



# *The Sabbath Sentinel*

**May-June  
2020**

## **Important Announcement:**

**The Bible Sabbath Association is phasing out direct sales of materials effective 7/1/2020.**

**We are transitioning to an Amazon Store account by that time. Our website will soon be updated to reflect this.**

**If you'd like to purchase any of our current stock, please see the order forms of this and the past 5 issues for what's available!**

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# **SELF!**

**BSA — The Bible Sabbath Association**

***Jesus said, "I can of mine own self do nothing ...."***

# The Sabbath Sentinel May-June, 2020

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# Avoid the Devil's Details!

*Dr. Royce Mitchell*

There is among some of the brethren the tendency to want to make sure that everyone has exactly correct doctrine according to the Word of God. Some are kind and understanding of differences in understanding. Some are combative and accusative of the brethren.

Certainly, it can be understood that good-hearted brethren want others to be sure that they are right before God so that they are accounted worthy to stand before Him at the end. However, as former presidential candidate Ross Perot said in his campaign speeches, "the devil's in the details." Our desire for the brethren to have the "right" understanding is one place where the devil can insert himself if we are not carefully watching ourselves.

*2Ti 3:16 -17* says this: "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." This scripture combined with the Christ's saying that "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth ..." (Jn 16:13) is taken to an extension that is not warranted by scripture.

Some of us have the idea that we are guided into all truth. Because of that, when we see any difference in doctrine between us and others, we react in ways that do not represent the Christ well.

As an example, I have heard the statement that "If you are not keeping the right (you fill in the blank) then you can't be worshipping the same God as I am." Inherent in that statement is that, since there is only one God, our friends must be worshipping that which is not God, a direct violation of the commandments laid down in Exodus 20.

"What's wrong with that?" Some will ask. "Getting

it right is important to our salvation!" That is, I suppose, a fair question. However, it is one that demands an answer to another question beforehand. That question is "Where in the scripture does it say that 'except you know and understand every doctrine perfectly and walk in it that you cannot be saved?'" Of course, as we well know, there is no such statement in the scripture.

What about the scripture in *2Ti*, then? The answer is contained right in the scripture. It says that ALL scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable. In whatever way we react to differences in understanding, it needs to be in the light of ALL of the scriptures!

For instance, when we read that the Spirit will guide us into all truth, we have to notice what is written as well as what is not written there. It does not say that the Spirit will guide us into all truth immediately, or even in our lives! We will indeed be guided into all truth, but in God's time, not ours. All of the wrestling with the Word of God over differences in some lesser dogma are an attempt, perhaps with good intent, to force an understanding on another to which, perhaps, the Spirit isn't yet leading.

This is not to say that we should not discuss the Way and how we see it in our interactions. Of course we should! But, the scripture (*1Pe 3:15*) says that we should be "ready to give an answer." Giving an "answer" presupposes a question!

For instance, if we go to someone and tell them that they need to be wearing tassels and not shaving our beards, but have not been asked about that, we have not obeyed the commandment telling us to be ready with an answer.

The Christ's brother, James, wrote this to us: "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." (Jas 4:17). Some take this as a mandate to make sure that everyone else is doing

good. This scripture is not discussing getting everyone else right. It is discussing getting ourselves right. In other words, if we “know” that we ought to wear tassels, refrain from eating at a restaurant on Sabbath, wear suits to church, or one of a myriad of differences we see in the Church, then we ought to be doing those things. What is not said is that we ought to be setting others on our path!

“Well, why not? Aren’t we supposed to teach? What about the Ethiopian eunuch?” Indeed, we are supposed to be “apt to teach.” However, let’s not take the scripture out of context. Here’s what is said: **2Ti 2:24-26** “*And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.*”

Space prohibits a complete analysis of that scripture, but, within the context of this article, we should notice that the apt teacher should not be a striver, someone who wants to argue! We should note that any instruction we give ought to be done in meekness, that is, in a gentle spirit just as one would teach a little child.

The Christ summed up this attitude for us. **Joh 13:34-35** “*A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*” We are not known to be His disciples by our correct doctrines or argument style. Everything we do with one another and, by extension, the world, ought to be done in love for one another.

Beyond this, in the scripture in **2Ti 2:24-26** the discussion is related to instructing those who “oppose themselves” and are in the “snare of the devil.” This scripture was never written to use our own particular dogma or difference to create a separation between ourselves and our other brethren. It was merely written to show how to help those who have slipped.

What we need to realize is that God is capable of

discerning our hearts just as well as everyone else’s hearts. Notice this in **Heb 4:12** “*For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*”

We should understand that God, who is a discerner of our thoughts, knows whether or not we have the doctrine right. He knows whether or not our brethren have the doctrine perfectly right. And, as previously shown, it is the Spirit that leads us into all truth—not the arguments we have, however well worded and finely crafted they might be! We ought not to be trying to do the work reserved for the Spirit, except as God leads them to ask us a question about those things. As well, those asking questions should be doing so with sincerity, not to create an argument!

For too long we brethren in the Church, not all of us but way too many of us, have felt, and acted, like our own brand of Christianity is the only right way and everyone else must be headed down the wrong path toward Satan. We then have taken it on ourselves to “correct” those “errors,” not realizing that we have one huge error that needs addressing. We need to love one another first and foremost.

There are many “styles” of worship in the Church of God. Some like to dance and shout. Some are more reserved. For instance, during the recent BSA conference, we were able to attend a local messianic-type of service. There was much dancing and singing. It was uplifting, but it isn’t my cup of tea. Does that make their “style” worse than ours? Or better? It does neither. It is just different!

God desires each of us to look into His Word and to allow the Spirit to lead us. Men can be sincere, with good intentions, but wrong. Therefore, let’s look into His Word and, instead of finding our differences troubling, see them as God does—different flavors from the same wonderful Body of Christ. After all, the eye is not the hand, or the foot, is it?

—Ed.





# How Should We Respond to COVID-19?

Kelly McDonald

Much of the world has been affected by the Corona Virus (also called COVID-19). This virus has spread to many places in a relatively short time period. In the United States, businesses are closing in various parts of the country. Schools and other events are being suspended. Large segments of the population are going to find themselves either without work or quarantined to one degree or another. Forms of entertainment are suspended at the present and could be for the next few months. In other words, we are all going to have some or a lot of extra time on our hands.

## What should we do with it?

As Christians, we should have a unique perspective to the world. We have hope (*Romans 5:1-5*). We have precious promises to remind us that God is with us no matter what happens. Consider *Romans 8:28*: "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." Consider also *Matthew 28:20*: "And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

We also have a relationship with the Creator of the Universe. One of the ways that we access His provision is prayer. As Paul wrote "Pray without ceasing" (*I Thess. 5:17*; see also *Romans 8:26*). We can pray anywhere – and it is a vital tool to help us and others focus during a time that seems uncertain. There's so much we cannot control around us – but we can control our response. We know the God who is more than able to part Red Seas and even abate plagues. In this article, I want to walk you through a prayer strategy to help you and others.

**1) Examine yourself – 2 Corinthians 13:5.** Take time to look at your own relationship with God. Is it where it needs to be? Where have you fallen short? Have you allowed the various closed activities, such as work, entertainment, or schooling, to come between you and God? Are you studying to show yourself approved? (*2 Tim. 2:15*). What does your prayer life look like? Have you become negligent of your brothers and sisters in Christ? Have you become lukewarm in your commandment keeping? (*Rev. 3:15-22*) Has God called you to do something and you have ignored it or allowed busy-ness to occupy your time? (*Matt. 25:14-30*) In a world with so much finger pointing, we need to look at ourselves first and foremost (*Matthew 7:1-5*).

**2) Ask God for forgiveness and repent –** In whatever realm we have fallen short, each of us (including myself) needs to ask God to forgive us and then repent. Repent means to change your mind in such a way that it changes your lifestyle. Whatever you asked God to forgive you for, be prepared to take action. If you haven't been honest with people, then make the commitment to change and be honest. If you have neglected the study of God's word, then take the time to do so. If you haven't really prayed/sought God's will for your life, then do it. Get serious about your calling and election. If you need to talk to a brother or sister in Christ, then give them a call. We have the time to do it. (There are some life changes you need to make that you will have to wait until after this virus passes over to carry out. If that's the case, pray for a strategy and courage to do so when the opportunity makes itself known.)

**3) Ask God to forgive the sins of our nation –** Once we have examined ourselves, we need to take a long

hard look at the sins of our country. Over 60 million babies have been aborted and marriage/sexuality has been perverted. We have made idols of our entertainment; we trust too much in our prosperity. The commandments of God are transgressed with wild abandon. You may find other things, but those are the obvious ones I am praying about. We need to ask God to forgive our nation and cause the nation to repent.

During this crisis, pray that God will cause everyone to see their own sins and shortcomings. Ask God to reveal to everyone in our country that our prosperity could be gone in a heartbeat (as it has been reduced very quickly) and that we should look to Him as our source instead of our stuff. Since we will all be doing a lot less, I believe it may be easier for God to get people's attention (Be still and know). Ask God to heal our land.

**4) Pray for our leaders** – I can't imagine the logistical obstacles that leaders in government are overcoming to adjust to this situation. The virus is newer, so we don't have prior experience with its symptoms/after effects. Let's pray for our leaders to make sound, wise decisions.

**5) Pray for people affected by the virus** – God is the healer; one of the reasons Christ came was to bring us healing through His stripes. Ask God to supernaturally intervene to heal those who are affected by the virus.

**6) Pray for healthcare and other essential workers** – Some people will have to go to work no matter what happens. Healthcare workers, law enforcement officers, firefighters, electrical workers, etc. Pray for those who are in essential fields to be protected from this virus and have confidence to continue their necessary job.

**7) Pray for necessities to continue uninterrupted** – Pray for the factories and industries that make necessities (such as food, etc.) to continue uninterrupted and the workers that deliver them (truck drivers) to be unimpeded.

**8) Pray for those who are quarantined** – Some people will voluntarily stay inside while others will be forced to do so. Some people don't do well in closed environments. Pray for the God of hope to help them cope with the situation. He is the God of all comfort.

**9) Pray for those who are unemployed** – A lot of people are becoming unemployed. Ask for God to give them supernatural provision in this time and favor. Ask for God to do it in a way where they will recognize it is His hand at work.

**10) Pray for people to remain calm and helpful** – Humans tend to fear uncertainty; this can lead to selfishness. Pray for people to remain calm and level-headed during this time. Remind yourself and others of the verse: "*Love your neighbor as yourself.*"

**Lastly, pray for us all to learn something from this whole ordeal.** While none of us chose for these events to happen, our God uses events like this to teach us and guide us. Be keenly aware of what lessons you might learn in this season. If you are worried or concerned, ask God to increase your faith and give your strength in this time. Go through encouraging verses in the Bible, such as many of the Psalms, that will help you cope with the situation.

Too often we treat prayer as our last option. Let's make it our priority and what our God work in us and in the world around us. God Bless.



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# PROPHECY REVELATIONS— AND TIMELINES

*Ray E. Daly, rayedaly@bis.midco.net*

In the following, I will endeavor to present some of the various steps and actions that will point out what can be expected of mankind in the time period before the return of the Son of Man. I will begin in the Book of Revelation with that which seems to show the actual "beginning" of the end times. Other prophesied events will be shown, as they relate to the timing of Revelation's story. Note that said prophecies will be basically contrary to many, if not most, of the past prophetic teachings that most of us are well aware of, all of which prophecies have failed to date. If Scripture is viewed as recorded, then no "failed prophecy" can be found to become a true prophecy at a future time.

**Rev. 6:1-2.** 1st Seal. *"The Lamb opened the first seal...And I saw...a WHITE horse. and he that sat on him had a BOW. And a crown was given to him. And he went forth conquering and to conquer."* White horses picture religions, or religious figures. In this case, it is likely referring to the head of the Roman Church. And note that he has a "bow." However, nothing is said about an "arrow" being with the bow.

There not being an arrow is much as it has been since the coming to power of the Catholic Church in past times. The Popes wanted to do something, such as in the crusades, to gain control of Jerusalem and Judea. But to be able to do this, they had to have the armies of the various nations' kings to bring about such conquests. In a sense, these "armies" were his arrows.

As to the Roman religious leader going out and "conquering," if one has read, heard, or seen the news media's reports, the present Pope has been doing the "conquering" even today. He has gone to the religious leaders of Islam, the Israeli Jews (actually, Edomite/Herodian Jews), and other Christian nations. Also, he has had legates meeting with

religious leaders in other areas, such as China. While the conquering relates to uniting the various religions on earth (especially Islam), to "conquer" fits more into the following.

**Rev. 6:3-4.** 2nd Seal. Here we see the beginning of the use of the arrow mentioned above. *"And there went out another horse that was RED. And power was given to him that sat thereon, to TAKE PEACE from the earth...!"* Red horses pictures state or military might. Quite likely the "conquer" of the 1st Seal. In this account, while it says horse in the singular, prophecy seems to show that it is referring to the "leader" of other military and religious forces. Quite likely this will be a European Christian individual.

But what of the words "Take Peace from the earth". In order to take something away, requires said something to be there in the first place. And indeed, there is a coming time of "peace on earth" prior to the return of the Son of Man, who will bring about genuine peace. We see this coming peace in the following:

**Zech. 1:8.** *"I saw by NIGHT, and behold a MAN riding on a red horse. And he stood among the MYRTLE TREES that were in the bottom. Behind him were RED horses, SPECKLED and WHITE."*

Consider the capitalized words above:

- 1)NIGHT: Showing that which is being done behind the scenes even today. Secrecy.
- 2)MAN: Referring to he that will be appointed/ elected to lead the United Nations' military and religious forces in a coming time of warfare, which warfare, by the way, will not be any type of world war. Rather, said warfare will be against all terrorists and they will all be destroyed. Even those nations that show war-like attributes, such as Iran and North Korea, will be forced to recant.
- 3)Myrtle Trees: In Scripture, myrtle trees are shown

to have been used as sites of ambush or sudden attacks.

4) Red Horses: This points to other nations being involved in the warfare against all terrorism there- by giving it the United Nations outlook.

5)Speckled: This simply is defined as "hissing." Likely it means a desire by all parties of the union to get started on their goals.

6) White horses: Again, showing that other reli- gions will be involved in the coming warfare against all of the earth's enemies. This would in- clude the more moderate Islamists, actually aiding in the total removal of their terrorist elements with- in their religion.

In V.10 we see the united military and religious forces "walking to and fro through the earth!" The results are shown in V.11. "All the earth sits still and is at rest!" Or, perhaps, all the earth is "at peace." I won't dwell on it here, but this obviously will be of the devil's doing. He will deceive today's religions into thinking that the "kingdom" is now on earth and preparing for the coming of the Son of Man. Of course, his "son of man" will be the false one.

The "peace" mentioned above, is the "peace" that will be "taken away" in *Rev. 6:4*. What is actually going to take place is that today's present Israeli [Edomite/Herodian] Jews will not allow either Eu- ropean Christianity, or Arabic Islam to have a place in Jerusalem or Judea. And, of course, European Christianity will want to have some control in Jeru- salem. Islam will want to have control of the Tem- ple Mount. When they are refused said controls, the Jews will fight against both parties. This war- fare is shown in *Luke 21:20*. "*When you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies [primarily Christian and Islam, but others may also be involved.], then know that its destruction is near!*"

*Rev. 6:5-8* speaks of "famine and pestilence." How- ever, said trials will likely be more the result of the changing of the earth. There are coming great earthquakes, accompanied by volcanic activities. The ash and smoke from the volcanoes will cover

the sun and not allow anything to grow. Thus, the famine will follow. And, of course, pestilence will follow said famine.

This has been only a short presentation of a much longer topic. At the same time, seeing an end to all terrorism (I pray it will include the terrorism of ille- gal drug manufacturing and distribution.) will be a blessing. Immigrants will be able to return to their homelands and rebuild. At the same time, the pre- sent "squatters" living in Judea will be gone, thus enabling the first of the migrant Israelite nations to return "home," meaning Judah, Benjamin, and Sime- on. We will be one great step closer to the return of the Son of Man who all the earth will see. *Rev. 6:16*.



## 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; visit- ing and interacting with other Sabbatarian fel- lowships; speaking on behalf of the BSA; Promo- tion and/or distribution of BSA materials and ser- vices; and assisting with this magazine, the BSA Facebook page, Twitter and other social media on projects defined by the Board of Directors.



# TRADITION OR TRUTH?

Darl Arbogast

Truth sometimes comes to us in sprinkles like shaking salt over our food already on the plate; the salt comes down like soft rain. Sometimes truth surprises us, leaving us wondering what is coming next. For example, in my life at the age of twelve, the first time Biblical truth was revealed to me I was reading the Bible - **Genesis 2:1 thru 3** NKJ - "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."

Before the age of twelve, church, to me, was a tradition people did on Sunday not understanding the reason why! I asked my mother why we worshipped on Sunday she said she didn't know. During my tender age of twelve our Pastor encouraged all to read the Bible every day especially the young people and that is when I began to read God's word.

In the process of time, as I continued to read the Bible, I came to **John 3:13** NKJ - 13 No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven. At this time many questions were forming in my head—and this verse was no exception. We were being taught the righteous go to heaven when they die, a heavy emphasis on hell for sinners. Yet here we were assembling for worship on a different day, a day that was not the Sabbath. No truth here!

And in the Old Testament, Exodus told me a lot! **Exodus 20:8 thru 11** NKJ - 8 "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six days you

shall labor and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. 11 For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

We were supposedly attending church to worship God and learn how to live a righteous life. My question was, why were we not following God's instructions as written in the Bible?

Looking back now I can see why so many people became skeptical about being involved with church. We were not observing the seventh day; the Apostle John wrote that we were not going to heaven, no one had gone to heaven but Jesus Christ who came down from heaven as written in **John 3:13**.

At the age of nine I discovered there was no Santa Claus. From then on Christmas was never the same to me; I felt betrayed by all. At my young age truth was important!

Since that time I have gone through the Bible cover to cover at least fifty or more times being loyal to one church for 23 years and being skeptical of nearly every church denomination on earth by reading up on their teachings and philosophies. In 1993 I stepped out of my church denomination and became independent from all corporate church organizations and joined the Bible Sabbath Association which is not a church but an association of Sabbath observing Christians. I made myself a promise to serve wherever, however and

whenever possible.

I have learned enough from my studies through the years to teach others truth as written in the Bible. My time is being spent writing and publishing a monthly newsletter and on occasion writing articles for TSS magazine. If I had joined a corporate church I would likely not be permitted to write for TSS or write monthly newsletters. My writings are from the Bible and what I write is sometimes contradictory to many church's traditions, doctrines and philosophies. Sadly some Churches tend to have traditions ahead of what the Bible teaches about a particular subject. The Bible is given to us for instructions on how to live so we need to read it! What good is it to own a Bible if it is not read? Deuteronomy chapter 28 tells us that promises of blessings are for obedience and promises of curses are for disobedience; this is a warning to us all.

It is very clear that everyone's personal relationship to God is a crucial thing and not to believe and follow blindly the traditions of a corporate church. Our relationship to God is based upon our obedience to His instructions as written in the Holy Bible—and nothing else. The gift of grace is from God; we obtain grace, faith, trust, believing and obeying only

from Him as this is the way we receive salvation—assuming we have repented.

Having a Church gathering at home with family and friends can be useful rather than being in attendance at an organized corporate church organization with a Bible tucked under our arm and appearing righteous like many seem to do today.

Freedom to worship is what we all want! Freedom to worship God the Father and Jesus Christ the Son as we are led by them through the pages of the Bible. Now we have the freedom to associate with others of different groups and to correspond with one another and being helpful in learning, plus continuing to advance in truth and knowledge all the time. We have the freedom to be taught things we have not learned before.

The Sabbath Sentinel magazine is a great vehicle for us to use in giving and sharing Christian experiences and Biblical truth. God's people can move forward alone or with a group whether independent or corporate only as we trust and obey God the Father and Jesus Christ, the Son.

Righteousness is being in right standing with God as we keep reaching for this goal.



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# End Time Preparation

Tommy Willis

Is this the End Time that the Bible talks about? Many Christians feel it is. Even many secular students of history are warning us about a foreboding sense of doom they feel. We should be aware of what's going on around us. In this article I would like to focus on two aspects—that of the end of the Age and our own personal end time.

If we will realize more how short life is, it can help us focus on what is most important. There is a reason the Bible tells us this. Below are three scriptures that make the point:

*“Show me, Lord, my life’s end and the number of my days let me know how fleeting my life is.” (Ps 39:4) niv.*

*14 “Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.” (James 4:14) niv.*

This is because *“All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall,” (1 Pet 1:24) niv.*

Too often we live in denial at the brevity of life. Even if we should live to be 100, there just isn't that many days in a human life span.

My Dad died five months ago; this lesson was driven home in my mind even more because I was caretaker for him. I'm 68 years old, and have had my own health problems for decades. I lived with him at home; he was in a wheelchair the last few years of his life. And he used to tell me many times that he never thought he would wind up like this. One day in a warm hearted conversation I asked him why he thought that, because many, if not most of us, wind up suffering and dying a slow death in hospitals or rest homes. Yet, we often reason to ourselves that it won't happen to us. He seemed to agree as we talked about it, and realized we live in denial of death and suffering.

One of the reasons I'm writing about this subject matter of not only the end of the Age, but our own

personal end time, is because over the years I have seen where some brethren became angry or bitter at God as they saw brethren with old age and sickness sitting in rest homes with Alzheimer's or other afflictions. I feel it is dangerous to blame God this way. Most of the brethren I have known who have died thought the end was near. They had to deal with these struggles of old age and sickness, not the end time they thought was coming in their lifetime. This was the big trial they had to deal with.

I heard one man say he feels, because of the way we have looked at end times prophecy, in our concern that the end was coming before the end of our lives, or even that we would be taken to the place of safety, or some other end time belief system, it only added to the problem of living in denial of what may await us in rest homes and hospitals. That made it even more difficult when it did happen. Think about that. So, would it not be wise to focus on how to deal with the struggles of life and our own personal “end time” in the meantime?

I'm not against studying prophecy. I still study it. And I do believe the end of the Age Jesus talked about is drawing near. I'm talking about balance in our studies. Years ago I realized that my studies into prophecy were out of balance; it did little to aid me in my personal relationship with Jesus Christ. So I spend more time in prayer now, realizing Jesus Christ gives us peace to deal with all our trials, including old age and the health problems I struggle with now.

My dad and I used to talk about the saying: “Old age is not for sissies.” We would have a good laugh about it each time we talked about it. Laughing about it helped him cope. We needed all the laughs we could get.

He and I would watch all the chaos on the news each night and he would say, “This world is falling apart.” He would ask “What's going on with

this world?" Sometimes I tried to explain that things could get worse, and it was possible that the end time was near. And a few times he said: "Well, it's a good thing it almost over for us, being two old men, but I feel sorry for the young people." It reminded me of what an elderly man of God told me one time 40 years ago: "Some old-timers will be put to sleep before the Tribulation." When that man of God told me that many years ago it made me think of the Scripture that says: "Good people pass away; the godly often die before their time. But no one seems to care or wonder why. No one seems to understand that God is protecting them from the evil to come. For those who follow godly paths will rest in peace when they die" (*Isa 57:1-2*) nlt.

I'm not trying to suggest we should seek death. God has a task for us to complete; and life is a blessing. But these scriptures did come to mind, because I believe we are closing in on the end of the Age. You don't even need a lot of insight to see this nation is headed for chaos.

My Dad and I would watch end times programs on TV and he would ask me questions about it. He felt the "end times" were when your heart stopped beating. He knew his time was not long. He wanted to go in his sleep; he got his wish. He died at home in his sleep, just like my Mother did. Oh how I want to see them again in the resurrection. I didn't realize how good my parents were until after their passing. I was blessed. It reminds me of the old saying, "You don't know what you got till it's gone." This is one of the reasons God tells us to give thanks in all circumstances. It seems you don't learn the lessons of life until it's almost over. Here I am less than two years away from my threescore and ten, and it's taken that long for me to see how much God blessed me with two good parents all my life.

I told my Dad about a year before he died that we took it for granted with my Mother cooking all those meals for over 60 years. My mother always had delicious meals for us. When I used to change her diapers during the last few months of her life, I used to joke with her and tell her, "Mom, I'm paying you back for all the diapers you changed for

me." She used to laugh every time. Never having served this way before, this got me to thinking of all the work women do in taking care of their children. I look at things differently now. Their job is one that should be given much honor and respect. The ones who were blind like me will know in the resurrection when God honors these women.

When I first started to take care of my Dad I looked at it as a burden for a few years Then God brought me to repentance and a change of heart. My dad noticed it and one day he said: "Your attitude has changed." I said to him, "God showed me it is a blessing to take care of you." So God brought me from the attitude of burden to blessing. I thank God.

Part of what I'm sharing here is that I needed God's strength to care for my Dads needs in old age, as his dementia got worse and was bedridden in diapers. At the time I knew this roll of caretaker was taking a toll on my physical health. But God knew it would aid me spiritually, and this was part of the process He used. The physical is secondary to being healed spiritually. Again, this spiritual principle is laid out in *2 Cor 12:7-10*, where Paul kept asking to be relieved of his torment in the flesh, but God left the pain in order for him to grow spiritually. This principle can apply to many brethren's trials. I thank God he gave me the strength to help my dad till the end.

God moved to have me realize I was not as close to Him as I thought. God used these trials to get my attention. "*I used to wander off until you disciplined me; but now I closely follow your word.... My suffering was good for me, for it taught me to pay attention to your decrees*" (*Ps 119:67, 71*) nlt. Being caretaker this way was the most difficult matter I have ever been involved with. God used the suffering to pull me closer to Him.

What this suffering did was drive me to prayer. I had never prayed like I prayed when my Dad was bedridden. I had never experienced anything like this before. I needed God's strength to serve my dad; I prayed for weeks almost non-stop, not even leaving the house for weeks because my Dad need-



ed me there. I didn't realize it at the time; but God was using this to pull me closer to Him.

This time of constant prayer that I experienced during my dad's situation reminded me of *Luke 18:1, 8*, "Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up... However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?" Jesus gives admonishes us about the importance of continuing in prayer in our end time.

Since God used the suffering to have me draw closer to Him, what's that worth? The suffering can't be compared to the blessing of having a closer walk with the Prince of Peace who gives me peace in the midst of my agony and trials.

My Dad's death made me think of the scripture: "It is better to spend more time at funerals than at festivals. For you are going to die and you should think about it while there is still time." (*Ecclesiastes 7:2*) TLB. What does your future hold? Will someone have to care for you in your old age? Life is short, and it's something that is surprisingly easy to forget. Seeing the brevity of life can help us focus on what is most important.

I do believe that the end of the Age is drawing near. And whether it's the end time Jesus talked about or our own personal "end time" the best thing we can do is examine where we are at with our personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Ask Him to take you by the hand and lead you through the Scriptures so that you will get to know Him. We get to know Him through prayer.

Get out of the rat race. Learn to live a simple life. Pray and stay with God. Don't let all the chaos, consumerism, and distractions of the world distract you from your contact with God. The days ahead will be difficult; but if we learn to trust and rely on God and stay with Him in our prayers and meditations then we will have nothing to fear. He will sustain us. Jesus told us to watch our spiritual state and pray always.

*"Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, 'Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.' 6So we say*

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*with confidence, 'The LORD is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?'" (Heb 13:5-6) niv.*

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*Bill Lussenheide*

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Planned giving generally refers to gifts made from the assets that you accumulated during your lifetime. Such gifts are planned and designated during your life, but are in most cases distributed after the end of life.

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### Why a Planned Giving Program?

We are aware that many people would consider giving such a gift to the BSA, but may need assistance or guidance in what to do or how to set it up. The purpose of this article is to assist and make known, potential options for those who want to plan a gift in this way.

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But please note, if you have owned the securities you wish to donate for less than a year, your charitable deduction will be limited to your cost basis in the securities.

### Do The Officers or Directors of The Bible Sabbath Association Receive Salaries?

NO! None of the Officers of the BSA receive salaries; all serve on a 100% volunteer basis. You can be assured that your gifts are used fully for the mission of furthering the cause of the BSA. The BSA is a registered 501c-3 organization, and files annual form 990 charitable organization paperwork with the United States Government.

If you have questions or would like more information on planned giving, we highly recommend and insist that you seek advice and assistance from either your attorney, or other licensed regulated professional advisor. The purpose of this article is to provide assistance and information of a general nature only.

# PONTIUS PILATE

*Ray King*

Articles in the public media about the history of the Bible commonly relegate the Bible to the back row of the class while everything else gets the front seats. For instance, the usual implication is that the first century Jewish histories written by Philo and Josephus are correct that the Roman Governor Pontius Pilate was ruthless, but that the Bible is wrong in claiming that Pilate was not. Modern Jewish and secular historians are eager to point to this claimed discrepancy in their ongoing disrespect of the New Testament in general and of Jesus Christ in particular.

I believe that all three histories are correct on this account. However, I believe that what some people are saying about the Bible history is wrong, the anti-Bible and the would-be pro-Bible spokesmen, alike. Some would discredit the Bible while some others would—in retaliation—discredit the historians, but then ignore parts of the Bible themselves. This is common. Neither side seem to have really considered the Bible accounts objectively. Sometimes I wonder if they have really looked. That is too bad because a simple harmonizing of the Biblical accounts with those historians is easy in this regard.

Josephus and Philo were right regarding Pilate's harsh demeanor toward perceived enemies of the Roman State. Pilate should be understood to be just as mean a dude as he decided he had to be whenever he perceived an occasion that required an extreme reaction. The Bible accounts do also show this to be an accurate assessment.

Joseph Caiaphas was the High Priest of Judaism during Jesus Christ's ministry. He had recognized those attributes of Pilate in his own erroneous assessment of Jesus as a political influence needing to be eliminated. By this reported strategy of Caiaphas, the biblical historical account of *John 11: 47 -*

*51* does not disagree with the other historical accounts regarding Pilate. The High Priest Caiaphas was anticipating a future bloody Roman putdown of them all because of Jesus. He knew Pilate's capabilities. He was right about Pilate, but dead wrong about Jesus. A political threat of Jesus was never of concern to the Romans; it was always was to the Jewish leadership.

The High Priest's opinion of Jesus as a political threat has been falsely and carelessly attributed to Pilate ever since and the New Testament accounts have been either ignored or distorted to perpetuate it. The bloody Roman put down did indeed come. However, it was not caused by Jesus nor by the scattered Christians, but by the uprisings of the Jews themselves against Rome. The massacres were executed not by Pilate because he was gone. It was in 70AD by Roman General Titus.

The real Pilate of Biblical history obviously did not perceive Jesus of Nazareth as a political threat. He was indeed a tough governor and Judge, but he could also recognize a "frame-up" when he saw one. He did not become Procurator (Governor) and remain one because he was an incompetent. He knew what was going on including the various religious movements as they came and went because he knew all about these religious and rebellious people over



## Herodes antipas



whom he had been overseeing for several years in the name of Rome. And just like Pilate, so was King Herod Antipas aware of the previous and recent instances regarding the Jews. He also knew of this Jesus fellow visiting from that adjacent northern province of Galilee, his own region of jurisdiction. There was nothing for Pilate to be concerned about, otherwise he would have already done something. That was his job and he was often ruthless in doing it as the Bible accounts

do show. Jesus also knew this about Pilate and had mentioned Pilate's deeds to his disciples just as *Luke 13:1-2* shows. So here there is clear Biblical agreement of Jesus himself with the Josephus and the Philo assessments of Pilate, the tough, smart Roman governor of a rebellious foreign province of Rome.

But then from the unexpected political pressure brought about by the Jewish leadership and their followers when they thrust Jesus on him that Passover day, Pilate, like a typical politician, did respond accordingly. The first thing he did when presented with a tough situation was to pass the buck to Herod Antipas. He wanted nothing to do this this situation, but then when Herod, who already knew of Jesus laughed it off, Pilate was stuck with him, again. Then when cornered by those murderously fanatic and perplexing series of confrontations from the Jewish leadership coupled with the uniquely confident yet passive demeanor of Jesus, Pilate denied blame while yielding to reluctantly kill the innocent man. Pilate himself attested to the innocence of Jesus Christ of Nazareth not once, but several times. This is well summarized in Matthew's recorded historical account. It is also shown in John's first-hand eye-witness account as you can see in *John 18,19* and in *Mark 16* and *Luke 23*.

*(Mat 27:11 -26) And Jesus stood before the governor and the governor asked him, saying, "Are you the King of the*

*Jews ?" And Jesus said to him, "You say." And when he was accused of the chief priests and elders, he answered nothing. Then said Pilate unto him, " Hear you not how many things they witness against you ?" And Jesus answered him never a word in so much that the governor marveled greatly. Now at that Feast the governor was accustomed to release unto the people a prisoner, whom they would choose. And they had then a notable prisoner, called Barabbas. Therefore when they were gathered together, Pilate said unto them, "Whom will ye that I release unto you ? Barabbas, or Jesus which is called Christ?" For he (Pilate) knew that for envy they had delivered him. When he was set down on the judgment seat, his wife sent unto him, saying, "Have thou nothing to do with that just man: for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of him." But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitude that they should ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. The governor answered and said unto them, "Whether of the twain will you that I release unto you?" They said, "Barabbas." Pilate said to them, "What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ ?" They all say unto him, "Let him be crucified." And the governor said, "Why, what evil has he done ? " But they cried out the more, saying, " Let him be crucified." When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, "I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see you to it." Then answered all the people, and said, "His blood be on us, and on our children." Then he released Barabbas unto them: and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.*

This is what Pilate did to prevent a worse riot which he would need to put down with force plus all that would have followed as a result. In that killing of one unpopular person, even though known to him to be innocent, Pilate had prevented a greater slaughter. Caiaphas had gotten his way. Pilate had been "had" and he probably knew it.

However harsh the Roman Governors were, they were not entirely free to act arbitrarily nor extraordinarily. They had to answer to Caesar. They were not put there to oppress and make trouble, but to assure a productive society in the name of and for the profit of Rome. They would also arbitrate. Pilate



had previously accommodated the Jews and continued to keep order among these notoriously rebellious people. But Pilate, like any of these governors would also kill you to solve a problem. Even though reluctantly, this is what Pontius Pilate did.

Pilate condemned Jesus to get rid of the problem caused by the Jews. He did not see Jesus as a threat; he was convinced of His innocence. But the Jewish leaders were threatening to make false accusations against him to Rome involving Jesus which would be difficult to defend. So he was pressured to do what they wanted; he performed an assassination of one man with no explanation to anyone rather than to otherwise attack a riotous mob including most of the religious leaders of Jerusalem and have to answer to Rome for that. But even though he had been forced to do something he did not want to, he was nobody's fool. He had defused a personally serious political situation and unknowingly did what God had intended to happen all along.

What Pilate had avoided in Jerusalem did indeed happen to him. A few years later the use of a very strong military suppression of an uprising elsewhere in the province got Pilate into trouble with Rome. The resulting complaints and the politics of Roman led to his removal.

The practices of a Roman-style Christianity then demonized all Jews because, "The Jews Killed Jesus." The false ethnic accusation has persisted. But, in a way those particular Jews had brought it on themselves. (*Then answered all the people, and said, "His blood be on us, and on our children."*) The subsequent Jews counter by blaming Jesus for being a threat to Pilate. So amid all the finger pointing, who really brought about the death of Jesus of Nazareth? If the Bible is to be really believed, Caiaphas did, Satan did, Judas did, Pilate did, the Jews did, the Romans soldiers did, God the Father did, Jesus did. If *John 3:16* is to be considered the list gets very long.



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**Please join us by supporting our efforts to spread the message of God's Sabbath rest and mutual cooperation of the brethren to the rest of the world.**

# The Sabbath!

**Eriston Eloi**

*"Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it" Exodus 20:8-11.*

## **Keeping: the Result of Remembering**

In the fourth commandment God instructs us to, "remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy." Here God reveals to us that keeping the Sabbath holy is the result of remembering it throughout the first six days of the week.

## **Remembering: The Sabbath**

In the fourth commandment God is giving His people a work to do during the first six days of the week. That work is to remember. God instructs us to remember the Sabbath day, which is a day blessed and made holy by God.

We are also instructed to remember that God created the heavens, the earth, the sea, and all that is in them in the first six days of the creation week.

## **Remembering: A Work of Faith**

To do this work, faith is required. We must remember things that we only understand by faith.

*"Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God" (Hebrews 11:3).* We know by faith that, "on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh

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

## **The Seventh-Day Sabbath: A Double Evidence by Faith**

*"For the invisible things of world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead" (Romans 1:20).* God separated the light from the darkness and created the earth, sun, moon and stars, establishing their order, in the first six days of the creation week. On the seventh day, God rested. He also blessed and sanctified it. Thus the seventh-day Sabbath stands as a double evidence of God's eternal power and Godhead. It reveals both the visible things (the day, marked by the movement of celestial bodies) and the invisible things (God's rest, the Sabbath blessed and sanctified) at once. Both of these evidences are only understood by faith.

## **Remembering the Sabbath: Faith and Works**

Remembering the Sabbath by faith causes us to prepare the mind, heart, and body for the Sabbath. The simplest tasks, like preparing meals, cleaning our homes, and laying out clothing, are works of faith when done in faithful anticipation of the Sabbath. Thus, remembering the Sabbath by faith produces works. When these works are produced, the faith that we have responds by perfecting, or maturing. The perfected faith produces better works, which in turn causes faith to be perfected even more. This cycle continues until faith is perfected to completion. Thus the Sabbath gives us a weekly opportunity to see, "how faith wrought with [our] works,

and by works was made perfect" (James 2:22).

### Keeping the Sabbath Holy

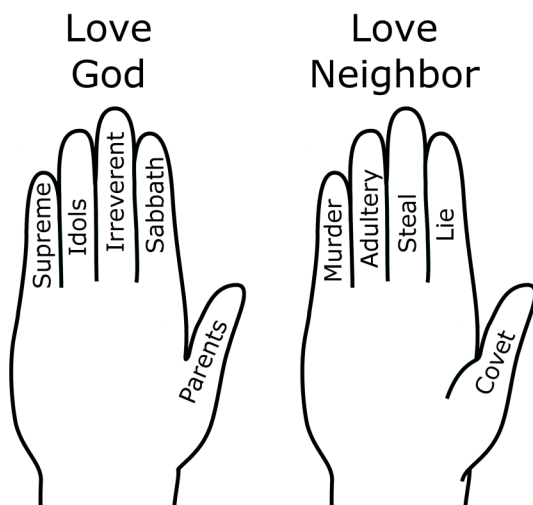
On the seventh day, all labor ceases, and the keeping holy of the Sabbath begins. We cannot work at keeping the Sabbath - it is not entered into by activity. The Sabbath is not kept by doing, but by faith. By faith — a faith perfected by the works of the preceding six days—the Sabbath is kept holy.

### Falling Short: Unbelief

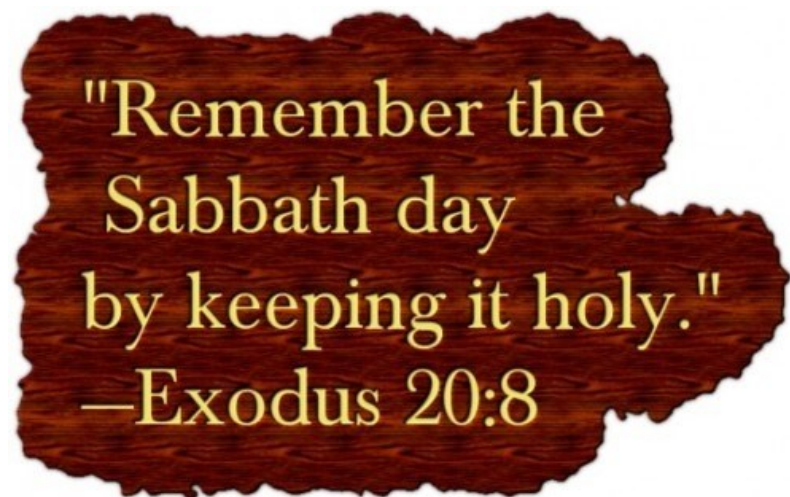
"Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief..." **Hebrews 4:11.**

All those who fall short of keeping the Sabbath do so because they lack faith. They fail to perfect their faith by works during the first six days. "Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone" (**James 2:17**). They do not remember the Sabbath day continually during this time. Instead, they center their attentions and affections on the labor of their own choice.

God in His goodness and mercy allows us to use the first six days of the week to pursue our own labors, with the condition that we remember the Sabbath during this time. This condition prevents men from laying up, "treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and



Bible Commandments



steal" (**Matthew 6:19**) and invites them to, "set [their] affections on things above, not on things on the earth" (**Colossians 3:2**). In this way remembering the Sabbath sanctifies our thinking, protecting us against idolatry, covetousness, and selfishness.

### The Sabbath: Beyond Ritual

The Sabbath is not a practice run or 'fire drill' for the end times. It is not a mere ceremony that somehow ended up in the moral law of God by mistake. It is not a rite or ritual that God intended for the Jews alone. When it is remembered to be kept, it produces perfect faith and sanctification in the life of the Christian.

### The Sabbath: A Mystery

The Bible reveals to us that God rested on the seventh day, and blessed and sanctified it. How is it possible that God rested on seventh day and blessed and sanctified it all at once?

I believe that every blessing declared by God was established in His wisdom before anything was made. This includes the rest of the promises and blessings that pertain to salvation, often referred to as the everlasting covenant. In Hebrews we read, "For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world" (**Hebrews 4:3**).

The Sabbath, along with every other promise and blessing, is the evidences of God's divine wisdom. This wisdom declares, "The Lord possessed me in



# Letters to the Editor

I have immensely enjoyed the article 'My Love/Hate Relationship' by Lenny Cacchio printed in the Nov-Dec issue.

While reading the article at first I thought Lenny was a little uncertain but he nailed it before he was through, it was a great article.

Years ago we had a minister who referred to Ephesians 4:11,12 as 'ranks' of authority which was to me dragging that lesson over into the doctrine of the Nicolaitans.

As I understand the Word of God most true followers of Christ will ultimately realize their calling and God's Holy Spirit will lead them to where they need to be. We forget sometimes that the church body has many parts while the Pastor is the overseer; the church has many needs as we all contribute in many ways; the members are like a bee hive all doing their part.

The Apostle Paul wrote in Philippians 1:5-6 NKJ - 5 for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, 6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.

Darl Arbogast

I read with interest the things that you are doing to help reduce expenses. My suggestion is that you offer the publication on a quarterly basis. Additionally, offer it on the Internet and only send mail copies to those of us with limited access to the web. Look at what your competitors are using as advertising sources and contact the same types of businesses and set up advertising accounts with them.

Art Sporleder

You mentioned that you left the "United" Church of God because "it became clear that the UCG intended to continue in some of the erroneous dogma of the WCG..." What are "some of the erroneous dogma?" Could you list a few?

V. Singh

Thank you for your request, Mr. Singh. One policy we considered error in the UCG is the concept of corporate governance of local churches which led to strangers to the congregations coming in and disfellowshipping local brethren. When I asked a local pastor about why Matt. 18 was not used to resolve local church problems instead of having corporate officers coming in and disfellowshipping people and leaving the congregation hurting, I was told that Matt. 18 problem resolving was "not our tradition." Knowing what the Christ said about the traditions of men, we left. This was their "style" at the time (with Victor Kubik at the helm that may have changed) and it did not suit me or comply with scripture as I understand it. But, I still consider the brethren to be my brethren.

Ed.

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beginning of his way, before his works of old. I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was. When there were no depths, I was brought forth; when there were no fountains abounding with water. Before the mountains were settled, before the hills was I brought forth: While as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the highest part of the dust of the world. When he prepared the heavens, I was there: when he set a compass upon the face of the depth: When he established the clouds above: when he strengthened the fountains of the deep: When he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandment: when he appointed the foundations of the earth: Then I was by him, as one brought up with him: and I was daily his delight, rejoicing always before him; Rejoicing in the habitable part of his earth; and my delights were with the sons of men (**Proverbs 8:22-31**).

## The Sabbath and the Gospel

The Sabbath is remembered by faith. This faith is perfected by works, and is accounted by God as holiness. The gospel is heard and received by faith. This faith is perfected by works, and accounted by God as righteousness.

Through the Sabbath command God calls us out of the labors of the first six days to the blessed rest of the seventh. Through the gospel God calls us out of slavery to sin to eternal rest in Christ. "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls" (**Matthew 11:28-29**).



# SELF

*James Njenga*

What is self? It is the principle which governs us in our natural life, and which takes in our being the place God claims is His. It is self in man which feels hurt and wounded when he does not get credit he desires for that which he does. Messiah in us gives all credit to God. It is self in us which retaliates when we are unjustly treated.

Messiah in us, when He is reviled, reviles not again. It is the carnal mind, which "...is not subject to the Law of God, neither indeed can be" (**Rom 8:7**), which Messiah calls on us to deny. "if any man will come after Me, let him deny himself" (**Matt 16:24**)

## **Manifestation of Self**

The following are some of the manifestations of the self.

The first thing that we notice of self, is that it has a disposition to look at everything with an eye as to how it will affect itself. If self preaches or pray or sings or gives money or time to God's work, it has a keen faculty for seeing how the results will affect its own honor or happiness.

It is always ready to exact its right as regards to honor, comfort, convenience, property, etc. Instinctively, it is forever "looking out for Number One"



Self in us feels hurt if other people are being praised, their work for God related, and their zeal and love admired. Self thinks it loses too much ground, and seeks to turn conversation to its own zeal and devotion or that of its parents, brother, uncle, aunt, or twentieth cousin, so that the people spoken to shall feel that self has as much to boast of as anybody has.

If self is not invited to preach or lead the prayer or sing, or do something in Church work or religious gathering – if its talents are not recognized – it is often quite difficult for it to conceal its ugly thoughts and feelings, and it will insist that their wretched touchiness is a part of Messiah-life.

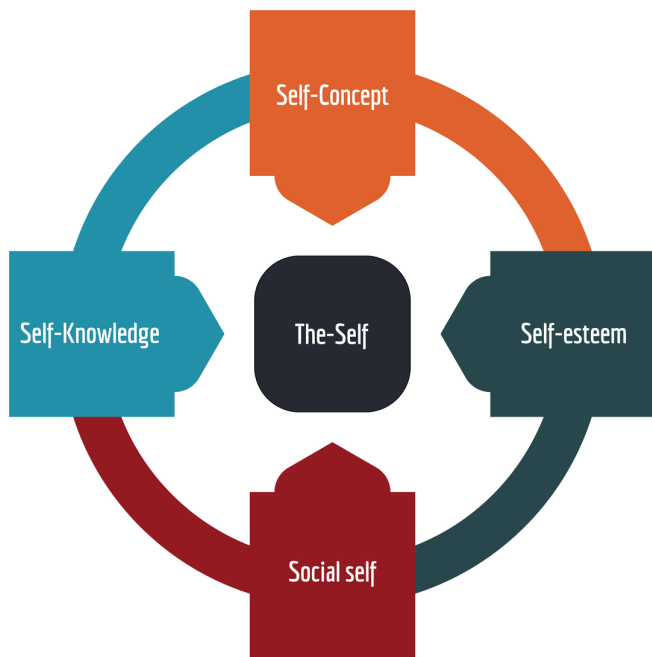
If it is not honored where it fancies it ought to be, if it is not bowed to and spoken to on every occasion, it takes on spells and goes into vexatious thoughts and words.

Self is always unwittingly magnifying itself. It talks incessantly of its doings and great achievements. It relates incident in its past life in such a way as to show off self to be the best advantage.

In every emergency it represents self as coming off with flying colors. It is full of self-righteousness; it denies that it ever has any backsliding.

It never admits of humiliation or defeat; it seems never to see its own faults, but always speaks of its victories, and always makes the other person suffer defeat and disgrace.

In fact, it insists on being the beautiful hero in every circumstance and all this is done in most artless and unwitting manner. This boasting can be mixed in the religion and preaching and table and parlor conversation in the most offensive degree, without the person's suspecting it.



Self is bent on making an extraordinary impression, and so gets the notion it must make demonstrations, or do something out of the way to impress people and draw attention to itself. It is conscious of the impression it makes upon people in entering room.

Self in us pities itself, and thinks it has a right to be noticed and sympathized with when in physical suffering. When it cannot get room on the bus, when the driver won't stop, when someone opens a window and makes a draft or shuts a window and it cannot breathe, self thinks it is to be pitied. Self loves to relate all these circumstances in order to excite and receive the compassion it craves.

And then, the self-life has a touchy disposition. This trait is especially mentioned by John Wesley. Touchiness is like wearing all the nerves of the body on the skin; it always seems to be on the alert to take slight and offenses at the least occasion.

Another horrible feature of touchiness is that it can never bear to be rebuked or corrected. The strongest mark of genuine humility is the ability to be re-proved, corrected, even severely, with a meek and thoughtful spirit. Self has a self-defense at the slightest reproof.

How can one be dead to self and alive to God, when his feelings are hurt, at offense, real or imaginary? Only a mighty, living, actual crucifixion of self, and being filled with all the fullness of God, can cure such a selfish and miserable spirit.

The very thought that one must do something extraordinary in religious demonstration is of the flesh!

Self may be changed from sinful and worldly self to converted self; but the same self-seeking, self-esteem, self-pity, self-justification is there, only on another ground. Self may become pious, and the passion of life may be holiness. Self may be the essence of consistency, and yet be self. There may be the greatest devotion, the greatest self-sacrifice. But it may be for the object of being known as holy people; but this is self still.

#### How to get rid of self

God cannot mix with self, and so self must die; but die by its own hand it cannot. If attempting to mortify self, the very attempt strengthens it; it is only as self is handed over to God and ignored, that its death comes about. Self although condemned, may linger on, constantly manifesting itself in one form or other where it is least suspected.

But how to get rid of self? Hand it over to Messiah. He tells us to deny ourselves; but it is in favor of another Self, even Messiah. He is our new, our everlasting life, our eternal Self.

Instead of me – Messiah. *"I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me."* (Gal 2:20). It is not I that pray, but the Holy Ghost prays in me. It is not I that conquer sin, but Messiah in me does it all. Then you will have that soul that is perfectly crucified, a soul that really loves to be little and lowly, and to move along quietly in a sweet, prayerful, unostentatious manner, without drawing attention to itself. And when really filled with the mind of Messiah, it prefers to be ignored, that it may keep more perfectly detached from all things and live shut in with God.



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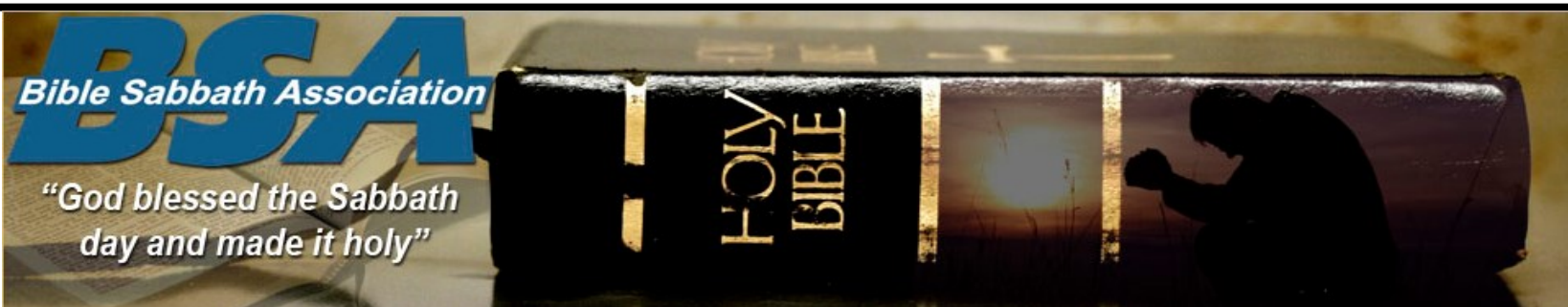
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