



The Sabbath Sentinel

Our God is an Awesome God!

BSA — The Bible Sabbath Association
“The Sabbath was made for man...”
- Jesus, the Christ

The Sabbath Sentinel

January-February 2000 Volume 52, No. 1 Issue 481

FEATURES

- 4 **President's Letter- Sabbath Issues**
Dr. Sidney Davis
- 7 **Worship in Truth**
Peter Huizar
- 9 **The Power of Tradition**
June Narber Harrison
- 10 **Report from Gabon**
Pastor Michael Porter
- 11 **Sabbath Has Come**
June Narber Harrison
- 12 **It's the Shoes**
Ernest Bergmann
- 15 **My Testimony**
Silvio Soto
- 18 **Would You Wash Them All?**
Royce Mitchell, Jr.

DEPARTMENTS

- 3 **Editorial**
- 21 **Letters to the Editor**
- 22 **Calendar of Events**
- 23 **Classified Ads**

For a FREE subscription in the U.S. And Canada, call (888) 687-5191, email us at giveshare@vcn.com or visit our website at <http://www.biblesabbath.org> . Because of additional postage costs, we request that international subscribers donate \$10 per year to defray the postage costs for international mailing, if they are able to do so.

The Sabbath Sentinel is published bimonthly by The Bible Sabbath Association, 3316 Alberta Drive, Gillette, WY 82718. Copyright © 1999, by The Bible Sabbath Association. Printed in the U.S.A. All rights reserved. Reproduction in any form without written permission is prohibited. Nonprofit bulk rate postage paid at Gillette, WY 82718.

Editor: Royce Mitchell, rmitchel@flash.net

Associate Editors: June Harrison & Shirley Nickels

Copy Editor: Doby Petrovic

BSA's Board of Directors for 1999-2003:

President: Dr. Sidney Davis

Vice Presidents: Ken Westby, Tom Justus, Calvin Burrell

Treasurer: Brian Burrell, burrell@fairview-ok.net

Secretary: Rich Nickels, giveshare@vcn.com

Recording Secretary: June Narber Harrison

Directors At Large: Craig White, Mike Galimore, John Conrod, Darrell Estep

Subscriptions: Call (888) 687-5191 or (307) 686-5191, or write to: The Bible Sabbath Association, 3316 Alberta Drive, Gillette, WY 82718 or contact us at the office nearest you (see international addresses below). *The Sabbath Sentinel* is sent free of charge to all who request it. Your subscription is provided by the voluntary contributions of the membership of the The Bible Sabbath Association.

Donations are gratefully accepted and are tax deductible in the United States. Those who choose to voluntarily support this international work to promote the Sabbath and proclaim gospel of the kingdom of God are welcomed as contributors.

Annual membership contributions: regular membership \$25; Family Membership \$30. All memberships include an annual subscription to *The Sabbath Sentinel*. Make all checks, drafts and money orders payable to *The Bible Sabbath Association*. (VISA and MasterCard accepted).

The Bible Sabbath Association is dedicated to promote the seventh day Sabbath. As a nonsectarian association for Sabbath-observing Christians, BSA accepts members who acknowledge Jesus Christ (Yahshua the Messiah) as their Savior, believe the Bible to be the Word of the Eternal, and uphold the seventh day Sabbath. BSA takes no official position on other theological issues, and publishes *The Sabbath Sentinel* as a forum to promote understanding and to share items of interest to Sabbath observing groups and individuals.

Opinions expressed in *The Sabbath Sentinel* are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Editorial Staff or of *The Bible Sabbath Association*.

BSA Worldwide Web Site: www.biblesabbath.org

Correspondence and manuscript submissions: Address all inquiries to: Royce Mitchell, Jr., c/o *The Sabbath Sentinel*, 3316 Alberta Drive, Gillette, WY 82718. Phone: (307) 686-5191, E-mail: giveshare@vcn.com

International addresses:

Australia: Bible Sabbath Associates, Jim & Lyn Carnochan, 7 Sunny Ridge Rd., Arcadia NSW 2159, E-mail: lyn_carnochan@hotmail.com

Address Service Requested

Editorial

The Need for Change

Thanks are in order to the members of the space program who have provided us with pictures of distant star systems via the Hubble telescope. The pictured system is not named, only numbered! Each month a new image (from the Hubble telescope exposures) is exhibited online, with astronomer and astrophysicist commentary and information. You can see these images at "<http://heritage.stsci.edu>."

It is incredible that within those dark areas, in between the visible stars, lie countless other galaxies and star systems, observable only with the aid of marvelous equipment like the Hubble telescope. There are so many that they are only numbered instead of named! Yet, our God is truly an awesome God who has a name for each of them!

With this issue of TSS you will notice a slight change in format. That is just to do our part in helping the Bible Sabbath Association emerge from its state of being the best kept secret in the Sabbatarian community! Thus we are letting everyone know about BSA's numerous books, tapes and other offerings, all of which local congregations might find helpful in promoting the Sabbath Day, as well as the rest of God's Law. These would also be useful as training aids for the congregations. But, we have not done a good job of letting you know about them.

We are reminded of the many independent Sabbath keeping congregations that exist throughout the world who might like to be a part of a larger work. Some are independent by design; some are independent by default. The vast majority of these would like to be a part of a larger work. Yet, many are distrustful of the large corporate churches and have no desire to become a part of any such entity. We understand this.

TSS has undergone a slight adjustment in order to assist our brethren in this area. Since the BSA is not in the business of establishing congregations, it is possible for us to help many Sab-

bath keeping assemblies in the effort to get this message out. As Dr. Davis relates in his letter this issue, we feel as if we can set aside minor differences to preach this wonderful word. We hope that our Sabbath keeping brethren from around the world can join with us in publishing this Gospel of hope which is reflected in God's Sabbath rest.

TSS won't become another corporate preaching magazine, but will concentrate on its original goals with the addition of integrating the assistance of the many brethren out there who are looking for a magazine to take to the world: a magazine that will promote God's Way, but not insist on a corporate solution, attendance nor mandatory donation scheme. We will live or die by the generous members who God provides for this work.

This is not to say that we don't value our brethren who are a part of those larger organizations. Nothing could be farther from the truth. We ask everyone to join hands with their many other brethren-- use TSS as a medium for working together to spread the glorious message of hope for all mankind, symbolized by the calling to God's Holy Rest, which leads to a much greater understanding.

All of us who work on TSS hope that you'll enjoy the change. We look forward to getting letters from you giving your impression of our effort.

We are continuing with courageous stories of people who are coming to the Sabbath truth. This issue is no different, as you will see in the testifying report from Gabon as well as in a noted non-Sabbatarian's witness of how he came to be converted to God's Sabbath rest.

Enjoy this issue! Let us know what you think! We welcome and really appreciate your feedback! It is the only way we can truly be the magazine that you- and the world- need us to be.

Royce E. Mitchell Jr.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER-SABBATH ISSUES

by
DR. SIDNEY DAVIS
PRESIDENT-BSA

According to many Bible chronologists the year 2000 marks the dawn of the seventh millennium of this world's history. The apostle Peter describes time in God's reality in terms of **"one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day"** (2 Pet. 3:8). This idea, when associated with the template of time, established with the week or the seven days of creation, has evoked the universal idea in Christianity of the world's history of sin lasting 6000 years, culminating in the thousand years of universal "Shabbat shalom" or restful peace. The year 2000 is regarded by Christian pundits as a significant time post that will usher in this seventh thousandth year called "the millennium."

We see that the "rest" and "peace" that is associated with the idea of the seventh millennium is emphasized with another sabbatical idea of the "jubilee." The jubilee is based upon the "heptad" (meaning group of seven) cycle of yearly Sabbaths, or a Sabbath year every seventh year. The heptad cycle is based on the week. The week, as the template of time, cannot be over emphasized.

The festival interval marked by the counting of Sab-

baths from the Passover to Pentecost (Lev. 23:15,16) is in miniature the template for the counting of heptads making the Jubilee cycle. The weekly counting of the omer from the morrow after the Shabbat until seven Shabbats were complete to the feasts of Shabbats, or "the feast of weeks," is imposed upon the counting of the heptad cycle of the week of years, the year after seventh of which was called a "Jubilee" (see Lev. 25:4-10). So whether a week of days, weeks of weeks or weeks of weeks of years, the idea of holiness associated with "seven" and "Sabbath" is clearly established from the creation template of time, punctuated by the heptad cycle or the sanctification of "seven" or Sabbath.

The jubilee is the sabbatical year when debts owed are forgiven, prisoners are let free and the land is restored to its original owner, which then enters into a state of rest or restoration. Such is the hope and promise that the year 2000 holds for the state of "unrest" and war with many people and debtor nations. This year holds great promise for the many nations and peoples who champion the pope's declaration of the Y2K Jubilee and the release of the national debts of debtor

nations to the industrial nations and the release of captives (commuting of sentences) on death row and freeing political prisoners by his peace brokering initiatives. Christians from all nations and denominations are joining the swelling crescendo of the jubilee declaration by the papacy.

Both these ideas, of the seven thousand years and jubilee- both point to the seventh day, the Sabbath, as their origin. That Christians can evoke these ideas of Y2K and jubilee, while denying the very word of God that says, "... but the seventh day is the Sabbath ...," upon which these ideas are based, should not go by unnoticed or unannounced. We should be spiritually wise and doctrinally enabled to show our brethren the origins of these positions and the inconsistency of theological dogmas, that at the same time deny them.

These were some of the points that I discussed with Jack Lowndes, Executive Director of the Lord's Day Alliance (LDA) of the United States, when I paid him a courtesy visit while in Atlanta, Georgia last December. The strength of the presentations made to him on these points drew from him the surprising and astounding acknowledgment that he knows

and understands that the seventh day is the Sabbath! The position of Jack Lowndes is not that Sunday is the Sabbath at all! The designation of "Sabbath" he says "belongs to the seventh day" (Saturday) not Sunday. Sunday he maintains is "not the Christian Sabbath" but rather it is specially designated as "the Lord's day." While admitting that the position on the Sabbath, as taken by the majority of Christians may be wrong, it is a wrong, that he says, the blood of Jesus covers.

The basic challenge, which is represented by the position of Jack Lowndes, in the Sabbath versus Sunday question, is not one that calls into question the continuity and relevancy of the Sabbath in the Christian church, but rather the fundamental place of the law in the gospel of Christ. Substantiating the fundamental place of the law of God in the gospel of Christ (on which the theology of the Sabbath rests) is the challenge that faces us in the next millennium- as the great controversy between Christ and Satan is being waged over God's law. In actuality, the Sabbath is THE "touchstone" of truth showing where the believer stands on the question of the law.

Being spiritually wise and doctrinally enabled to defend the Sabbath truth does not mean a dogmatic resuscitation of age-old proof texts that have been traditionally used by Sabbatharians for hundreds of years. Such methodology can no

longer stand in the face of highly developed theological arguments substantiating the doctrine of "Sunday sacredness" and the tradition of "the Lord's day."

The sophistication and scholarship of evangelical Christianity concerning the theology of the Sabbath, with which Sabbatharians must now contend, will in itself bring the "crisis of conscience" that all Christians- especially Sabbatharian Christians- must face concerning our understanding of the law in the gospel. We as Sabbatharians must honestly face the theological consequences of what Sabbath observance means in relationship to our theology on the law and the gospel, if we are going to have a credible witness to our faith that will stand the test and scrutiny of great minds. This is a question that must be addressed if we ever hope to confront why ever-increasing numbers of Sabbatharians, of all denominations, are following the lead of the Worldwide Church of God (formerly the second largest Christian Sabbatharian church) in giving up Sabbath observance.

We will see the rhetoric of Sabbatharian apologetics making tremendous changes in the months ahead- as we deal with the issues of the sanctification of time. The "Christianizing" of the "Jewish" Sabbath, which allows the declaration of a millennial Sabbath era and a Jubilee Sabbath year, while denying the very foundation

and premise of these inherently Sabbatharian institutions- points to a fundamental aspect of Christian theology that basically assumes that the law is to be understood in principle only and not by precept. It is my view that the impotency of the theological arguments, which have been used to traditionally advocate and defend the Sabbath, is due to the inability to acknowledge or recognize that the origin of the attacks against the Sabbath and the law is founded upon an anti-Semitic/ Judaeophobic theology of the medieval theologians- or the Biblical scholarship of the "middle ages."

When we, as Sabbatharian Christians, begin to understand that our relationship to the Sabbath cannot be separated from our relationship to biblical Judaism and the Jewishness of our Christian roots (see Romans 11:18), then we will begin to break the "grace vs. law" paradigm that has defined our traditional understanding of the law upon which our views of the Sabbath are based, and which at the same time justifies the majority's (of the Christian world) profanation of the holy day. Despite our Sabbatharian professions, we as Sabbatharians have inherited a medieval view of the law that is both contrary and contradictory to the law and the prophets (John 1:45). The inability of Sabbatharians to intelligently expound a sound theology on the law that can withstand hermeneutical and exegetical cross examina-

tion is seriously threatening the Sabbath truth and is fast becoming one the greatest Sabbath issues that we will have to face. Our traditional "Christian" views on the law has not only handicapped the effectiveness of our Sabbath witness but has also made us vulnerable to the attacks being made against the Sabbath under the guise of the so-called "new covenant theology."

The Bible Sabbath Association stands for the Bible Sabbath of the Seventh day. While the BSA stands, we from various Sabbatarian traditions teach and share, from different perspectives, that on which we commonly agree. While we thus maintain our distinctiveness in our approach to Sabbath observance and Sabbatarian (as well as other) doctrines, we must recognize that there can only be one answer to the concerted attack being made against the Sabbath truth. That answer must be biblically and theologically consistent and one that recommends itself to the enlightened Christian intelligentsia of bible students and scholarship.

We must, under the supernatural guidance that comes from the Holy Spirit, be able to put forth an exegetical and hermeneutically sound theology of the law that will answer the allegations of the new covenant theologians and the arguments that they present against the Sabbath truth. I would like to propose to our membership and supporters that the BSA

sponsor in different cities "Sabbath Conferences" which will focus and bring attention to these issues. To do this, we need for our membership to take the initiative and actively participate in helping to organize such conferences. We need an energetic support base that is committed to increasing the awareness of the BSA, its goals and its mission through such conferences. In such a venue we can fully address the Sabbath issues that beg for attention.

We invite articles that address these relevant Sabbath issues and we also invite your questions that will help to stimulate thinking and dialog. The BSA will endeavor to act as the catalyst that will bring about intra-Sabbatarian dialog as well as inter-denominational dialog, as represented in my meeting with the LAD. This is an idea whose time and chance has arrived as we endeavor to come to grips with Sabbath issues such as the law of God in the Gospel, the so-called new covenant theology, and the inherent anti-Semitism that gave birth to Sunday sacredness.

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the participants who attended our recent Board of Director's conference held in St. Louis in January. The reports indicate that there was a spectrum of Sabbath observant brethren in attendance: Former Worldwide Church of God, Seventh Day Adventist's, Seventh Day Baptist's, Church Of God

Seventh Day and representatives of independent fellowships. Such a show of support for the BSA after such short notice holds promise and requests for more conferences of this type. With your continued support and prayers we can look forward to just that. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to thank our members and supporting friends for the opportunity to serve and represent the interest of all Sabbatharians.

Blessings,

Dr. Sidney L. Davis, Jr.

"Proclaiming The Sabbath
More Fully"

WORSHIP

(continued from page 7)

those who stopped living the lies about Christmas, Easter, etc., turned to worship in God's truth (only that which is found in scripture).

God is seeking those who want to worship Him in truth. Do we want to worship in truth, or do we want to follow the traditions of men that are "lies in the eyes of God?"

The Bible reveals that the day of rest, also called the day of worship, is the Sabbath (Saturday). Do you "worship in truth?" Do YOU keep the Sabbath holy?

—Peter A. Huizar, has been a Sabbath keeper since 1969. He currently attends an independent group called The South Texas Church of God in San Antonio, Texas. (Address: P.O. Box 28323. San Antonio, Texas 78227-0323).

TSS

Worship in Truth

By

Peter A. Huizar

When Jesus was talking to the Samaritan woman, He said, ***“But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship him”*** John 4:23.

There is much ground covered in this one small verse. The part about “worship in spirit” will be left for someone else to expound. Here, we will focus on “worship in truth”. Jesus plainly said that “the hour ... NOW is”. Since the time that He walked the earth and up until now, is the hour; it will continue until His return and on into the Millennium. At this time the “Father is seeking” people to worship Him in truth.

There are many carnal smart alecks who like to pose the question, “What is truth?” When a man of this type confronted Jesus, He did not bother to answer him (John 18:38).

“No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing: but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you” (John 15:15). Jesus did make known to His friends the answer to “What is truth?”

In His final public prayer (before the eleven) He revealed

what truth is. Appealing to the Father on their (the eleven) and our (disciples to come) behalf He said, ***“Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth”*** John 17:17. The true students (disciples) know from this that they must look to God’s Word to ascertain truth.

We came into this knowledge over the course of time. Such does not come all at once. ***“Whom will he teach knowledge? And whom will he make to understand the message? Those just weaned from the milk? Those just drawn from the breasts? For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, Line upon line, line upon line, Here a little, There a little.”*** (Isaiah 28:9-10).

Anyone armed with this understanding comes to a crossroads. Growing up in this society, we “naturally inherit” the practices of society. Almost everyone keeps Christmas, New Years, Easter, Halloween and other holidays. When we look into “the truth” there is NO positive mention of these practices and customs.

Further examining these holidays, it is easy to ascertain that they are of pagan origin. NONE of these are sanctioned by the Bible. Standing at a crossroads, face to face with

pagan practices, we have to make a decision.

Jesus Christ was not born on December 25th. Jesus Christ does not appear to have died on a Friday afternoon and been resurrected on a Sunday morning. The Bible says, ***“For Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth”*** (Matthew 12:40). It is hard to understand how three days and three nights which equals 72 hours, can be the 36 that is found in the popular “Good Friday to Easter Sunrise” doctrine.

When anyone comes to this knowledge, they will have to make a decision as to whether they will live a lie or live the truth, whether to worship with falsehood or in truth.

Several of those who practice living the truth have made a comment: This is not “a religion.” Religions are what those in society practice. True religion is a way of life.

This concept is in accord with what the Bible says. The Bible refers to “the Way” several times. So, who are these that live by “the Way”? They are the “true worshipers;” the ones whom Christ was telling the Samaritan woman about. They are

(see “Worship,” page 6)

Sabbath At Sommerhase by Lettie Siddens



Are you looking for a book that is perfect for reading on the Sabbath? How about one that explains Godly principles, including the Sabbath in language that is easily understood by children?

The Bible Sabbath Association has just such a wonderful book for you! Written by Lettie Siddens, it includes stories such as, "Precious Promises," "Helping Others," "Shining Stars" and "Surprise for Mother!"

Lessons learned include, "The First Sabbath," "The Preparation Day," "Early Church Observes the Sabbath" and "The Sabbath Today!" The book will provide months of Godly entertainment at 128 pages!

BSA sells this wonderful tool for helping children relate to God's Sabbaths for only \$7.00 per book. Sabbatarian groups, looking to use the book to aid in their schooling for children, can write for a discounted price!

Send for your copy today while BSA has a good supply of this excellent children's book!

Why the Seventh-day Sabbath?

This 12 page brochure provides clear insight into the reasons for keeping God's Seventh Day Sabbath! It also contains an area where your local congregation can stamp its address and phone number making it easy for potential brothers and sisters to contact you for more information. They are priced at only \$.20 each, but you can get them in packages of 100 for only \$17.00. You will also be helping BSA spread the Gospel with your purchases, since all monies are used to continue the publication of TSS and to do the other fine work of BSA!



The Power of Tradition

By

June Narber Harrison

Have you ever wondered why so many people out in society, who claim to believe and live by the word of God, have no understanding of God's Ten commandments? If they do, they conveniently eliminate the fourth one (The Seventh Day Sabbath Command), or they believe that Sunday is the Sabbath for Christians.

History has deceived most of our society. The established religions have eased millions of "Christians" into believing that their established religious system is "God's word," and that any teaching contrary to the established order is wrong, and is quickly labeled a "cult."

We have to realize that understanding God's laws is a blessing. The majority of humans beings don't (and in fact cannot) understand, because God has not opened their minds to it. The power of tradition over the average human being is amazing. It blinds the eyes, shuts off the mind to anything contrary to its teaching, and establishes itself with strong nostalgic associations. Take for example, the memories of Sunday morning services when you were a child: the smell of the freshly cut church yard grass, the sun shining in through the stained glass windows and the Sunday ham dinner waiting at home for you after

communion at your family church. If you've never experienced this, think of society's religious holidays and the nostalgic things associated with them: kids under the Christmas tree opening gifts, the smell of the Christmas pine tree, the taste of eggnog, the Christmas cards of baby Jesus and the manger, and of course, all kinds of music associated with this particular religious season.

Why is tradition such a powerful thing? It is because as human beings, we like to have patterns and order in our lives. The way things have always been done, whether in our family structure, our communities, or in our churches, we get used to a pat-

Some traditions are beautiful, and all right to observe. However, any tradition that takes us away from the truth of God, the will of God, or the word of God, is wrong. We must make the effort to remove it from our lives and to change our patterns of behavior, and also our patterns of thought.

If you have been a life long Sabbath keeper, what traditions could be wrong in your life? Are you superstitious? Do you read your horoscope? Do you have icons in your house that are associated with religious or good luck (i.e. crosses, horseshoes, a rabbit's foot)? If you do, it is up to you to remove these from your life. Why? Because something

"Understanding God's laws is a blessing."

tern from our childhood and associate it with comfort, safety, and other emotions which we consider pleasant.

To disrupt these "patterns" for the average human being is a devastating thing- as their mind tells them that something is not right. Change is the hardest thing in life to accept- whether it be the death of a loved one, a new job, a child leaving the nest, or what-

ever. amazing happens when we individually choose to remove traditions- we then begin to grow. Wrong traditions and wrong ways of thinking hamper not only our physical growth, but also our spiritual growth.

Instead of our society's religious traditions, why don't you personally, create traditions of your own? For example, if you are alone, you can do special

(Continued on page 11)

Report from Gabon Africa

by

Pastor Michael Porter

Greetings to you in the name of Jesus our Lord. I was a pastor of Eglise du Gabon until in late 1998 (when) God opened my eyes to the amazing truth. I was confronted (with) this saving message by a preacher who preaches through WORLD HARVEST RADIO INTERNATIONAL in Indiana, United States. God spoke to me concerning the Sabbath and the need to surrender my entire life to Him. The preacher spoke on the second coming, the mark of the beast, national Sunday law, etc. At first, I was not comfortable with what I saw as a false teaching, but I was compelled to keep on listening and judge with the scripture. I tuned in each weekend and the Holy Spirit opened my eyes to (see) the truth. I began to thank God that I did not (turn) off the radio on the first day. God brought a great change in my life and I made up my mind to follow the true gospel and to keep His Sabbath. I shared my testimony with my wife and she accepted the message, for which I praised the Lord.

We became Sabbatharians at heart. During our national convention my wife encouraged me to present the message without fear and allow the will of God to be done. I told her, "I will be mobbed," but through her prayers I was fortified and I pre-

sented the truth as it was. At the end of the convention several members besieged my house and demanded my resignation, excommunication and sack. The Church council gave me 2 weeks to vacate the premises, as they accused me of preaching (a) false gospel. God made it possible for us to leave unhurt and 33 people came out with me. We now meet for worship and fellowship on the Sabbaths and week days. I am now sharing a room with a brother in his house. My children no longer go to school. We have no food and no money and my wife had to return to the village as I can no longer afford an accommodation. WHAT A GREAT PRICE TO PAY FOR THE TRUTH. However, our nation is in a deep Spiritual darkness and only this true gospel can set her free. Since I embraced this truth, I have found peace, joy and assurance. There is a freedom of worship in our country but bible based Christianity is lacking here. There (is) a mixture of paganism and Christianity in worship in our country; almost all the Churches are victims. Demons of alcoholism, sex, gambling and ancestor worship are holding millions imprisoned. There is a custom, or what would I call ... very common here, (that) young girls and ladies are having chil-

dren outside of wedlock, and in most cases no one claims responsibility for it. The situation is very appalling and even the so called Christians are victims. Scarcely you see a family without illegitimate children.

My only heart's desire is for the Sabbath truth to be circulated all over Gabon and Central African region for the salvation of man before He comes. We are ready to stand (in) the gap lest we be destroyed. I believe God led me to the truth at this time for a purpose and I am ready. We are ready to circulate this truth to (every) nook and cranny of Gabon, if supported. There is hunger in the land, not of bread and wine, but for the undiluted word of God. We need large quantities of bibles for school students who crave them. God is bringing revival to Gabon and we want you to help us. I have a burden to go to villages, cities, towns, etc., to circulate the message. We shall need large quantities of books, bibles, tracts, audio/video tapes, study aids and at least 10 copies of Study Bibles. Can you provide us with any help? Above all we need your prayers to stand firm and faithful, even in the midst of trial.

Let us hear from you; the night is far spent. Help us to bring this light to Gabon and to other nations around us.

Remain blessed as we anxiously wait for our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

MARANATHA.

Yours in the blessed hope,

Michael Porter
B.P.4150
Libreville, Gabon

Your English is very good for someone from French-speaking Africa! We praise God for your growth in His Truth, especially about the Sabbath. We will, God willing, be sending you Sabbath materials, including copies of The Sabbath Sentinel magazine. God bless you as you stand up for Him!

Richard Nickels

Pastor Porter's plea for help in preaching the truth about God's Sabbath is one example of the crying need that the world has for the proclamation of His Sabbaths and Laws- within the context of the Gospel dispensation of the soon-coming Kingdom of God. As we continue to grow in strength at BSA, we pray that we are better able to accommodate such evangelistic efforts by those truly committed to the Holy Laws of God!

ED.

The Power of Tradition (cont.)

things on the Sabbath that you do not do during the week. Light candles on Friday night to make the beginning of the Sabbath distinctive. Have uncommon meals and special things that you do for yourself, your family and others only on the Sabbath. If you have children, they might have a unique Sabbath toy that they play with just on this day.

Whatever traditions you create for yourself to better fellowship with God, just remember that traditions can become powerful holds on your life. Limit that control by creating new things to do to honor God in your life. Some traditions can bind families together for two or more generations (i.e. family reunions, family photo dates, anniversary celebrations, Thanksgiving dinners). The bottom line is, that the tradition should be a true blessing, and not a ball and chain that you HAVE to keep or observe. If any activity or method of doing something becomes binding and restrictive, or you just do it because you have always done it (or feel like you have to), then it ceases serving any useful purpose.

May we root out the bad traditions from our life, and incorporate continual new behaviors, challenges and methods of doing things to continually bring us closer to God, to Christ, and to each other.

TSS

Sabbath Has Come

By

June Narber Harrison

As day becomes night and light has ceased.

The Holy time, our weekly feast.

Shines forth in her glory to give us rest.

A day set apart that is truly blessed.

The week drug on, no end in sight,

Until it came to this Holy night.

The Sabbath time is finally at hand.

Created by God, for rest for man.

I reflect on the Deeds that were done.

By the Word, the Logos, God's own son.

Creator, Sustainer, Messiah and King.

Refreshment He brings to my wearied soul.

Holy time is a precious gift.

To study God's word and to reflect.

Unique in substance and created hue.

It is made for me, and for you!

Use this gift from our God above.

Once in seven, given in love.

To bond us to our maker and King.

To His Eternal Glory we Sing!

A final thought to share with you.

Love each other, the many and few.

Who Know this truth so rare and true.

Celebrate the Sabbath, each week anew.

IT'S THE SHOES

by
Ernest P. Bergmann

Many of us “come to Jesus” with preconditions for “coming”. We bring to Christianity a load of non-Christian attributes and expect them to be acceptable to God. We are proud of our worldly accomplishments and expect God to be joyful in receiving such a worthy citizen into His kingdom.

Such is simply not the case with God. We are saved solely on the basis of God’s grace, but to live as Christians we have to get rid of some baggage before we are mature in God. God does not force changes on us. If changes are to be made, the Holy Spirit works within us, aiding us in getting rid of worldly baggage, but without direct force. God may place us into situations, and give us trials, that let us know we are doing something that needs changing, but we can “out-stubborn” God to continue life as we chose to live it.

Yet, if we choose to go God’s Way, there will be many growth changes along the way. We will make those changes because God will make it clear to us changes are needed, and because we love God. At that point in our Christian walk we begin to see the spirituality of God’s laws and place them into our lives to let the Way become a path illuminated by God’s light.

In this article we will look at some of the things we remove from our lives, as we begin our journey in the Way of God.

In the beginning, it’s the shoes.

Exodus 3:5 states, **“And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.”**

Moses wasn’t looking for God, but God was looking for Moses. He got Moses’ attention by using a burning bush. Moses, a Hebrew-born prince of Egypt, was raised as part of the elite class of the country. He had few legal or moral restraints to life — much like today’s youth. God let Moses understand he was about to embark on a whole new way of living. For Moses, the shoes symbolized worldly baggage of uncleanness and pride. If Moses was to be changed to serve God, he had to rid himself of personal priorities and take on God’s priorities.

For us the lesson of the “shoes” tells us we cannot come to God with our pride, love for wealth and a residue of worldly values. Self-focus has to be turned into a focus on God. We must rid ourselves of per-

sonal priorities to stand before God.

We are to come to God with humility, repentance, submission, and expectation. Humility breaks down the barrier of pride. We acknowledge that God is omniscient and has knowledge that is vital to our Christianity. Repentance acknowledges our sinful state and our inherent unworthiness to be saved and be called a child of God. Submission acknowledges Christ as our Lord and our state as servants (Paul gladly considered himself a slave), without any power to do as we please. Expectation is the “hope” of eternal life, a gift of God, freely given to all who believe on the position, word and power of Jesus Christ as our personal Saviour.

That is when we willingly become God’s servants. Too often we think of God as our servant, our personal genie who provides all our wants. As with many of the Jews healed by Jesus, there may be an expectation of, “name it and claim it.” Fortunately, God doesn’t work that way. God supplies our needs, not our wants.

Micah shows that removing shoes requires attitude adjustments: Micah 6:8 **“He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to**

do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?"

Our attitudes toward others are important. If we let Him, God slowly changes us from self-centered attitudes to a God-centered attitudes. As this is done, we will begin to act justly and respect the rights of all. Too often we are concerned only with our rights, real or imagined. Nothing can excite us as quickly as one of our inherent rights violated, like someone moving into OUR twenty feet at the front of our car on the freeway.

We are told to love mercy. This is a respect for the needs of others. We expect to receive God's mercy. Shouldn't we expect to pass God's mercy to others as well?

Walk humbly. Too often pride is emphasized. Are we to be proud of attributes which we did nothing to develop? No; we are to respect and obey God's rule; let Christ be the Lord of all things in our lives; then, we can see His majesty and our lack thereof. Maybe then we also develop the proper perspective about what our worth would be without Christ: as clay vessels devoid of any inherent value.

If we accept Christ as Lord we can expect a change.

Genesis 17:1 **"And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be**

thou perfect."

Throughout the Bible we see God working on the weaknesses of His servants. If God were to work on our strengths we might think that we had something to do with our successes.

God called Abram when he was ninety-nine years old. By that time most of us consider ourselves somewhat over the hill. God was just starting with Abram.

Don't place barriers to God's service that aren't there. Let God use us as we are and mold us into what He wants us to be. To God, age is no barrier — there is no comparing our life span to eternity.

God tells us to walk the path He lays out before us. Each of us has a unique path which God lets us see one step at a time. We are to let God mature us. Times will be hard, sad, joyful, easy, etc; each "time" is for learning about ourselves and about God.

However, God doesn't work through our noise.

Isaiah 32:17 **"And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever."**

Too often our internal noise is so great that we cannot hear God's promptings. The outcome of walking with God is peace — not physical peace, but spiritual peace. The peace process is internal to us. God

gives us peace if we are quiet enough to receive it.

There are benefits to having a "quiet spirit." A quiet spirit feels God's promptings. A noisy spirit only feels the natural promptings within us. If we try to go to sleep in an angry mood, we may spend a good bit of time in a fight that need not be fought.

A quiet spirit hears God's promises. A noisy spirit imagines "God's promises" and gets upset when the promises aren't met. Search the Scriptures. For each promise of God there is at least one condition that we need to fulfill first.

A quiet spirit is pliable to God's words. His words are for each of us individually, as well as for a collection of believers. If we hear God's words we have the choice of obeying or disobeying. Each disobedience has a consequence which is typically not salubrious.

God prompts us that sin is to be removed from our lives.

Romans 6:1-2 **"What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?"**

God and sin are incompatible. As much as is in us, sin must be removed from our lives. Be assured, with the help of God, each sin in our life can be identified and removed. Hid-

den sins are typically hidden from us because we choose to hide them.

With the help of God we become dead to sin's eternal consequences, but not to its lure, or to its earthly consequences. Sin will always be in front of us, and to some extent part of us, but we can work at minimizing such sin.

Let God remake us by becoming a living sacrifice.

Romans 12:1-2 ***"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."***

God gives us a way to become mature in Christ. We are to give ourselves to God. If we have no will of our own, we have only the will of God within us. We are to become holy: separated from the values of this world. As Moses, we are to remove our worldly shoes and stand before God on His holy ground.

We are to let God transform our minds to be like Christ's mind. We shouldn't be so smug as to think we can do it ourselves. God does it through His word and through the Holy Spirit teaching us how each word applies to us. The transformation is not an easy process. We need to let go and

leave behind many of our preconceived notions and pet rules for life.

We can let God drive out the evil and fill us with good. Driving the evil out of our lives is too big of a job for us, since Satan is stronger than we are. But, through Christ, God gives us His power and His armor to resist Satan.

Then we can become holy ground.

1 Corinthians 3:16-17 ***"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are."***

If God lives in us we become a temple of God. God cannot live in a sinful place. The process is simple. We make the choice to be in Christ or be in the world. The options are simple to define, but hard to make.

We are not black or white. Most of us are grey. We have, among our patterns of living, some things that are worldly and some that are godly. If we truly give God His proper place we will develop into godly people. As the people of the world become more interrelated, keeping worldly choices and values out of our lives becomes more difficult.

Returning to the theme, "It's the shoes!"

1 Timothy 6:11-12 ***"But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses."***

As best we can, we are to allow God to remove the impurity from our lives. He does this in all kinds of ways that make our lives uncomfortable. My sister-in-law called it making Jello. You put the contents of a package of Jello into a pot of water and you put a fire under the pot. As the water heats the impurities rise to the top of the water. They must be skimmed off for the Jello to reach its potential.

Similarly, God puts a fire under us. We call that fire a trial. Each trial removes part of our impurities and cleans us more for God's service.

Impurities in our lives are replaced with virtue, devoutness, hope, commitment, endurance, and humility. Over time we learn to walk God's path, without the impure "shoes" of our lives. As we walk the walk, the path is not easy, but it is sure. We may grumble along the way, but a little heat added to our lives is a good thing. God cares about us and He is with us every step of the way.

TSS

My Testimony

by
Silvio Soto

I was raised in a Pentecostal church in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. Naturally, this means that for many years I did not believe in any of the Bible's sacred days. As I became an adult, my interest and efforts in the ministry grew.

By age 24 I had managed to make for myself a religious reputation in this 32 square mile island. Early in my biblical studies I had developed an interest for both the subject of apologetics and cults.

Since I had been schooled according to the dispensational interpretation of the Bible, I felt very capable of debating any biblical topic. For a number of years, I was involved in numerous debates with Sabbath keepers and I also taught others how to do the same. To my shame, I succeeded in convincing a significant number of them to abandon the observance of the weekly Sabbath in order to adopt a position similar to mine (which was that in the New Testament era, we have no special day of worship mandated to Christians). Just like Paul, I was persuaded that I was doing my duty unto God.

But, the Heavenly Father had mercy and pity on me. During the month of January 1990, I met a local Pastor by the name of Dale George. He too had a

passion for debating and I was only too glad to oblige. Naturally, I was confident that I was going to win this one as I had won countless others. However, the Almighty had a big "rude awakening" in store for me!

On the day of our first encounter, I had decided I was going directly for a "cut throat" approach. In my brief earlier exchanges with Dale George, I had observed that Dale was a humble man. I intended to take advantage of this character trait and over power him with my personality.

I had it all planned out. As soon as he would bring up the topic of the Sabbath, I was would call him a hypocrite, arguing that if he really believed in the "concept of sacred time" he would be keeping the Festivals and the weekly Sabbath — BOTH! To prove my point, I was then going to take him to Leviticus 23, where weekly Sabbath and the annual Festivals are both grouped as one.

I already knew his intended reply. He would have argued that the Festivals were ceremonial while the weekly Sabbath was part of the Moral Law. He would certainly remind me that the Decalogue was personally written with the finger of God, while the Book of the Law was written by Moses. He probably

was going to try and argue the significance of how the Decalogue was placed inside the ark when the Mosaic Law was placed outside. I also expected that he might try to make something over the fact that the Savior in the Gospels, and the New Testament Church throughout the book of Acts, were described as observing the weekly Sabbath. Yet, I had a prepared logical reply for every one of these arguments!

The way I saw it, I was preparing to fight "fire with fire." He would be arguing for one sacred day and I would be using seven sacred days against him. Something ceremonial means that it involves a ritual. In the Mosaic Law, the Festivals involved such rituals as gathering together, public and private worship, singing, offerings, blood sacrifices, and doing no work. It turns out this is all true of the weekly Sabbath!

Basically my premise was simple: if it walked like a duck, -if it quacked like a duck, -and if it looked like a duck ... it had to be a duck! Therefore, the weekly Sabbath was no less a ceremonial (ritualistic) observance than were the Festivals. The fact that it was part of the Ten Commandments did not make it any less ceremonial. Besides, I always felt that Sab-

bath keepers were too loose with the phrase “Moral Law,” since all disobedience is an act of immorality.

In fact, I had discovered that Sabbath keeping scholars were in agreement that men were to be considered as “Free Moral Agents.” By definition and application, this meant that men are endowed with a “free will” (the ability to choose good from evil), but are under “moral” obligation to choose good! Therefore, any law that imposed a control on my “freedom of choice” had to be a “Moral Law” by definition.

Designating the Festivals as “ceremonial” did not make these any less “morally” binding on Israel. Furthermore, the argument of the Decalogue being inside the ark, while the Mosaic Law was outside, was little more than an appeal to abandon critical thinking for emotionalism. After all, this line of reasoning was implying that something inside was deemed of higher value than that which was outside. The problem is that inside the ark were also the rod of Aaron and samples of Manna. I have never heard of a scholar (Sabbath or Sunday keeper) who felt these items were more important than the Mosaic Law by virtue of their being placed inside the ark!

As to the argument that the Savior and the early believers kept the Sabbath in the Gospel and in the book of Acts, I was only too thrilled when this was brought up. Immediately my rehearsed response was, “The

Savior and the early church in Acts both kept the ceremonial Festivals, but YOU DON’T!” In fact, any biblical and/or historical argument that can be used to support the weekly Sabbath observance also can easily be shown to support the observance of the Annual Festivals! The Catholic church has not only claimed to have changed the weekly Sabbath, but to have also changed the Festivals (substituting the latter with pagan feast days)!

It was a lovely “time tested” strategy that had worked beautifully for me before. Dale simply didn’t have a prayer. I was that confident and secure!

Imagine my surprise when I made my “hypocrite” charge against this noble soul and he informed me that he agreed with me! Stunned, I asked him if he agreed, then why he didn’t keep the Festivals but only kept the Sabbath (the reality of his answer had not truly sunk through my skull).

Again, lovingly and with careful wording (so I could understand) he stated, “I ... keep ... both!”

HUH? Immediately I felt as if the rug had been pulled from under my feet. This was not how I had planned this encounter to developed!

Now, because of my arrogance and my prejudgment, I was at a complete disadvantage and treading new ground (not exactly a comfortable feeling — as you can imagine).

In my mind, I was going through every strategy that I had

ever used, trying to determine how to get myself out of this hole. But, I couldn’t overcome my utter surprise that Dale kept the Festivals! I had never met a Christian that spoke favorably of the Festivals, let alone kept them. Yet, here he was — standing in living color in front of me — a very strange and unique creature.

To add to my confusion, Dale was not saying anything else. He just stood there in silence, waiting for me to make the next move (perhaps, to put my other foot in my mouth). The pressure was unbelievable. Having won so many debates using high pressure techniques, finally somebody was turning the table on me and giving me a taste of my own medicine.

In my despair, I remember tossing my arms into the air and asking him, “Why in the world would you keep the Festivals?” What an irony! Moments earlier I had called him a hypocrite for not keeping the Festivals along with the weekly Sabbaths. Now, I was insinuating that something must be wrong with his mind for doing so!

Despite my obvious lack of cordiality in that statement, Dale proceeded to illuminate my mind with some of the numerous reasons and biblical evidence on this subject. Within one hour, I was transformed from an intimidating roaring lion into an ordinary house cat. I felt uneducated. My pride and arrogance had effectively been knocked to the ground. I

couldn't help but marvel at his reasoning and the quality of his evidence. It was as if all my life I had been reading another book instead of the Bible! The evidence had been there all this time!!

To make matters worse, his arguments were simplicity itself. It was not the kind of explanation that required much theological background to understand. I was immediately able to see the ramifications of his various positions and interpretations as he progressed from one stage to the next.

At the end, I was a very humbled man. Yet, all I could say was, "Okay Dale, you made a few points, but I am going to need time to verify all this 'stuff.'" Yeah, that is right. I called it "stuff!" I was still hoping against hope that I could find a genuine refutation.

To be certain, I would spend the next nine months visiting Dale's assembly every Sabbath. I searched and researched, and then did it all over again.

But the seed had been planted, deep within the chambers of my soul and heart. It tortured me day and night. I have thought many times about ALL those people I have led against the Sabbath!!!

My agony was unbearable. I lost my peace and self-control. I did not want to eat or engage in any other activity but to research this subject. There had to be a way out, there just had to be! But the more I searched, the more information

I uncovered that actually sided with Dale! It was a nightmare ... It was also a disgrace.

Many weeks of tears followed. I struggled with my conscience everyday, but the Holy Spirit would neither allow me rest nor peace.

At the time, I was the pastor of a local Spanish church and the co-pastor of the English speaking mother church. I tried to console myself with the numerous activities of the ministry, but they had all lost their attraction for me. Yet, months were passing by and I still would not make a definite decision. Once again, our precious Heavenly Father used Dale.

The Festival of Tabernacles was fast approaching in September of that year: 1990. It was a Sabbath afternoon and we were all gathered for a lunch fellowship at the home of one of Dale's congregation.

By now, I was a regular visitor. Another brother, who at one time had been the deacon of the assembly, approached me questioning whether I had made my decision. I tried to ignore the question and change the subject, but the dear brother insisted. When I finally told him, "No," he asked what I was waiting for.

I did not have a good answer so I merely told him I did not feel I was ready yet. I still had to reconcile many superficial issues, like the fact that I was a pastor of a Sunday keeping church, the possible loss of prestige in this small island

where practically everyone knew me, etc.

At that moment, Dale — in a most uncharacteristic form — told me that he feared for my salvation! Amazed, I demanded that he explain himself (after all, this was stated publicly). He told me that while it is true that the Father accepts many who are still in ignorance, nevertheless I could no longer personally avail myself of that avenue, AS I WAS NO LONGER IGNORANT OF THE FACTS.

I smiled, but as he walked away my heart sank! I felt like a dagger had split me wide open. Needless to say, I could not sleep that night! I knew what he had said was the truth. That night, in the solitude of my room, I decided.

The following morning, I informed him of my decision. That same morning, I rendered my resignation to my former religious affiliation and I was baptized on the first Great day of Tabernacles 1990. To this day, I have never once regretted the path that has been given for me to walk.

In the words of Paul Harvey, "Now you know ... the rest of the story."

**Silvio Soto -Elder
St. Thomas, VI**

A belated welcome to the fellowship of Sabbath keepers, Silvio! The story of your conversion is indeed a powerful one!

ED.

Would You Wash Them All?

by

Royce Mitchell, Jr.

Is there a person within the Body of Christ whose feet we would not wash? Is it possible for us to be a servant of God, and yet find it impossible to wash the feet of His other servants? Can we be a Christian and still find reason to refuse the washing of another's feet?

In order to understand the importance of washing each other's feet, we need to examine the lesson Christ was trying to teach one another when He did so. In John 13:2-17 we read, ***“And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him; Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God; He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself. After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded. Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet? Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter. Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me. Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head. Jesus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all. For he knew who should betray him; therefore said he, Ye are not all clean. So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you? Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you. Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant***

is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him. If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.” KJV throughout, unless noted.

What lesson can we learn from this example? First, Christ was a servant, a servant who will one day return as King. His willingness to serve the Apostles by washing their feet was symbolic of His willingness to serve them by giving up His life for them. Did He have to wash their feet to die for us? No, He did not. Therefore, there is an important spiritual lesson for us to learn by His having done so.

Notice, Judas Iscariot, who betrayed our Lord, was present at the point Christ washed the Apostle's feet. That's right! Christ washed Judas' feet! The very one who betrayed Christ had his own feet washed! Christ went on to tell the disciples that if their Lord and Master could wash their feet (and symbolically ours), then we ought to be able to wash one another's feet.

But this lesson is more than a symbolic one. It is more than the establishment of an annual ceremony to be done by His disciples. It was the establishment of insight into how we are to deal with our brothers. So, again, is there anyone whose feet we would not wash?

In Luke 10:29 we find Christ in conversation with a lawyer, who said, ***“But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour?”*** The word translated “neighbor” is the Greek “plesion (play-see'-on); neuter of a derivative of pelas (near); (adverbially) close by; as noun, a neighbor, i.e. fellow (as man, countryman, Christian or friend)” It could easily mean a brother in Christ!

Then Christ went on to answer the lawyer in the following parable. Luke 10:30-37 states, ***“And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. And by chance there came***

down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him, And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee. Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves? And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.”

Here we find some so-called children of God, religious leaders of the “Chosen People,” who willfully ignored the desperate needs of one who was a part of their “group.” Yet, an outsider, one considered by those religious leaders to be little better than a dog, took the injured man, cleaned him up, and anointed his wounds. Dare we say that he washed the man’s feet?

We are not told specifically that he did, but, in spirit, is it not true that the Samaritan was a servant to the injured man? Is it not true that the Samaritan acted more like a child of God than the supposed children did? Of course! What then is Christ teaching us?

The last sentence of those verses enlightens us. Christ said, **“Go thou and do likewise.”** We are to go and have mercy. Mercy is to be bestowed on those who are of the Body—and to those who are not! Humility is to be our companion in all things.

Note the parable Christ taught in Luke 18:9-14, **“And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are,**

extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.”

Here we find someone who knew the Law, and kept it fastidiously so that others might see it. What did Christ say of him? That he prayed with himself! His prayers went no farther! Why? Because he considered himself righteous in God’s eyes for his own works! He did not realize that Christ came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance! The publican did not realize that those who think they are well have no need of a physician, but that those who realize how sick they are do need one (Matthew 9:12-13)!

How do we apply all of this to ourselves? Let us begin by examining ourselves. Do we harbor an attitude of superiority towards others in the Body of Christ? Is our doctrine better than theirs? Do we keep the Law better? Is God working with us — but not them?

I recently heard a member of the Body of Christ say this about another. When person “A” found out that person “B” was going to be traveling with person “C” to a function, person “A” said out loud that the person would not go if person “B” was going to go, and would rather go by themselves (and did so!). Was there something that had been done to cause such hard feelings? Who knows? But, was that how Christ dealt with Judas, who committed a far greater offense than we normally commit against one another? This type of “holier than thou” attitude was never a part of the humble Christ.

This smug attitude of superiority was dealt with by Christ. Notice in Matthew 23:23-31 we find, **“Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave**

the other undone. Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess. Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness. Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because ye build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchres of the righteous, And say, If we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets. Wherefore ye be witnesses unto yourselves, that ye are the children of them which killed the prophets."

These are serious words. Christ called men who kept (in the letter) every law He had commanded by the name "hypocrite." The admonition is there for us today as well. We need to examine our hearts and ask ourselves this question in honesty. "Is there anyone in the Body of Christ whose feet I would never wash?" If there is, we must repent and repent now.

Why is this important? Notice this. James 4:11-12 states, ***"Speak not evil one of another, brethren. He that speaketh evil of his brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law: but if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge. There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy: who art thou that judgest another?"***

One who is not a doer of the law is a sinner (1 John 3:4)! In order to prevent grieving the Holy Spirit, we must not continue in sin! Ephesians 4:30-32 shows us, ***"And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption."*** How can we do that? Continue in verse 31, ***"Let all bitterness, and wrath,***

and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

We can grieve the Spirit by this bitter attitude toward our brethren! To prevent that, we need to be tenderhearted, easily entreated, forgiving, merciful toward all, with no exceptions. This point is of paramount importance. Our very lives are at stake. If we know anyone whom we are not willing to serve, then we need to stop and recheck ourselves.

What are we commanded? Acts 3:19, ***"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord..."*** Notice, if we are not converted, our sins will not be blotted out! We will die the death of the unconverted!

Can we begin to see just how important the idea of serving one another is? Do we see that our very lives depend upon our attitude toward one another?

When we assume an attitude of superiority towards another of God's children, we have assumed the position of a Pharisee! It does not matter what our brothers (and sisters) have done, nor from what background they come! It only matters that God created them, and that He would have all to come to salvation (Luke 3:6, Titus 2:11, Hebrews 5:9, 1 Timothy 2:4).

We are no stronger as the Body of Christ than our weakest member. That is why we are to help them, not look down upon them, as if we are more righteous. When we do so, we forget that compared to Christ, any cleanness that we might have is imperceptible next to God's cleanness, that we look like dirty rags next to Christ's righteousness.

A clear understanding of how miserable, blind, pitiful and naked we are is paramount to seeing ourselves as we ought to do. If we do such, we will have no problem washing the feet of anyone. We will have the proper humility—which can make of us a powerful servant.

Consider now, is there anyone whose feet you would not wash? If so, I beg of you, repent.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



There is one more thing that I forgot to mention before when some were giving their opinion about a color versus a black & white Sentinel: I think that the black & white is fine, and in fact, I like to see the saving of money. Color does not make the articles....the writer does. Thanks.....I am a conservative person and I don't like to see waste in anything.

Minnie
(last name withheld)

Thanks for your support Minnie! We agree that economy for the purpose of getting His Word into the hands of as many as possible is the ideal! Color is grand, and I believe that we should return to that when possible- but it is far more important to get the message out!
ED.

Ron & Donna McKown, who have operated the Friends of the Family Lending Library for a few years, would like to know if anyone is willing to take over this responsibility. The library consists of a wide range of books, tapes, videos, etc. from Focus on the Family and other sources. Many of the items have been donated by Giving & Sharing. The library needs to be expanded to include homeschooling items.

An individual who wishes to assume this responsibility should be willing to promote the lending service, maintain records and inventory, and contribute or seek others to assist with, postage expenses.

If you are interested, please contact the McKown's at rdmckown@juno.com.

Rich Nickels

We hope that someone familiar with TSS or BSA will be willing to take over this labor of love.

ED.

When you die, can you be buried on the Sabbath day or should you wait until Sunday?

Larry Kalmowitz

Most Sabbath-keepers such as ourselves would answer your question as I will here. The living relatives should generally respect the wishes of the deceased. The Sabbath commandment forbids all unnecessary work for us. The Sabbath-keeper would also want to take reasonable measures to prevent others (our servants) from working as well. Therefore, a Sabbath-keeping family would not normally schedule a funeral and burial on the Sabbath. There MAY be some rare circumstances when this is not possible. We pray that God will give us wisdom to face such situations so as to minimize, or eliminate entirely, Sabbath work relating to funerals and burial of the dead. We do know that Jesus' righteous uncle, Joseph of Arimathea, rushed to place the dead body of Jesus in the tomb BEFORE the Sabbath. This example is clear for us to follow.

I will forward you a free copy of The Sabbath Sentinel magazine. Thanks for asking.

Rich

Dear Brother Davis:

Thank you for your encouraging words, and prayers. Rejoice with me as on yesterday, my congregation voted overwhelmingly in favor of making the transition to Seventh Day Baptist Church. We are planning to have our first Sabbath worship service on December 11,99. We are excited in anticipation of what the Lord has in store for us as we continue to labor in his vineyard. We would appreciate any printed materials that you may share with us. Shalom!!!

Jim Rowe

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR THE EXTENDED BODY OF CHRIST!

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE 2000

December 5, 1999 - "Let the Older Women Teach the Younger" will serve as the guiding principle at the Women's Conference 2000 to be held in the Dallas area March 10-12, 2000. This groundbreaking conference will be open to women, regardless of church affiliation, who respect the traditional role of women in the Sabbatarian Churches of God but want to identify new areas of service and growth.

Women's Conference 2000 will be held at the Marriott Hotel Solana, located at 5 Village Circle in Westlake, TX, which is a 10-minute drive from DFW Airport in the Solana Business Complex developed by IBM.

For more information or a registration form, call 877/444-IBLC (toll-free) or 972/492-3305; or send an e-mail to info@iblc.org or marketl@worldnet.att.net. A registration form also appears in the Connections section of the December issue of The Journal.

ONE BODY IN YAHWEH

A gathering of ALL THE PEOPLE OF YAHWEH from all over the World!! Yahweh gathering in the Bahamas July 14-17, 2000 (Friday-Monday). The theme of the gathering is "One Body In Yahweh". For all sacred name believers. For more info, please contact: In New York: Bishop H. Mickens (718) 401-0742, Bahamas Pastor D. Thompson (242) 324-6906, St. Kitts Elder C. Jenkins (869) 465-6809, Dominica Elder J. Sedra (767) 449-1879, Elder L. Williams (767) 448-8043 or in Elder V.P.F. Joseph (767) 448-8567.

ISRAEL TOUR

00 Tour to Israel with Messianic Believers. For brochure and more info contact Gates of Eden at above address.

BIBLE COLLEGE PLANNED

The General Council of the Churches of God, 7th Day will be establishing a Bible College. For more information about the plans and estimated time frame contact General Council of the Churches of God, 7th Day 1827 West Third Street, Meridian, Idaho, 83642-1653.

TEACH ENGLISH!

The Church of God in Brazil is looking for someone to teach conversational English to their board of Elders. If you qualify, and are interested please contact them at their website at <http://www.igrejadedeus.com.br/>.

PEN PALS SOUGHT

Pen Pal and Spouse Seeker listing is now in the Gates of Eden Publication. It is a small column but free to anyone. It is suggested you have a post office box for such transactions to guarantee privacy. Write Daniel Botkin, Gates of Eden P.O. Box 2257, Esat Peoria IL 61611-0257. Gates of Eden is published monthly; recommended donation of \$2.00 per issue to offset publication costs.

SABBATARIAN SINGLES

Petah Tikvah Year 20 Sabbath Singles Connection — <http://hme.inreach.com/mikekawa/>

FREE NEWSLETTER

A regional monthly newsletter of, by and for the ecclesia, **The Green Pastures Gazette**, is available on request and is sent to residents of Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and New Mexico. Request your free subscription by writing to Phil Keener, PO Box 11243, Ft. Worth, TX 76110. Be sure to Include your address.

classified ads . . .

FREE REPORT-- How to Teach Your Children Biblical Work Ethics, and, The Principals That Guarantee Employment Success: The Road Map, PO Box 4154-SS, Kansas City, KS 66104. (Apr00)

FREE, 2000, CALENDAR OF THE LORD Biblical and historical events that Lord Father willed by His Son, Lord and Saviour, Jesus. Marked events for you to know and DO. Limit to 10 outside the USA; high postage. USA no limit for families, friends, etc. Write to: Church of God (New Testament), At Large; 45-020B Malulani Street; Kaneohe, HI 96744." (Feb00)

VISIT OUR WEBSITE ABOUT THE EARLY JUDAEN-CHRISTIAN CHURCH. www.cog-christianos.org. (Feb00)

BIBLE TRUTH versus RELIGION, and COMING TRIBULATION! \$1.00. CAL, Box 1035, Bellavista, CA 96008. (Apr00)

FREE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER—
"The Fellowship Commentator; A quarterly Newsletter of Biblical Analysis and Commentary" edited by F. Paul Haney, an independent minister. Also free with this ad— *"The Eagle & The Lion Christian Bible Study Guide"* and *"Study 32a: Keeping the Sabbath."*
Christ Fellowship Ministries
P.O. Box 370
Watertown, CT 06795 USA
(Apr00)

OLIVE BRANCHES- Web site provides links to many bible study resources, as well as items of special interest to the greater Sabbatarian community. Send for our free "Resource Guide." www.olivebranches.net. Olive Branches, PO Box 1293, Fairview, TN 37062. (June 00)

PHILADELPHIA. WHEN AND WHERE. POB. 26141 TEL AVIV 61261 ISRAEL (June 00)

Sale: Library - Rare E.G. White, Dr. Kellogg Jones, etc. Interested, send self addressed and stamped envelope for lists. All sales by mail. Haven Church of God. Box 2003, Winter Haven, FL 33880 (Feb 00)

Support BSA and our efforts to promote God's Sabbath! Become a Member Today!
Regular Membership
\$25; Family \$30
**BSA, 3316 Alberta Drive,
Gillette, WY 82718 USA
Toll Free: 1-888-687-5191**

Classified ads (20% discount for second time, 30% thereafter) are available at the rate of \$1.00 per word (including each word and each group of numbers in the address - telephone numbers count as one word) for each issue in which the ad is published.

Display ads are available at \$150 per quarter page for each issue the ad is published. Where possible your camera-ready copy will be utilized, or we will design your display ad for you. Send copy for all ads and payment to *The Bible Sabbath Association*, 3316 Alberta Drive, Gillette, WY 82718.

Discounts- Advertise in the TSS Classified Ads section for more than one issue and receive discounts: \$1.00 per word 1st issue, then 20% off for 2nd issue and 30% off for subsequent times.

Ad copy without payment will not be accepted for publication. Deadline is two months prior to publication (i.e. if you want your ad to appear in the March/April issue we must receive it before January). BSA reserves the right to reject or edit any ad copy. Publication does not necessarily imply endorsement by *The Bible Sabbath Association* or *The Sabbath Sentinel*.

DIRECTORY OF SABBATH OBSERVING GROUPS

The Bible Sabbath Association is in the process of revising the Directory of Sabbath Observing Groups. The Directory is circulated to Sabbath keepers all over the world. This is a directory of Sabbath observing groups and support organizations.

If your group wishes to be included in the new edition, please let us have your information as soon as possible. Please send to 3316 Alberta Dr, Gillette, WY 82718, general information about your group or organization, such as name of group, leader, phone number, address, email address. We will then send you a form to fill out to return to us.

If you are listed in the 1996 edition and wish to leave it the same, please call our toll free number at 1-888-687-5191 and speak to Richard or Shirley. If you don't know what the 1996 edition contains about your organization, you may call the toll free number and we will send you a copy of your information.

Entries to the Directory are free for the first 255 characters. A character is defined as a number, a letter, a space, a comma, or a period, etc. The format will be 8 1/2 x 11 inch. Any entries more than 255 characters will be edited. Should you desire to include more information about your organization or group than will fit in the 255 character format, additional space is available. The cost will be \$50 for an additional 1/3 of a page, or \$100 for a full page. Photos, (black & white are better than color), can be inserted in your extra page for \$30 each.

We still have copies of the 1996 edition available for \$10 each or free with a \$20 order.

The Directory of Sabbath Observing Groups is a very helpful directory and can be useful to everyone if the information is current. Please help us keep the information up to date. Remember this directory goes out to thousands of Sabbath keepers around the world. We will include information on Sabbath keeping organizations from every nation in the world. If you know of other groups, which have not been included in past Directories, please let us know. So please, send us your information as soon as possible so we can get the new directory printed. It is vitally needed.

The Sabbath Sentinel

A Bi-monthly Publication of

The Bible Sabbath Association

HC 60 Box 8, Fairview, OK 73737 USA

Address Service Requested

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 116
GILLETTE, WY