Jewish Christians, at least in Palestine, conformed as closely as possible to the venerable forms of the cultus of their fathers, which in truth were divinely ordained, and were an expressive type of the Christian worship. So far as we know, they scrupulously observed the Sabbath, the annual Jewish



feasts, the hours of daily prayer, and the whole Mosaic ritual" (Schaff, Philip, History of the Christian Church, Chapter 9. Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc. 1997. This material has been carefully compared, corrected, and emended according to the 1910 edition of Charles Scribner's Sons by The Electronic Bible Society, Dallas, TX, 1998.)

"While the Jewish Christians of Palestine retained the entire Mosaic law, and consequently the Jewish festivals, the Gentile Christians observed also the Sabbath and the passover (1 Cor. v. 6-8), with reference to the last scenes of Jesus' life, but without Jewish superstition (Gal. iv. 10 ; Col. ii. 16)" (Gieseler, Johann Karl Ludwig. A text-book of church history, Volume I, Chapter II. New York : Harper & brothers. Date 1857-80).

It is known that early Jewish Christians did keep the Sabbath and biblical holy days. And as prophesied by Isaiah (Isaiah 56:1-7), so did the faithful Gentile Christians (and the Isaiah prophecy still has future application).

Ignatius and Polycarp

The faithful Gentile Christians were also keeping the Sabbath outside of Jerusalem. In the early second century, Pastor/Bishop Ignatius of Antioch wrote:

...to Polycarp, bishop of the Smyrnaeans...So approving am I of your godly mind, which is as it were, grounded upon an unmovable rock, that my praise exceeds all bounds...Do not let those who appear to be trustworthy yet who teach strange doctrines baffle you. Stand firm, like an anvil... Grace will be...always...with Polycarp [Ignatius. Letter to Polycarp. In: Holmes, pp. 194-201].

And according to the later testimonies of Irenaeus, Polycrates, and Tertullian, the leader of the Sabbath-keeping Smyrnaeans [The Martyrdom of Polycarp. Verse 8.1. In: Holmes, p. 233], Polycarp, did just that in Asia Minor.

Polycarp also taught that Christians should keep the commandments [Polycarp. Letter to the Philippians. In: Holmes, pp. 206-221].

"And on the following sabbath he said; 'Hear ye my exhortation, beloved children of God. I adjured you when the bishops were present, and now again I exhort you all to walk decorously and worthily in the way of the Lord...Watch ye, and again Be ye ready, Let not your hearts be weighed down, the new commandment concerning love one towards another, His advent suddenly manifest as of rapid lightning, the great judgment by fire, the eternal life, His immortal kingdom. And all things whatsoever being taught of God ye know, when ye search the inspired Scriptures, engrave with the pen of the Holy Spirit on your hearts, that the commandments may abide in you indelible.' "[Life of Polycarp, Chapter 24. (1889) from J. B. Lightfoot, The Apostolic Fathers, vol. 3.2, pp. 488-506]

(Note: While some claim Polycarp also kept Sun-

day, that appears to be a later edition to the text [Monroy MS. The Church of Smyrna: History and Theology of a Primitive Christian Community. Peter Lang edition, 2015, p. 31].)

According to the The Martyrdom of Polycarp by the Smyrnaeans [The Martyrdom of Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, Verses 7.1 & 8.1. Charles H. Hoole's 1885 translation] and other sources [Sozomen. THE ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY OF SOZOMEN. Book VII, Chapter XIX.], Christians in Polycarp's area kept the Sabbath after he died.

And since Polycarp referred to Ignatius as 'blessed' and endorsed Ignatius' letters in his Letter to the Philippians [Polycarp. Letter to the Philippians, verse 13.2. In: Holmes, p. 219], it is logical to conclude that Ignatius was faithful to the same teachings and practices that Polycarp did.

Theophilus

In the late second century, Pastor/Bishop Theophilus of Antioch wrote:

"And on the sixth day God finished His works which He made, and rested on the seventh day from all His works which He made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it; because in it He rested from all His works which God began to create...Moreover, [they spoke] concerning the seventh day, which all men acknowledge; but the most know not that what among the Hebrews is called the "Sabbath," is translated into Greek the "Seventh" (ἑβδομάς), a name which is adopted by every nation, although they know not the reason of the appellation...God having thus completed the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and all that are in them, on the sixth day, rested on the seventh day from all His works which He made" (Theophilus of Antioch. To Autolycus, Book 2, Chapters XI, XII, XIX. Translated by Marcus Dods, A.M. Excerpted from Ante-Nicene Fathers, Volume 2. Edited by Alexander Roberts & James Donaldson. American Edition, 1885, pp. 99,102).

The early faithful Gentile Christians kept the Sabbath. Until the early third century, there was harmony between the faithful Christians in Antioch and

Asia Minor.

Conclusion

Early Jewish and Gentile Christians kept the seventh day Sabbath. The faithful did not believe that the Sabbath was done away.

As explained in early parts of this article, neither the Didache or Ignatius' Letter to the Magnesians actually mention the term Sunday or directly refer to the first day of the week. The Didache is not an endorsement of early Sunday observance.

Ignatius, himself, would have had to be a supporter of the seventh day Sabbath and would not have written against it. Nor, if properly translated, do Ignatius' letters ever truly write against the seventh day sabbath--instead they endorse the concept that Christians are to keep the Sabbath in accordance with the commandments and the Lord's way of living, but not according to the ways endorsed by unbiblical Jewish tradition.

There is no evidence whatsoever that any who professed Christ regularly worshiped on Sunday when Ignatius was alive. The simple fact is that Ignatius' writings do not support the idea that the early New Testament Church observed Sunday.

The Greek expression he used in Magnesians (κυριακήν ζωντες) simply did not mean Sunday when Ignatius wrote his letters. And there is no other contemporaneous reference that any professing Christian at the time of Ignatius observed Sunday. Available evidence (including the Bible, i.e. Acts 13:42-44; Hebrews 4:9) clearly supports the idea that early Christians kept the seventh day Sabbath.

The first clear reference to Sunday worship, even according to Roman Catholic sources, was from Justin Martyr [Slater T. Sunday. Transcribed by Scott Anthony Hibbs. The Catholic Encyclopedia, Volume XIV. Published 1912. New York: Robert Appleton Company. Nihil Obstat, July 1, 1912. Remy Lafort, S.T.D., Censor. Imprimatur. +John Cardinal Farley, Archbishop of New York]. Yet he held so many heretical positions [e.g. see Justin Martyr. The First Apology and Letter to Trypho], it makes no sense to this author that any could truly consider him to be a true Christian.

On the other hand, Polycarp and those faithful Christians who remained in Asia Minor and Antioch did continue to keep the Sabbath for centuries after Jesus died. Faithful Christians still keep the Sabbath to this day.

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WE WERE BORN WITH

Human Nature!

Darl Arbogast

When we were born God had already placed human nature into our being. When we opened our eyes for the first time knowledge began to dwell within us; our ears heard sounds and thus knowledge entered through the sense of hearing, very elementary at first. Gradually more understanding using our sense of taste, smell, and touch began to develop.

We were born into a world that had settled into various types of local civilizations. Some customs and traditions were good but not all of them. We accepted ideas and beliefs of our world taking for granted without question everything was good and normal.

Human nature is so complex very few people realize the concept of its meaning. Human nature has two sides, a physical natural side and a spiritual side. 1 Corinthians 15:46 NKJ - 46 "However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual."

At the beginning our natural spiritual side is pure selfish vanity which loves and tends to exalt oneself, it is self-centered and greedy; this is natural and normal! A baby thinks only about eating, sleeping, and clothes being changed. Later in life God gives us understanding as written in Job 32:8 NKJ - 8 "But there is a spirit in man, and the breath of the Almighty gives him understanding."

Blameless is the way of God's invisible, inexorable, spiritual law. Good is the way of God's law of love

as written in I Corinthians 13:1 thru 12 NKJ. 1

"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. 2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing. 4 Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; 5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; 6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part. 10 But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away. 11 When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. 12 For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known."

On the physical human nature side there are the five senses: seeing, hearing, tasting, smelling, and feeling. Thus human nature exerts an automatic, impulsive pull toward sensations of pleasure such

as: selfishness, greed, vanity, jealousy, envy, hatred, lusts with the wrong desires of the flesh. More times than not these pleasures are injurious, harmful and immoral as they pull us toward self-gratification. These five senses can lead to serious problems of many kinds so they must be controlled; but where do we begin?

The flesh is weak and with human nature it's natural to resent and resist authority. Some children tend to resist the authority of their parents sometimes at a very early age. If not corrected such children will grow up with a natural attitude of hostility, they don't want to be good, they dislike any authority, toward others and toward God. Parental guidance with close monitoring is wise! Proverbs 22:6 NKJ "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it."

The world today is lacking in spiritual knowledge needing happiness, peace and joy; which started many centuries ago. We are witnessing today a world that is unhappy, frustrated and insecure filled with hate, crime, violence, broken homes, quarreling families, sickness and disease, failures and tragedies. The daily news reports wars between the nations; and for nearly six thousand years



there has been only curses, war, strife and violence, frustration and failure. Without God man has failed and will continue to fail, it seems that nearly all the gains made by civilizations are eventually destroyed by war.

God is love, He is not the author of these problems and all of the confusion in the world.

We receive faith, hope and love on the physical level through family affection etcetera, so let it be known that the spiritual level and the physical level are very different. Our understanding of 1 Corinthians 13:13 is supplemented by God Himself, He opens our minds through His influence by His Holy Spirit.

God teaches us faith, hope and love on a spiritual level through His Word as we are not born with these qualities. Without love we are nothing! 1 Corinthians 13:13 NKJ. "And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love."

Love travels a certain road; a road of peace, happiness, confident assurance, security, well-being, enjoyment, every good thing the heart desires and needs.

God has made humans free moral agents, and allotted nearly six thousand years for mankind to make choices; whether to accept God's laws for government, and to be ruled by God's law of love or blunder along going Satan's way.

1 Peter 3:11,12 NKJ - "Let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it. 12 For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayers; but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."

It is a mystery why some people do evil, even college professors and intellectuals as they become atheists or communists! They surely know the

world is not right, they grasp at straws and hope, under some form of delusion that some form of human government can make the world a better place.

God can make all men wise! Psalm 19:7 NKJ - 7 The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.

God has made man for a great purpose. We know God Almighty is soon going to intervene supernaturally and with divine power in spite of the governments and ways of all societies; God will bring peace and happiness to humanity in the near future!

How is God going to fulfill His promise of bringing peace, happiness and love toward one another as it is written in His Word, the Holy Bible?

The answer is that during the millennium God is going to enforce His law of love with His divine power. There will be personal living, community living and international living that will automatically produce that utopia; the promise of God in due time. God is not going to do this alone. His plan will be to gather the resurrected saints, born again in the very likeness of Himself to staff His government. Jesus Christ will be king of the earth, David will be king of a new Israel, the twelve Apostles will sit on thrones judging the people and the Bride of Christ will be teachers during the thousand years called the millennium.

Revelation 20:6 NKJ - "Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years."

Matthew 19:28 NKJ - "So Jesus said to them, 'Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration,

when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.'"

Jeremiah 30:8,9 NKJ - " 'For it shall come to pass in that day,' Says the LORD of hosts, 'That I will break his yoke from your neck, and will burst your bonds; foreigners shall no more enslave them. 9 But they (the remnant of Israel during the millennium) shall serve the Lord their God, and David their king, Whom I will raise up (resurrect) for them.' "

King David had been dead about 200 years when Hosea 3:5 was written, "Afterward the children of Israel shall return and seek the LORD their God and David their king. They shall fear the LORD and His goodness in the latter days."

Born again is to be born of a resurrection! These are the saints, people who repented of their carnal human nature, those who cried out to God to change their nature, and fill them with the matchless supreme gift of His divine love through His Holy Spirit and are promised immortality.

The one thousand year period is the beginning of the Kingdom of God on this earth. John 3:3 NKJ. "Jesus answered and said to him, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again (resurrected), he cannot see the kingdom of God.' "

Those souls through real repentance of what they once were, through faith in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, as well as in His resurrected life and power, are forgiven their past guilt. They are converted and have received His Holy Spirit, having been begotten as His children, and are receiving this divine nature. They will be resurrected to spirit beings (which is being born again) when Christ comes to gather the saints. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13 thru 18.

In other words, they repent of human nature; they repent of hostility to authority, of resentment against God's law. They surrender unconditionally to God and whole-heartedly want His law and His love in their lives. God has changed them from rebellion to submission; going from self-centeredness to being God centered. In Spirit they let Jesus Christ come into their lives and actually live His life through them, Galatians 2:20 NKJ. "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

Receiving God's Holy Spirit at baptism is just the beginning; we must then be led by God's Spirit. God's Spirit opens the mind to understanding of spiritual truth and to the knowledge of God's law and the way one should follow Him.

God's Spirit is the love of God, God's own divine love flooding into the human heart and mind then flowing on out "in love to God and love to each neighbor." One must continually study the Bible to

be able to grow in spiritual knowledge. This means man must be overcoming his own carnal nature, old habits, and the temptations of the world (overcoming is an ongoing process). We must change! We must develop toward perfect spiritual righteous character. The sincere Christian is undergoing a life of training to become a ruler in God's Kingdom, the happy and peaceful world of tomorrow, the millennium and beyond.

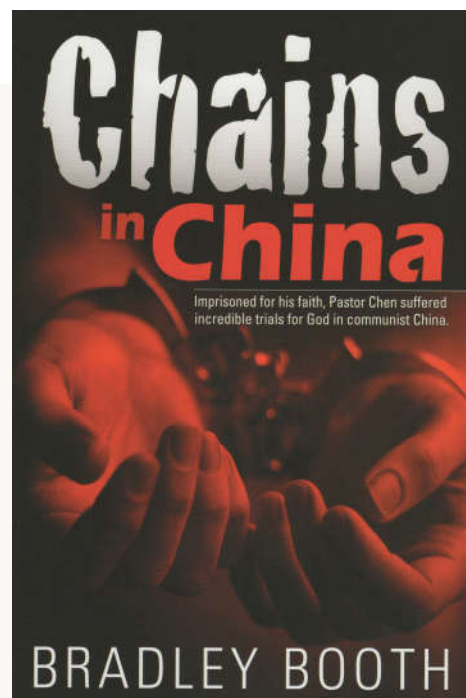
God is now changing our thinking from the old way to His way, bringing a brilliant joyous utopia to the earth in a very few years when God sends His living Son, Jesus the Christ in all power and glory to rule over all the nations.

A new Christian can't learn everything in a minute, a day, or a year. A Christian doesn't become perfect but can improve from the beginning; it's a continuous development. As we are developing a new and different mindset and a new attitude, a person on a spiritual journey doesn't overcome or root out all the sins, the wrongs, or habits, all at once. One must take one step at a time, little by little. Revela-

CHAINS in CHINA

by Bradley Booth

In 1960, Chen, a faithful young Seventh-day Adventist, was imprisoned and thrown into "the cage" for refusing to work on the Sabbath. In spite of living in the worst kind of filth and subsisting on a starvation diet, Chen looked for every opportunity to tell his fellow prisoners and prison officials about the loving God he served. B246 \$15.00 + \$2.00 shipping



tion 2:26, 27 NKJ. "And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations— 27 'He shall rule them with a rod of iron; they shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels'-- as I also have received from My Father."

Why do the nations of this world need to be ruled by Jesus Christ and trained under Christian leadership? Because all the unhappiness, and everything wrong with this world has come from living the way of human nature (the way that seems right to a man), the way of hostility to God's law and God's government. God's way is the only way this world can have peace, prosperity and happiness; this produces desired blessings. For nearly the past 6,000 years humanity has been vexed by the merciless influence of Satan enticing them away from God through what scripture calls "the wiles of the devil."

It is important to keep in mind that getting started on the right path, doing what God wants and not get discouraged, if we slip and fall down along the way a few times just get up and keep going. Even if we have sinned; we can repent and say, "we are sorry." Christ is our High Priest and He forgives. I John 1:7 thru 10 and 1 John 2:1,2 NKJ is written to converted Christians. "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us. 1 My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. 2 And He Himself is the propitiation (our counselor and reconcil-

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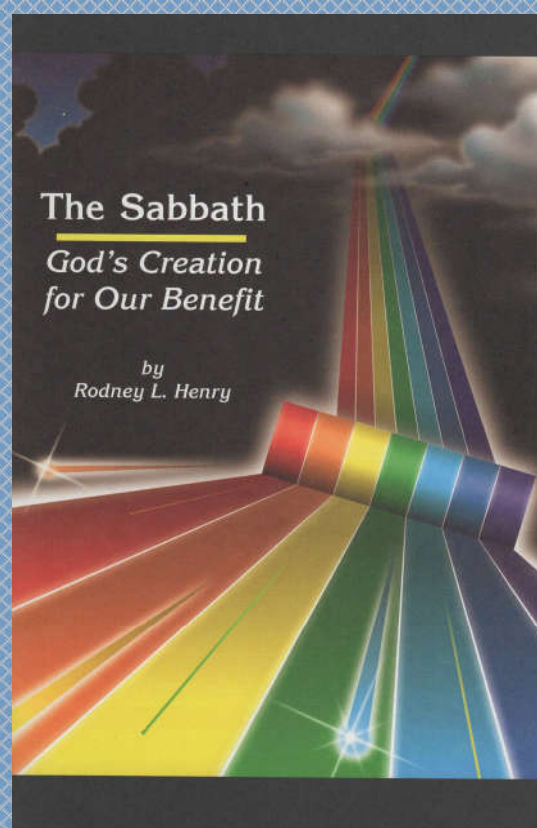
er) for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.”

At the time of the coming of Christ to gather the saints the dead in Christ will be resurrected and rise to meet the descending Christ in the air. At that instant those then living who have been converted, begotten by God’s Holy Spirit, will be changed in composition, from mortal to immortal, from matter to spirit, from human to divine will join the others.

1 Thessalonians 4:13 thru 18 NKJ. “But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. 15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.”

Christ’s resurrected followers are to rule under the all-powerful living Christ, until all nations beat their swords into plowshares, their spears into pruning hooks, and peace shines forth on this war weary earth!

Jesus Christ taught His followers to pray: “In this manner, therefore, pray: our Father in heaven, Hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.” Matthew 6:9 thru 13 - NKJ.



The Sabbath: God's Creation for Our Benefit

By Rodney Henry

B251 \$5 + 1 shipping

A short study traces Sabbath through the Scriptures, pointing out its role and importance through history before noting its relevance for today. The book includes study questions at the end of each chapter and a closing review which summarizes its main points.

OBEDIENCE IN THE SO-CALLED "NEW TESTAMENT"

D. J. Wellington

"If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother."

This is written to all the brothers and sisters out there who I may never even meet.

There are quite a few. There are so many who strive to learn our Heavenly Father's ways yet come upon roadblocks which are hard to get past. One of these roadblocks has to do with Yahweh's laws in the so-called "New Covenant" scriptures (Jeremiah 31:33, Hebrews 8:10 profess what the "real new covenant" is).

As the title verse indicates, if you believe a brother sins, we are told to point it out going on the premise that if something is not in accord with scripture it would be sinful, not only for his/her sake but for those who may look to them for instruction. I'm referring to items which can be proven from scriptures to be correct. I am so thankful for the brothers and sisters over the years who have shown me where I've been lacking. I am certain there are areas still, but I continue striving and appreciate the input of others.

Sadly because of pride and other issues, many cannot put their age-old beliefs on the back burner and look at scriptures "as a child" any longer. We are in the end times and are told "knowledge will increase." How can "knowledge increase" if one does not have a soft heart to learn, or has too much pride to admit he or she may have been wrong for "x"

number of years? "Knowledge increasing" can NOT be new learners of truth because for something to "increase," there must be something to start with.

Many years ago, I (like many folks even today) believed in the "two law doctrine" (one which was inside the ark to last forever and the book of the law on the outside to be replaced). It was my inability to "learn as a child" that I could not let go of this "two law" concept and, therefore, could not see beyond it. There were brothers and sisters who patiently helped me to see the falsity of my beliefs—I am thankful and learned from that to be open to new truths in these end times.

First of all, by our Father's own instructions, there is ONE LAW for all (Numbers 15:16) and if you believe His words, you ARE part of the commonwealth of Israel (Ephesians 2:12). Yahshua confirmed this in Matthew 22:36-40 ("....depend the whole Law and the Prophets.") That being said, other factors should be considered such as:

- When Messiah walked the earth, there was no so-called "New Testament." He and His apostles walked, talked and taught the original Scriptures. This was an eye-opening revelation for me when the truth of that statement sunk in. You see this drastically by the number of times the original "old covenant" scriptures are quoted from.
- Our Father states clearly, "I do not change" (Malachi 3:6) and His Son states, He came to do His Father's will (John 6:38).
- If the Messiah kept His (and our) Father's com-

mands (John 15:10) and we are to walk as He walked (1 John 2:6), we also are to keep the Father's commands.

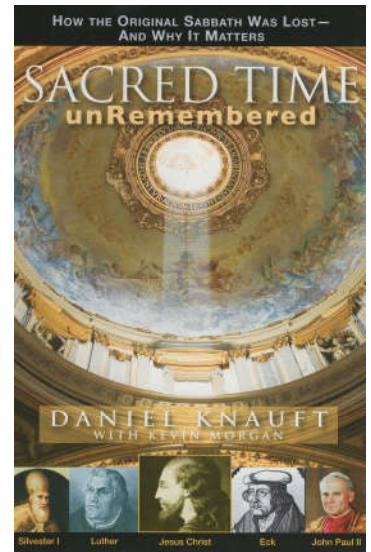
The Messiah could not change His Father's instructions (John 5:19). If you say you know Him and do NOT keep His commands, scripture says you're a "liar" (1 John 2:4) which is pretty strong language.

- Even the sacrificial laws were in effect AFTER MESSIAH'S death (Acts 21:23-26). NOTE: The temple was destroyed at some point later than this at which time animal sacrifices could no longer be performed. The important thing to note is that they were performed AFTER the Messiah was killed and those laws were not part of the "Big Ten."

There is a website out there (<https://www.scripturenews2use.org>) which focuses on folks learning for themselves what scriptures say in accord with Philippians 2:12 to work out our OWN salvation. How? "...with fear and trembling...." It also exposes many falsities presented every week-end (Sabbath AND Sundays) at churches and assemblies which actually violate His words.

When Messiah walked the earth, there was no so-called "New Testament."

It is my sincere prayer that this will fall upon soft hearts and open minds to research and change their lives accordingly. If you disagree in this, please write to the editor and request it be forwarded to me. May Almighty Yahweh be praised with all glory and honor!



Sacred Time unRemembered

By Daniel Knauff with Kevin
Morgan

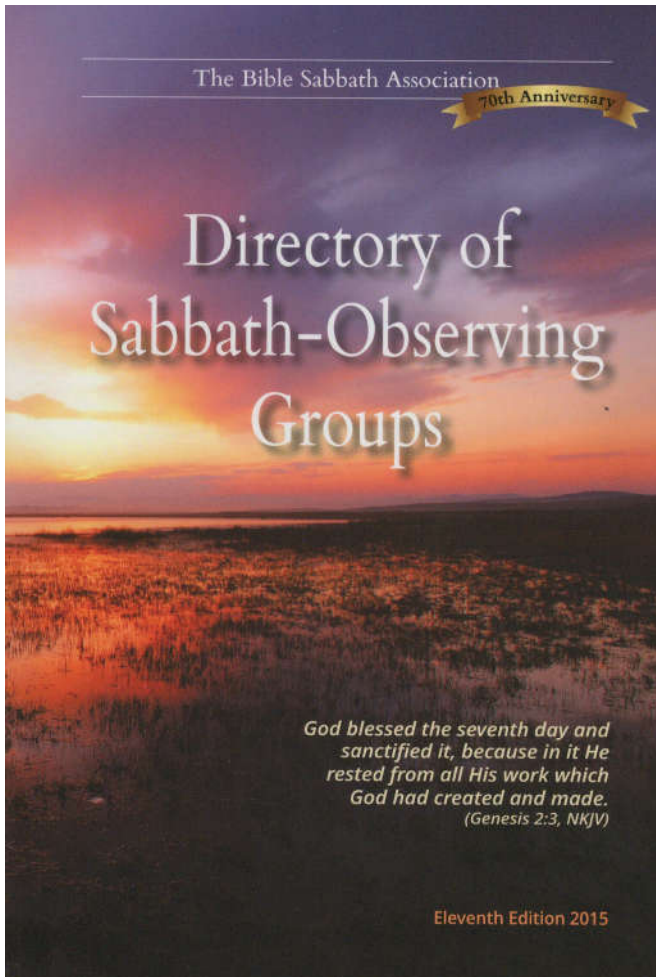
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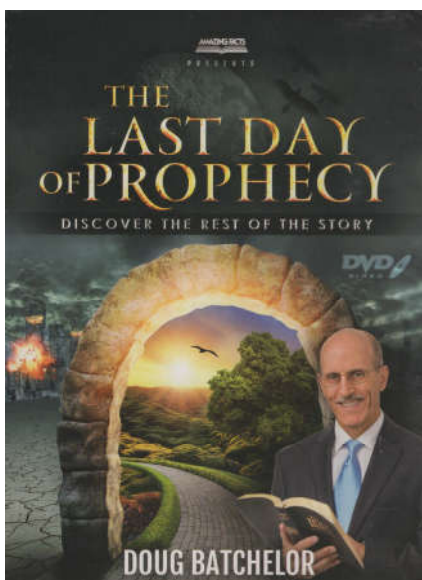
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Letters to the Editor



I really like all you're doing with The Sabbath Sentinel. I'm enclosing a research paper that I've worked on for many years that would be great information for the magazine.

Ellis Wiley

Thank you for your kind words, Mr. Wiley. Although your research does look interesting, time constraints prevent me from retyping all of that. If you will put that research "Studies On The Timing Of The Messiah" into a digital format such as pdf or doc then I'd be glad to consider it for a future edition.

—Ed.

I enjoyed the articles in the latest issue of TSS about images. Here is an article I wrote some years ago. It was published in a secular magazine for visual artists.

Daniel Botkin

We at the BSA are happy to hear that you are enjoying the articles in TSS. We at the Bible Sabbath Association are striving to provide a variety of articles for the brethren reading the magazine. On your article about "The Anti-Imagery Folks," it looks very interesting at first glance. However, time constraints prohibit my typing that article in. If you'll resend it to me in digital format to the email address Royce.mitchell@rocketmail.com I'd be happy to consider adding that article to a future edition of TSS.

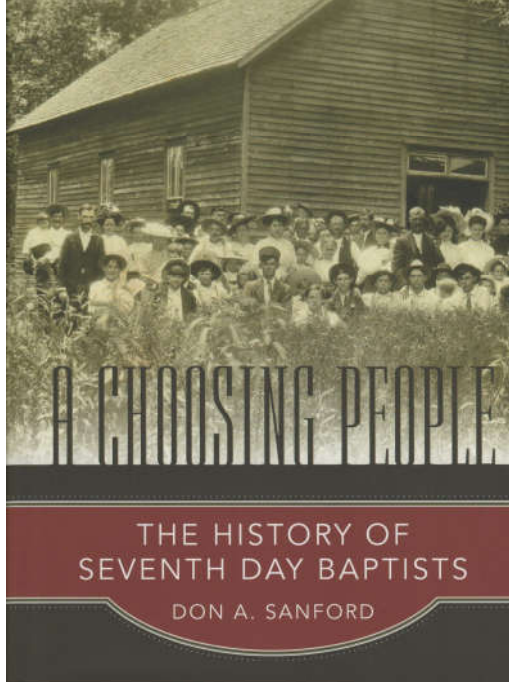
—Ed.

I enjoy your editorials—keep it up. ... I do have some thoughts on feast days. We COGs may be incorrect on a few things, not totally wrong.

Arlo Gieselman

Thank you very much for your kind words and for the several articles and other literature. I'd love to put some of those into a future TSS but, as stated previously, I don't have the time to retype those items. Please resubmit them to me at my email address and I will consider any of them for publication.

Messrs. Christopher Shearin and Richard Shafer, thank you for your letters, hand-written articles and drawing. Unfortunately,



A Choosing People:

The History of the Seventh Day Baptists

(2nd Ed)

By Don Sanford

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420-page hardback. This recently revised and updated second edition documents the history of the oldest Sabbath-keeping Christian denomination from its roots in the Reformation to a worldwide movement spanning six continents.

I can only use digital articles. I ask that you and everyone having an article to submit please put it in digital format and send it to me at the aforementioned email address so that I can consider it.

—Ed.

Did a quick run through of TSS and the first thing we noticed was the cover.....wonderful and peaceful cover. Looks like several good articles. Thanks.

Bryan Burrell

That is high praise coming from a long-time BSA member and officer! Thanks for your kind words.

—Ed.



SCRIPTURE NEWS 2 USE

There is a new website out there dedicated to two purposes. First, to have the books of the

Bible in form that even younger people can understand. It is beneficial for home-schoolers as well as useful for Sabbath lessons.

<https://scripturenews2use.org/bible-books>

The other purpose is to encourage all people to read their Bibles to “prove” what is true and what is not, challenging for themselves what is commonly taught.

<https://scripturenews2use.org>

The time is shorter than we may think!
May our Heavenly Father guide and direct all to draw them closer to Him!

The Sabbath Sentinel

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