



The Sabbath Sentinel

July-August
2021

WHAT IS THE

MARK OF THE BEAST?

BSA — The Bible Sabbath Association

Jesus said, "many false prophets will rise and deceive many"

The Sabbath Sentinel May-June, 2021

Volume 75, No. 4, Issue 609

FEATURES

- 3 Editorial “Are We Happy?”
by Dr. Royce Mitchell
- 5 President’s Corner—“Sunday Laws in the Roman Empire”
by Kelly McDonald, Jr.
- 8 “We All Have a Purpose”
by Brandy Webb
- 11 “Stop. Slow Down. Pray and Think!”
by Tommy Willis
- 14 “Lessons from the Samaritan Woman”
by DJ Wellington
- 16 “A New Theory on the Mark of the Beast”
by Lenny Cacchio
- 19 “Fair Play, National Unity and Brotherly Love”
by Darl Arbogast
- 21 “The Los Lunas Commandment Stone”
by Bill Lussenheide

Cover photo courtesy of blogspot.com.

The Sabbath Sentinel is published bimonthly by The Bible Sabbath Association, PO Box 372, Stevens Point, WI 54481. Copyright © 2020 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 San Dimas, California.

Editor: Dr. Royce Mitchell, tseditor@yahoo.com.

BSA’s Board of Directors for 2020-2023:

President: Kelly McDonald, Jr., kellymcdonald_lu08@hotmail.com

Vice President: Bill Lussenheide

Secretary: Prof. Dusti Howell

Treasurer: Bryan Burrell

Office Manager—Jacquelyn Guerrero

Directors at Large: Dr. Royce Mitchell, Dr. John Merritt, June Narber

Subscriptions: write to: The Bible Sabbath Association, PO Box 372, Stevens Point, WI 54481 or email to office@biblesabbath.org. The Sabbath Sentinel is sent free of charge to all who request it in the U.S. If you live outside of the U.S., please send us a donation of \$25 (US) to cover overseas postage. **Voluntary contributions to the Bible Sabbath Association make publication of The Sabbath Sentinel possible.**

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: General memberships—individual membership is \$35/year (or \$5/month); Family Membership is \$60/year (or \$7/month); Institutional membership is \$100/year (or \$10/month); International (non-US) membership is \$50; Life Membership is \$700 in any one year.

Participating memberships—Bridge Builder Membership is \$100/year (or \$10/month); Pillar Membership is \$200/year (or \$20/month). Participating members may also directly assist the BSA in its direct outreach programs related to the BSA mission. 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 promoting the seventh day Sabbath. As a nonsectarian association for Sabbath-observing Christians, BSA accepts members who acknowledge Jesus Christ (Yeshua the Messiah) as their Savior, believe the Bible to be the Word of the Eternal God, 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 with 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: *The Sabbath Sentinel*, PO Box 372, Stevens Point, WI 54481.

E-mail: office@biblesabbath.org.

Address Service Requested: If moving, please update your address.

Please come visit us on our Facebook

page which is located at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/biblesabbathassociation>

and www.facebook.com/SabbathSentinel.

Don’t forget to LIKE us!

If you’d like more information on the Sabbath

Day, please visit

www.biblesabbath.org.

Also, visit our new blog at:

www.sabbathsentinel.org!



Are We Happy?

Are you happy? How would you know whether or not you are happy? Is it even possible to know whether you are happy? *Can* we be happy?

The scriptures actually tell us how to be happy if we take the time to search them out. For instance, Ps. 127:3-5 tells us that those who have a quiver full of children are happy! Moreover, those scriptures indicate that his children cause others to see him as a leader. Does this mean that our children would make us happy in everything that they do? Of course not! It means that as we reflect on our lives we will see the happiness that children bring us. It means that we pay attention to them!

Ps. 128:1-6 gives us another clue about happiness. In those scriptures we find that a man is happy—blessed is translated to “happy” in Ps 127, supra—when he “fears the LORD.” But, notice the blessings that come with that appropriate fear. First, you will be productive in what you set your hands to do. This will lead to a wife who is described as a fruitful vine. Secondly, children are incorporated into this definition of a happy life, and not just children but grandchildren, also. Finally, this happy individual will see peace in Israel, i.e., be part of a prophetic declaration that they would be alive to see that peace established!

Continuing our exploration of the scriptural definition of happiness, we move to Ps. 144:12-15. David was inspired to write that many blessings come to that happy individual who is blessed by God. Once again, children figure into the mix, children who are grown up well, with daughters who are polished. This indicates children which make their parents proud, in a good way. Moreover, an abundance of foods, and flocks that are healthy, figure into happiness. Not many of us have flocks today, but we certainly have ability to enjoy good food. David concludes proclaiming that the man who finds himself

in this condition is happy, and has as his God the LORD.

We read in Ps 146:3-6 that David warns us that trusting in others for “things” to make us happy would not lead to happiness. As all men do, those others will pass away leaving nothing behind. Instead he counsels us to trust in the God of Jacob. He tells us that when we trust in God, we will be happy!

Solomon tells us that the key to being happy is to find wisdom. We read this admonition in Prov. 3:13-18. He tells us that having wisdom is a tree of life for us. Of course, having wisdom is not the same as actually using wisdom, as Solomon’s life testifies to us. But, he understood that wisdom was at the core of a happy man or woman.

We read in Prov. 14:20-21 a very interesting statement about being happy. That key is to “have mercy on the poor.” It is pretty clear that Solomon understood that the nearness to God demonstrated by having a heart for the poor tends toward happiness in our lives. We know that charity and love are closely related to each other from 1 Cor. 13.

Solomon also goes on to state that one who has a heart that trusts God is also happy. Inherent in that statement is that God will reward those who put their trust in Him with happiness.

We have seen that the one who loves and trusts God will be rewarded in everything, including possessing the things of this world. But, does this mean that we are to strive for those things?

Solomon dealt with that question in a spectacular fashion in Eccl. 2—and from the opposite direction. As we read through that chapter we see that Solomon lived a life of excess since he admits that nothing was withheld from him that he wanted to do.

For instance, Solomon stated that he decided to par-

ty, test his heart with mirth as he states. He finally came to the conclusion that the partying lifestyle was madness and of no value.

He decided to drink as much wine as he wanted and to engage in any silly thing that he wanted to do. He wanted to see how men should live their lives. To test himself, he built many houses and vineyards. He didn't just build a three bedroom ranch house in the suburbs! He built lavish houses, palaces by today's standards.

Solomon built fantastic gardens and orchards filled with fruit trees. He even made huge pools which were so large they could be used to water forests!

To satisfy his lust for things, he bought many slaves, men and women. He took the sons of the women in his house to be his.

He accumulated immense wealth in the form of silver and gold. He calls the accumulation the "treasure of kings and of the provinces." Is it any wonder that Israel was ready to rebel against Solomon's son after Solomon's death?

Going on, Solomon speaks of bringing women and men musicians in to entertain him. He goes on to talk about not only having a wife, but very many wives! It must have seemed logical that if one wife tended toward happiness than many wives would be even better.

Solomon says that he was great and had more than anyone else. He states that anything he desired he acquired without reservation. If he saw it, and he wanted it, he got it! Very few of us know that kind of unbridled wealth and excess.

He concludes with a statement that all his excess did for him was to annoy his spirit. None of what he had done had brought him any happiness. It was all of no value at all. After all he had done in his life, his conclusion that it was all a waste.

As he begins to sum up what he learned, he found that it was far better to acquire wisdom than things. Perhaps, his failure to achieve happiness in those things is because he failed to understand the true value of things in proportion to the things that truly

make one happy.

He comes to recognize that he is going the way of all men, and all of the things he had done would be left to another. Recognizing this he came to hate all that he had done. He lamented that all of those things would be left to another, and wonders, perhaps prophetically, whether that one would be foolish. In the end, his life led him to despair, perhaps because of his feeling that nothing of all the accomplishments he had performed meant anything at all. That would certainly make anyone sad, knowing that everything done was all a waste of time.

As Solomon closes he has come to a conclusion that he no doubt wishes that he'd learned long before. He states that one should eat and drink and enjoy the work that he does. He proclaims that nobody could have had as much or more than he had in his life. But, being able to enjoy the things of life is a gift from God. Solomon spent too much time trying to acquire but forgot to stop and see God's hand in everything that was done. Finally Solomon realizes that wisdom, or perhaps applying wisdom, would have given him a much happier life.

Solomon's experience should be a lesson for us. Yes, we need to work to prosper. But, we should never lose sight of the fact that it is God who provides. We should never lose sight of the fact that the important things in our lives are our wives and children. Perhaps had Solomon invested all of that ambition in raising a son with wisdom and in a wife who loved him instead of all of the excess in which he indulged he might have died a much happier man.

In conclusion, the way to know that you are happy is to recognize that you are dwelling on the things of God and how He has blessed you in all things. There is no happiness in the acquisition of things. Our happiness, like all good gifts, comes from our Daddy in Heaven.





The President's Corner

SUNDAY LAWS IN THE ROMAN EMPIRE

PART 1 OF 2

Kelly McDonald

As reviewed in the last edition of *The Sabbath Sentinel*, the Roman Empire protected Sabbath observance for hundreds of years. This facilitated the spread of Christians who observed the Sabbath within the Imperial domains. In the fourth century, laws pertaining to Sunday were enacted by Roman Emperors. Unlike Sabbath protections, these were a nuanced ideal.

The first Sunday laws, perhaps in history, were enacted in 321 by Constantine. Before we delve into these two laws, it is important to recognize that he held the title *pontifex maximus*. This was an ancient pagan Roman title that allowed him to control the religious calendar of the Empire. As we will see, his Sunday laws are consistent with the idea of the *pontifex maximus*. We have a copy of his first two Sunday laws below:

Law 1: “All Judges and city people and the craftsmen shall rest upon the venerable Day of the Sun*. Country people, however, may freely attend to the cultivation of the fields, because it frequently happens that no other days are better adapted for planting the grain in the furrows or the vines in trenches. So that the advantage given by heavenly providence may not for the occasion of a short time perish” – March 7, 321 (CJ 3.12.2 [some list as 3.12.3], English: Ayers, 284-285; Latin: Krueger, p 127).

*In the Latin manuscript of this law, the phrase translated as “venerable day of the sun” is *venerabili die solis*. Constantine’s decree was based upon honoring and esteeming the celestial body we call the sun.

Law 2: “Just as it appears to Us most unseemly that the Day of the Sun (Sunday), which is celebrated on account of its own veneration, should be occupied with legal altercations and with noxious controversies of the litigation of contending parties, so it is pleasant and fitting

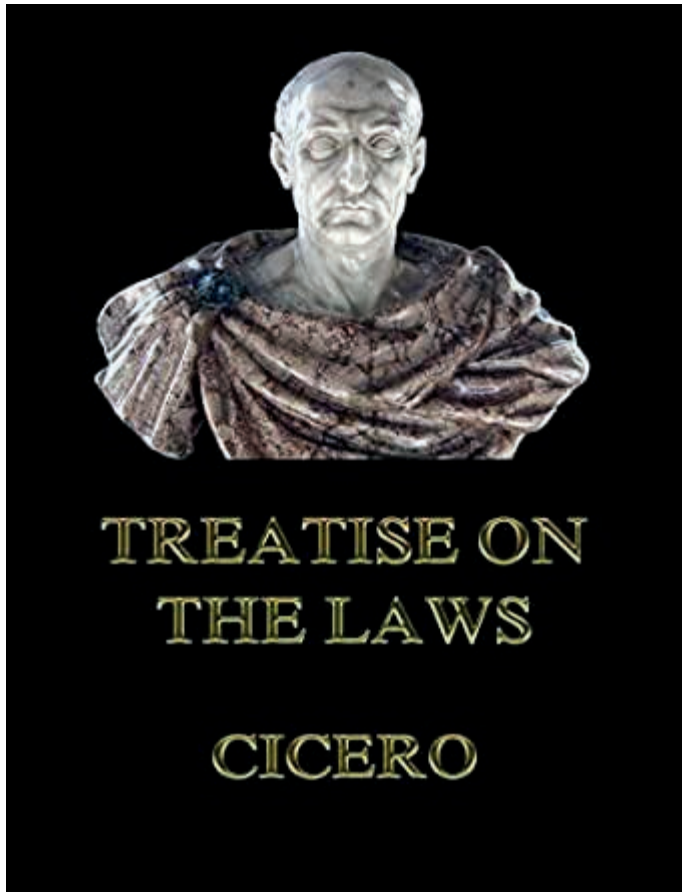
that those acts which are especially desired shall be accomplished on that day. 1. Therefore all men shall have the right to emancipate and to manumit on this festive day [Latin: *festo*], and the legal formalities thereof are not forbidden” – July 3, 321 (CT: 2.8.1; English: Pharr, p 44; Latin: Haenel, p 207).

Many have assumed that these laws were issued to honor God or promote the agenda of the Roman Catholic Church. This would be a stretch to say the least. These decrees did not mention Jesus or the God of the Bible. No penalty was issued for those who did not comply. Additionally, this law was not designed to mirror the Biblical Sabbath. Notice that farmers were not allowed to take off work on the day. The God of the Holy Bible gave us the Sabbath (Friday sunset to Saturday sunset) as the weekly day of rest for all people, regardless of their occupation.

As the *pontifex maximus*, Constantine had responsibilities to uphold certain Roman ideals regarding celebrations for the Roman people. The ancient writer Cicero, who lived from about 106 to 43 BC, wrote about this subject. His writings will help clarify the 321 Sunday laws. In his work *On Law*, he described special characteristics of the ancient Roman celebrations.

“Next, our provision for holidays and festivals [Latin: *feriarum festorumque dierum*] ordains rest from lawsuits and controversies for free men, and from labour and toil for slaves. Whoever plans the official year ought to arrange that these festivals shall come at the completion of the various labours of the farm...” (idem, 2.12[29]).

The principles described by Cicero continued to be applied to Roman festivals during the Imperial period. This included the *Saturnalia* (Dec 17-24) and the *Kalends of January* (Jan 1-



3), which were still celebrated even in Constantine's time (see Seneca, *Epistulae*, 18.1-4; Lucian, *Saturnalia*, sec 2 and *Chronosolon*, sec 13-14; Dio Cassius, *Roman History*, 60.19.3; Macrobius, *Saturnalia*; and Libianus, *Oration*, 9).

Constantine's 321 Sunday laws matched the anticipated patterns for Roman festivals described by Cicero and other ancient authors. The issues of work and agricultural toils were addressed in the first law. While farmers were not granted rest on the day, their appropriate behavior was discussed to be consistent with other festivals. Many annual festivals related in some way to the harvest cycle. It was not logical to allow farmers off on Sunday since there is not a weekly crop. In the second law, most legal proceedings were suspended and freedom for slaves were addressed. The Latin word *festo* was employed in this law.

The day after his first Sunday law, he received a law allowing the pagan soothsayers to enter buildings where lightning had struck (CT: 16.10.1). This decree upheld the ancient Roman custom where a ceremony was used to

determine which god or goddess was angry and how to pacify him/her. Tacitus, writing a couple of centuries earlier, mentioned that pontiffs were involved with overseeing the haruspices (*Annals*, 11.15).

Balkans Inscription

A third Sunday law from Constantine's reign is recorded on an inscription found in a Slavonian bath house. To understand this inscription, one must grasp that the Romans had two ways that they calculated weeks. There was the market week, which was composed of eight days. Every eighth day was *nundinae* or market day. The inscription informs us that Constantine adjusted the ancient Roman *nundinae* or market day so that it would occur every *dies solis* instead of every eighth day (Orellius, p 140). Despite this ruling, the dual system of eight-day and seven-day weeks continued into at least the mid-fourth century AD.

While Constantine did show favor to Christians, he also continued to honor paganism in obvious ways. He honored the sun god *Sol Invictus* on monuments and coins; his Sunday laws are congruent with this sentiment. In the case of these Sunday laws, he utilized the title *pontifex maximus* to promote *dies solis* as a weekly feast day (in the Roman sense). One can be hardly surprised. His Sunday laws lack the necessary evidence to have firm Roman Catholic influence. First, he did not recognize it as the first day of the week or the Lord's Day (pagans considered Sunday to be the second day of the week; we will likely cover this subject in a future BSA article). Secondly, the Roman Church did not have a developed theology about Sunday rest in 321 AD. The first Roman Church Council to discuss Sunday rest does not occur until about 364 (Laodicea).

A last, but not least, development which occurred during his reign is the gradual joining of the Roman Church and Roman State. Constantine paid the expenses of some Church Councils (Eusebius, *Church History*, 10.6). He ruled that clergy and their families did not have to pay taxes (CT: 16.2.10). By law, people could leave property to the Roman Church at death (CT: 16.2.4 [321]). In 326, he passed a law that granted the Roman Church special privileges. All other Christian groups were not allowed these privileges and were bound to

public service (CT: 16.5.1).

In addition to these measures, he regulated the number of clergy in Christianity (CT: 16.2.6 [326 AD]). The wealthy were prevented from serving in these positions; only the poor could serve in them ([10.2.6 [326 or 329 AD]). He prevented clerics from being summoned to municipal councils for public service (10.2.6, 10.2.7 [330 AD]). Secular judges were even forced to enforce the decisions of Catholic Bishops; when such a bishop testified, his witness was considered supreme and voided all others (CS: 1 [333 AD]).

During the reign of Theodosius, this union between Church and State was made complete. We will review this occurrence in the second part of this series. The next Sunday law was enacted about 45-50 years later by the Roman Emperors Valentinian and Valens.

“Emperors Valentinian and Valens Augustuses to Florianus, Governor of Venetia. It is our will that no Christian shall be sued by tax collectors on the Day of the Sun (Sunday), which has long* been considered holy**, and by this interdict of our statute we sanction peril against any person who should dare to commit this offense” – April 21, 368, 370, 371 (CT: 8.8.1; English: Pharr, 209; Latin: Haenel, p 754).

*The Latin phrase translated as “long” is *qui dudum*. It more refers to the present and the immediate past rather than a long period of time (Lewis, *A Latin Dictionary*). This is different than the Sabbath – which the Roman Emperors viewed as being sacred since ‘ancient times’ (Latin: *vetus*).

**Notice the word ‘holy’ in the law. This is not a good translation. The underlying Latin word is *faustus*; it means lucky, fortunate, or a good omen. The word can have religious meaning, but it does not have to. In other words, Sunday was considered a lucky day.

This law was written to the governor of Venetia, which was a province in northeastern Italy. This means that it was likely not applied in other areas. This is the first Roman law that mentions Christianity in relationship to Sunday. Notice that nearly fifty years after the first Sunday laws, Roman Emperors still did not use the term Lord’s day; this continues to show a lack of Roman Church influence.

One thing that we can learn from this law is that there must have been a significant number of Christians in Venetia who kept Sunday. Tax collections still took place on Sunday up until this law was issued. This law was repeated as CT:11.7.10.

We will continue this subject next time!

To read more about this subject, download our free booklet *Sabbath and Sunday Laws in the Roman Empire* from the “Free Resources” page on www.sabbath.blog.

Sources Cited

Ayers, Joseph Cullen. *A Source Book For Ancient Church History*. New York. Charles Scribner’s Sons, 1913. pp 284-285.

Cicero, *On Law*, 2.12(29). Translated by Clinton Walker Keyes. New York: G.P. Putnam’s Sons, 1928. pp 406-407.

Codex Justinian, 3.12.2. Latin. *Corpus Iuris Civilis*. Krueger, Paulus, ed. Vol 2. *Codex Iustinianus*. Berlin, 1892. p 127.

Codex Theodosianus. English. Translated by Clyde Pharr. *The Theodosian Code and Novels and the Sirmondian Constitutions*. Princeton University, 1952. pp 44, 209.

Codex Theodosianus. Latin. Edited by Gustavus Haenel. *Novellae Constitutiones Imperatorum Theodosii II., Valentinianii III., Maximi, Severi, Anthemii. Ad XLII Librorum Manuscriptorum Et Priorum Editionum Fidem Recognovit Et Annotatione Critica Instuxit*. Lipsiensis, 1841-1842. Vol 2: pp 207, 754. Vol 3: pp 1070-71.

Encyclopedia Britannica. 11th edition. Article: Mithras.

Lewis, Charlton T. *A Latin Dictionary*. Oxford, Clarendon Press. 1879. Entry: *dudum*.

Orellius, Johann Caspar. *Inscriptionum Latinarum Selectarum Amplissima Collectio*. *Romanae Antiquitatis*. Vol 1. 1828. p 140, no 508.



WE ALL HAVE A PURPOSE

Brandy Webb

All of us who believe in God the Father and Jesus Christ are given various gifts/talents through the Holy Spirit. There are many gifts given through the Holy Spirit—a few are: faith, mercy, service, wisdom, healing, giving, teaching, discerning of spirits, leading, knowledge, encourager, prophecy, love, and more (1 Corinthians 12: 7-10, 1 Corinthians 13, and Romans 12:3-9).

These gifts are freely given to God's people to equip us to go out into the world and be examples of Christ. We are to use our God given gifts to spread His light wherever we are and wherever we go. Each of us has jobs that God wants us to do. Each of us has a purpose. Everyone one of us is wonderfully made. In fact, I like how the New Living Translation states Psalm 139:14: *"Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it."* (Psalm 139:14 NLT).

Have you ever thought about how wonderfully complex our bodies are, how intricately the designer created us? Just think of our brains, for instance. A professor from Stanford University, Dr. Kwabena Boahen, stated that our brains are "actually able to do more calculations per second than even the fastest supercomputer " (Thompson, 2013). There is so much going on in our bodies at every given second that we do not see. We have a complete electric circuit system inside us. It is amazing to think how sophisticated the human body can be. It is full of different talented systems that have to intricately and cohesively work

together for us to be alive.

Now, consider God's Body—His people. Paul likes to use the analogy of a body to show how we are to be in unity yet with diversity of talents, functions, and gifts. I like one point Paul states in Romans 12:3: *"For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith."*

His point of 'not thinking too highly of ourselves' is something that the world does not understand nor practice, and sadly sometimes it isn't practiced amongst churches. This to me is one vital component for us to remember as we try to work together to get the body of Christ to move out into the world. Every person is important and vital to the body.

Paul goes even further in his letter to the Corinthians. He describes, in 1 Corinthians 12, that just like our physical bodies have different components that makes one body, Christ's body is made up of



For it is by **grace**
you have been saved,
through **faith** --
and this is not
from yourselves,
it is the gift of God.

-Ephesians 2:8



whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. 14 For the body is not one member, but many. 15 If the foot says, "Because I am not a hand, I am not a part of the body," it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. 16 And if the ear says, "Because I am not an eye, I am not a part of the body," it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? 18 But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired. 19 If they were all one member, where would the body be? 20 But now there are many members, but one body. 21 And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; or again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." 22 **On the contrary, it is much truer that the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary; 23 and those members of the body which we deem less honorable, on these we bestow more abundant honor, and our less presentable members become much more presentable, 24 whereas our more presentable members have no need of it. But God has so composed the body, giving more abundant honor to that member which lacked, 25 so that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. 26 And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.** (emphasis mine).

Every one of us is an important component to Christ's body. I know from my own experiences it is easy to fall into the comparison trap, to be that "ear" that wants to be the "eye." However, that means I am not trying to see the vessel that God created me to be. I am looking at the potter, in a way, and saying why didn't you create me like that vessel over there? However, I need to focus on my own gifts, and how I can use them to help His body move intricately and cohesively. You and I need to make sure we do not fall into that deception that there are more important body parts than others. I mean think about it, do any of us think that our hand is more important than our foot? Both are important, yet they do different jobs.

different components but is still one unit. Let us look at 1 Corinthians 12 starting in verse 4:

"4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. 6 There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. 7 But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. 8 For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, 10 and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues. 11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills. 12 For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. 13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body,

Plus, as this passage shows, the perceived 'weaker' parts, God bestows more respect and honor. Why? God doesn't want "*division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together*" (1 Corinthians 12:25-26). I know that some of us may not think we have much to bring to the table, but that thought is not true. Honestly, we have to use our gifts to fulfill the two great commandments love God with all our hearts soul and mind and love our neighbor as ourselves (Matthew 22:37-40).

The truth is, there is one gift that God's people are to have that is seen as higher than all the others, and that is the gift of love through God's spirit. God is love (1 John 4:8), and God is light (1 John 1:5). And if A = B and B = C, then A = C, therefore, love is light. We are to walk in light and not in darkness. Therefore, we are to walk in love to light our path.

It is easy to love God, and it is easy to love each other within the body. Yet, how about loving your enemies, loving those who persecute you, loving them that revile you, or how about loving the politicians and praying for them? This is pure love, to love others, even if you don't agree with them. And to do good to others even if you don't think they deserve it. Isn't that what Christ did for us. Did we deserve His sacrifice?

So, let us look closely to some characteristics of love from the love chapter 1 Corinthians 13:

- "Love is patient and kind." Love waits without grumbling in the long lines at the supermarket or when driving behind someone that may be driving slower than we want. It also is kind even to the person who is unkind to us.
- "Love does not envy or boast" – this means that love doesn't look for the "pat on the back." It doesn't seek credit for doing good. It doesn't seek the lime light.
- "Love is not arrogant or rude" – Love strives to be civil/courteous towards others in our speech, in our actions, and especially on social me-

dia. We are to be light bearers all the time.

- "Love does not insist on its own way" – there goes the whole "the world revolves around me" attitude. We can't strive for a life where we get everything we want, not if we want to walk in love.
- Love "is not irritable or resentful" – Therefore you can't hold grudges against people who have wronged you. You have to let it go and forgive. It also means that all this resentment between churches because of splits is not justified. In fact, it is against God because it is not love.

There are more traits in the 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, but I won't dissect each one. The point is love is powerful, unselfish, giving, truthful, and eternal. We all are to have this gift. It may need some polishing. It may need some nurturing to grow a little more, but we all have to have love in order to be called God's children.

We have a purpose, and we have a mission, to love one another, to preach the good news, and to share our gifts to the edification of the Body of Christ. We may not all have the gift of preaching, singing, writing, speaking to crowds of people, but we can spread God's light to the willing ears that we may come into contact with everyday. When we live a life for God's glory, we allow for the gifts He has given us to grow because they are being used. Let us work together in love, building up the body of Christ, helping each other to mature our gifts in the Spirit, edifying each other, and glorifying our Father and Messiah, so, that we can stand firm in our faith and endure to the end.



Stop. Slow down. Pray and Think!

Tommy Willis

In this modern world we have many time saving devices; yet we are more in a rush than ever before. Why? Well, every fulfilled desire lays the seed for more desires. If we had a washing machine that washed clothes in 15 minutes instead of 30 minutes, then we would want that one; then we would want the newer one that claims to wash our clothes in 10 minutes. Then we would want the newer one after that, which is ever faster. The problem is our human nature; it is never satisfied. Going faster does not help us draw closer to God. We need to slow down. The busy rush of the rat race is worse than ever with the technology today; and it can be deadly for our prayer lives. We need to stop the business and slow down to examine matters. We often feel we need access to tons of information. The churches today often have the believer flooded with information overload.

In Jesus and Paul's day people never had access to a fraction of the information we have today. Yet these believers were often close to God. This should tell us something. This is why Prayer and meditation is so important. We often think that we have to become biblical scholars to be close to God. This is simply not true. Why is it that the elderly lady in her rocking chair, who raised eight children, and didn't have near as much time to study as the biblical scholar, can often be closer to God?

I'm not trying to suggest that biblical scholarship does not have its place, because it does. But our attitude in our Bible study is so very important. The Pharisees were like the biblical scholars of their day. *"At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. 26 Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do."* (Mt 11:25-26) niv. The child-

like heart and humble mind can be led through the Bible to see what is needed. We need to get to know God; and endless picky doctrinal and prophetic studies can become a distraction. We need to seek to use the Bible to get to know Him personally.

We need to use the Bible to meet the Lord Jesus. *"You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life."* (Jn 5:39-40) niv. Here we see that we can study the Bible diligently, yet not come to fellowship with Him. We need to ask Jesus Christ to take us by the hand and lead us through the scriptures so that we will get to know Him personally. *"3 Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent."* (John 17:3) niv. This is why we are on the planet—to get to know God. We are here for a short time. And we should use it wisely. Too often we stay busy with the cares of this life and do not take the time to sit and think about what is important in life.

"No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.... But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." (Mt 6:24, 33). We are to seek God first.

If we drift from God, he will have to get our attention. When I drifted from God, He used the scripture in Revelation 3:18-20 to get my attention. Here Christ is knocking at the door of our heart and mind because we have drifted from God. Repentance clears the way for a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. If we drift, Jesus Christ knocks at the door of our heart; He loves us and wants a deeper relationship with us.

The days ahead will be difficult in this nation and the world. Let us pray and seek God, to ask Him to

lead us through the Scriptures so that we will get to know Him, to get our foundation down in Him. As this old world gets shaken as never before we can still be standing because our foundation and trust will be in Jesus Christ.

Don't let the busy rushing schedule of the world take you away from God. The cares of this life can destroy us if we let it. Slow down; and make sure you are not neglecting your personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Sit and talk with Him. Spend time getting to know Him personally. As we seek Him diligently, He will settle us and give us His peace to handle the distractions of the world. We often look at prayer as a "chore" or "duty," but instead, look to spend time with the best friend you will ever have. Yes, praying involves asking God for our needs; but you also may have times where you just sit in His presence without saying anything—just spending time with Him—and you will find he is giving you thoughts to work with. As you learn to spend time with God this way you will learn to not look at it as a "chore" or "duty" that you have to do, but instead look at it as a joy to spend time with your best Friend, to be there in His presence. It took me many years to learn this in my prayer life; some learn it sooner. Think about this, you may look at prayer in this "ritual" sense like I used to do; I had to learn the joy and intimacy in prayer. We often fail to see the reality that it is about our personal relationship with Jesus Christ. You will not find a better Friend. "...I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you." (John 15:15) KJV.

Many are concerned about the days ahead in this nation and the world. The days ahead will be difficult. But if we are praying and meditating as we should, there will be no reason to fear. David said: "I sought the Lord, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears." (Ps 34:4) KJV. If we have fear we need to do something about it and seek God in prayer like this Scripture tells us. But like a hamster on a treadmill, too often we squander our time with fear and worry. We go through "mental gymnas-

tics", saying, "What if that happens", or "what if this happens." We make ourselves miserable with worry. No matter how bad the chaos gets in the world, we need to keep in mind that important principle about prayer. Think about the above scripture. If you have fear pray; and keep praying.

God promises to be with us. This is what we are going to need to know for the days ahead. To know He is with us—not just as a religious idea or doctrine, but as a reality. I've never seen people so on edge in my lifetime as I see now. I've heard people talking how they find most people are so stressed out and angry about matters. With all that is going on in the world at present, many have a feeling of impending doom while a sense of foreboding clings to their psyche. There's so much going on in the news that the roller coaster of today's news drowns out the shock of the news the day before. It has many wondering again—are we headed towards the beginning of the "birth pains?"

If you fall down a thousand times—get up and cry out to God. Remember the Psalms. Jesus read these Psalms. Remember how David and the other writers cried out to God and learned not to give up. They cried out: "How long, O Lord? Will You forget me forever? How long will You hide Your face from me?" (Ps 13:1) nkjv. God used these scriptures to help me while caring for my invalid dad. I cried out also, and I kept praying and praying. I didn't realize it at the time, but with all those prayers God was pulling me closer to Him. I also learned more of the value of sitting and thinking deeply about



life.

Don't let distractions take you away from God. If you are praying and meditating as you should things will work out, so there's no reason to fear. This is the lesson God drove home in my mind with the situation with taking care of my invalid dad when I felt I couldn't go on anymore. Learn to slow down and pray and think about what is important. Pray as you should, and draw close to God. As we get our foundation down in Jesus Christ He will give us His grace and strength, because we all have our real problems. And many of our problems are not dealt with because of our lack of prayer. Think about the two scriptures mentioned below about prayer.

"This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses since he had the same temptations we do, though he never once gave way to them and sinned. So let us come boldly to the very throne of God and stay there to receive his mercy and to find grace to help us in our times of need." (Heb 4:15-16) TLB.

"And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him." (Heb 11:6) NIV.

Our problems often increase because of our lack of prayer; and the above scriptures tell us to come before God's throne room to get the help we need. Let us think deeply about these scriptures and apply them. Those who seek God diligently will be blessed with His peace amidst the increasing chaos of the times. Hold fast brethren, and God will bring us Home.



Interested in Membership?

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

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

Following are the membership levels:

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

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

Contact BSA via e-mail at office@biblesabbath.org for more information. You can also pay for membership at our web site, www.biblesabbath.org, using credit cards (handled by PayPal) or by writing to us at PO Box 372, Stevens Point, WI 54481.

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

Lessons from the Samaritan Woman

John 4:7-44

DJ Wellington

Yahushua was weary and sat on Jacob's well about the sixth hour. So, there He is resting and a woman comes to the well to draw water. Now this wasn't just any woman, but a Samaritan woman and, evidently, the "Jews" did not have anything to do with the Samaritans despite them also being Abraham's children.

So, Yahushua asks her for a drink and she was curious why He was even speaking with her. The woman questions Him because He had nothing to draw water with and asking if He was greater than their father Jacob, who gave them the well. We know most of this story. Yahushua explained the different type of water which He would give, and the woman asked for it.

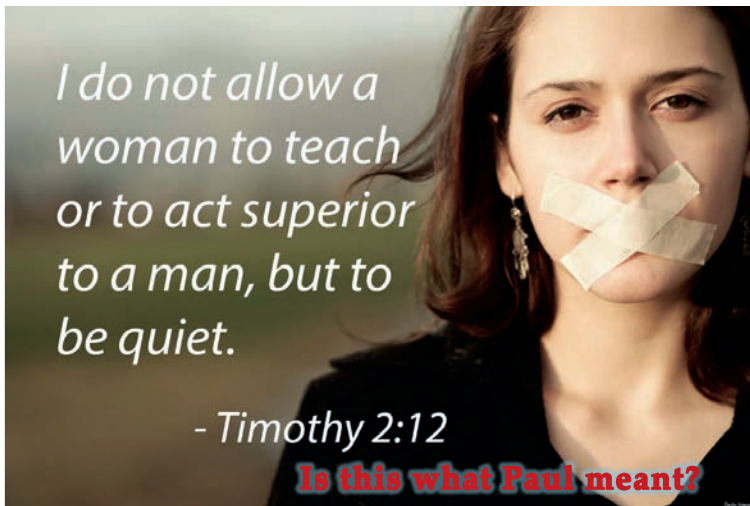
Yahushua told her how she had been married several times and the man with her at that point was not her husband. She thought He was a prophet and tells Him how their fathers worshipped in that mountain but "He" (referring to the "Jews") says only in Jerusalem should men worship. The conversation continues between this female and the Messiah.

As they were discussing worship, his disciples came back and they "marveled" that He was speaking to the woman, but they did not question Him. Did the apostles have a problem with the Messiah speaking to a woman, or was it because she was a Samaritan, or both? Yahushua never said, "Go get that man you're living with to come here so we can talk."

As the story progresses, we learn that the woman left her water pot, went back into the city and told the men about what had occurred. She did not say it to her "man" who passed it on. SHE spoke directly to them, and they were more than likely the elders sitting at the city gate. Not only did she tell them, they LISTENED to her and went out of the city to see Yahushua. Scripture even tells us in verse 39 that many of the Samaritans of that city believed on Yahushua for the saying of the woman.

Now, there are some strong lessons to be learned through this. There are a substantial number of men who seem to think that since they are the head, that women are not to discuss scripture, other than at their homes with their husbands. Keep in mind that Paul (note not Yahushua) says this in 1 Corinthians 14:34-35. If one were to delve into the history of that day and time in Corinth, they would find substantial evidence of other reasoning for Paul to speak thus. However, even taken at face value, this is pertaining to in the synagogue, not in daily living. Our Messiah did NOT seem to think it was inappropriate





ate to discuss Scriptural matters with women directly! How arrogant for men of our day and time to think so!

There are many, many women who study scripture diligently and strive to live accordingly with or without their husbands, yet still respecting their husbands as the head of the house. Though it is ideal to have a husband and wife in the faith together, there are many times today that is not the case. Sadly, there are men who think scripture denotes they CANNOT even discuss Scriptures with a woman, unless it is their wife and, even then, only in private!

If MEN (and women) are to walk as Messiah walked (1 John 2:6), and He obviously had no difficulty speaking to men AND women, together or separate, married or unmarried, then we should do likewise. One of our jobs on this earth is to spread His words to EVERYONE who is interested enough to listen, man or woman, married or unmarried. A huge reason for discussing scripture is to increase our true knowledge, understanding and aid others seeking the same. No man or woman on earth has all truth yet truth increases as Yahuweh sees fit for us to receive. We don't know how or through whom Yahuweh shows us new truths but, in discussing Scriptures, we become aware of many

things whether showing us where we are wrong, another way of viewing a Scripture, or even something we missed previously. Why on earth would it matter who or what the vehicle was to aid us... circumstance, a dream, man, woman or even child?

There are definitely other examples of women in Scripture who were treated with respect, dignity and as "the weaker vessel" but still with an appreciation of their sense of knowledge and judgment as well in matters. Women were spoken to by messengers of Yahuweh, kings and other men of power. Just four instances are Manoah's wife (Judges 13:3), Rahab (Joshua 2:1), Deborah (Judges 4:9) and Miriam (Luke 1:30). Sadly, so many men who seem to have difficulty with an overabundance of pride, will have many reasons for those examples to justify their overall treatment and disregard of and for woman except for what they perceive as their designated role.

It is very unfortunate our age has become one where women have been elevated and men have been put down. We see this on the TV screens, in magazines, newspapers, billboards, all over. No wonder male pride has become so prevalent! It is sad, indeed, when a man lets his pride keep him from discussing scripture with an interested individual based on gender. It is even worse when a female, in discussing, shows something that is potentially more correct than his viewpoint but simply because of her gender, he discredits it! Yahuweh uses all kinds of folks to help Israel—good, evil, male, female, young and old.

May our Heavenly Father guide us all in His truths, awaiting the glorious return of His Son, Yahushua!



Mark of the Beast

Lenny Cacchio

In this piece I'm taking a different approach to what the Mark of the Beast might be. Search the 'net and you'll find plausible theories that range from embedded chips to which day to count as the Sabbath. I'm going to offer another theory which I gladly label "theory." However, I'm coming to believe this more and more to be the real issue at hand. I welcome comments and insights.

He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. (Revelation 13:16-17) .

He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and shall intend to change times and law. (Daniel 7:25).

This enigmatic mark of the beast has been interpreted in a number of different ways. Given modern technology some have posited that implanted microchips could be the fulfillment of this prophecy.

Others identify the mark as a change in the day kept as the Sabbath. Those who believe in this interpretation refer to such scriptures such as Ezekiel 20:12 and Exodus 31:13 where the seventh day Sabbath is referred to as a sign between God and his people. Thus, the mark of the beast would refer to a counterfeit Sabbath "sign," and conditions would be such that the Fourth Commandment is made impossible to keep because of forced Sunday observance. Refusal to accept that sign

would result in economic hardship.

This article is not intended to challenge either theory. It is intended to continue the conversation.

Let's begin with the observation that the mark is placed on either the right hand or the forehead. In the book of Deuteronomy we find an interesting expression shortly after a listing of the Ten Commandments:

And these words that I command you today shall be in your heart. ... You shall bind them as a sign on your hand , and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. (Deuteronomy 6: 6, 8).

This suggests that the Ten Commandments



should be the rule for what we do ("bind them as a sign on your hand") and how we think ("they shall be as frontlets before your eyes"). The mark of the beast is also placed on the hand or the forehead, suggesting that this mark is some kind of counterfeit way of living and way of thinking.

In comparing with this Daniel 7:25 (*"he shall intend to change the times and the laws"*), could Revelation be telling us that the time is coming when all ten of the Ten Commandments will be supplanted by some other law? What possible civilized system could say that murder, lying, stealing, and every form of deviancy is not a crime?

It is not too far fetched to see the makings of such a world emerging today. The first four commandments deal with our relationship with and reverence for the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. We see Christian groups being banned from college campuses. We see churches and synagogues being attacked with violence and either marginalized as ignorant bigots (Christians) or incited against as shysters, diamond merchants, and "it's all about the Benjamins" (Jews). Prayer is prohibited in public places, and professions of faith are ruled out of order. Netflix feels free to spite Christians by portraying Jesus as a homosexual, and the Salvation Army has been assailed for its charity work with the accusation that their sincere desire to help those in need is no more than cover for the sinister purpose of ensnaring people into their religion.

As for "Thou Shalt not Kill", do we need to bring up abortion for the millionth time, and do we need to remind people that several states allow newborns to be left to die without medical care as long as they are "kept comfortable?" Or that physician assisted suicide, formally known as euthanasia, is now in may



places legally permissible?

Or how about the younger generations' musings about how Boomers have ruined the world. Honoring one's parents is being replaced by a resentment of the seasoned generations amid the accusation that they screwed up America, and it has become accepted for activists to co-opt our children, using them as bullhorns in loud attacks on the cause du Jour.

And if you're wondering about that "adultery" commandment, think of the deviancy now celebrated as alternative lifestyles, and if you disagree and say so, you might lose your job and be attacked and threatened mercilessly on social media. Children are celebrated when they or their parents decide it is perfectly normal to pump their kids full of hormones of the opposite sex and even contemplate major surgery to rearrange their sex organs. Worse, in some places it is not just considered bigotry but also illegal to try to help people clean up their lifestyles.

And "Thou shalt not steal"? Did you know that in some places such as California among several others, criminals who shoplift less than \$950 per incident will not be prosecuted? Or what about the license some law enforcement agencies have to engage in "civil asset forfeiture," which means they can seize your property without due process on only the sus-

Enjoying the articles...?

You can aid the BSA effort to promote the Sabbath and a Spirit of brother-hood among all who keep God's Sabbath by becoming a **BRIDGE BUILDER** or a **PILLAR** with the BSA? Besides the monthly or annual membership dues which you can find inside the front cover, you can also help with various functions designed to help bring a fellowship of brethren across denominational lines. Some of the opportunities are: Advise and/or consult with the BSA Board of Directors; visiting and interacting with other Sabbatarian fellowships; speaking on behalf of the BSA; Promotion and/or distribution of BSA materials and services; and assisting with this magazine, the BSA Facebook page, Twitter and other social media on projects defined by the Board of Directors.

pcion of a crime, and it is often extremely difficult to recover those assets.

Do we need to talk about bearing false witness in a society where it's illegal for you to lie to the government, but not for the government to lie to you? How about the growing trend of a culture where everyone is allowed to have his or her "own truth".

And of course coveting what your neighbor has and electing people who promise to take other people's property by force is now the norm in our election campaigns.

That is why I'm floating the theory that the mark of the beast is much more all-encompassing than merely changing the Sabbath. It could well be that the passage in Revelation is about a complete revolution in how the culture views good and evil, right from wrong.

Consider this from Ezekiel:

They had not executed My judgments, but had despised my statutes, profaned My Sabbaths, and their eyes were fixed on their fathers' idols, therefore I also gave them up to statutes that were not good, and judgments by which they could not live. (Ezekiel 20:24-25).

Removing the Law of God and giving ourselves over to what seems good through our self-centered eyes is devastating to a culture and a nation. It is impossible to have any kind of society without law. What kind of law will we be given up to in the absence of any semblance of God's law?

What law will fill the vacuum created by the absence of the perfect law of liberty?

Other references:

Matthew 24:12, Romans 1:18-32, II Timothy 3:1-9, II Thessalonians 2:7-10



FAIR PLAY, NATIONAL UNITY AND BROTHERLY LOVE

Darl Arbogast

Apostle Paul admonishes us in Romans 13:1 thru 4 NKJ - *1 Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. 2 Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. 3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. 4 For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil.*

Joe Biden campaigned on national unity and bringing the country together. Did he also mean fair play and brotherly love? Don't be deceived!

November 3, 2020 he was elected in possibly the worst election scam in American history. There were so many under handed plots to deceive and steal in this election they can scarcely be counted.

So Biden became President and on the very first day of his regime took a pen, signed his name and in seconds he wiped out thousands of American workers' jobs in the dead of winter by closing the Keystone pipeline.

It is projected by some that we face \$5.00 or more per gallon gasoline in just a short while. Question: how is that for bringing the country together?

Next he halted work on the southern border wall and created an impossible mess for border patrol and immigration officials by declaring open borders.

Immigrants with all sorts of diseases and criminals of every sort can now just walk-in and live in sanctuary cities.

Biden rejoined America to the Paris Climate accord which is a global warming hoax to suck more money from the American taxpayers.

Soon Biden will give Iran access to nuclear weapons and on and on it goes...

No one knows how far afield this man will take our country or how badly he will degrade it if he fulfills a four-year term; however it is a for-gone conclusion that our vice-president has ideas of her own.

I will not try to enumerate many more of his destructive maneuvers but there is an arm load of executive orders that he and his cohort's have written.

Some people might like what he is doing but I don't know of any!

Question: how can we dream of having an honest fair government of the people, by the people and for the people with a cadre of liars, thieves and deceivers running the government? The answer is of course, it just won't happen. Dishonest players in our government are nothing new but this last election is a blatant charade of an election of low life despots!

Reading 1 Timothy 2:1,2 NKJ - *1 Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, 2 for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.*

My question is—and I have to ask—is a lying, deceiving, out-in-the-open crook a legitimate authority?

Freedom of religion will probably be on his agenda in the near future; I don't think he is going to leave us alone.

Joe claims to be a devout Catholic but supports abortion, the slaughter of unborn babies and he has increased Planned Parenthood allotment using our

tax money. Joe has been forbidden from taking communion from a Catholic Priest because of his support for abortion.

Romans 13:3 NKJ - *3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same.*

Joe is an avenger who is executing vengeance on his predecessor and all the policies put in place by our last President who was creating a better life for the American people.

Could it be that Biden likes the Chinese better than Americans?

I recommend a couple of books to read for more understanding. "The Hundred Year Marathon" by Michael Pillsbury and "Unrestricted Warfare" by two Chinese Army Colonels in 1999.

In Revelation chapter 13 you might figure out who the dragon is. What country has always had the dragon as their national symbol in the past?

Jesus said in Matthew 6:24 NKJ - *24 No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.*

People have a choice to either serve God or Satan.

How can Christians support wrongheaded leaders violating God's commandments?

We know and understand from the examples of Ancient Israel and Judah that when a national leader is righteous the people prosper and are protected from outside incursion. Therefore, when a national leader is evil such as we have now bad things can and do happen. God's protection is removed so we may be facing some tough sledding the next few years; we could be severely tried.

We have all experienced hard times and trials in our Christian walk and this may be one of the hardest to deal with.

It helps to think about Job and how righteous he was and how he suffered but through it all he never lost faith in God and when his horrendous trial was over Job confessed his short comings to God.

Job 42:5,6 NKJ - *5 I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees You. 6 Therefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.*

Contrast that with Solomon, he did not repent. For a while no man ever had it as good as Solomon, but he allowed his pagan wives and concubines to burn their babies, his children as a sacrifice to Molech and Chemoch to appease them. The arms of the idols of bronze would open and come forth and the Priest would place a baby in its arms. The arms would pull the baby back and drop it in the fire, while the drums would be playing so the mother would not hear the cries of the baby. This act is the same as abortion. Solomon lost the nation!

Now Biden has reversed President Trump's resistance to abortion and embraced it making the whole nation guilty by giving Planned Parenthood huge amounts of tax payers' money.

For years we have been preaching that God will bring punishment on this nation because of abortion. We have prayed long and hard but now it looks like we are going to be facing a huge upheaval as Satan appears to have the upper hand due to the number of Satan worshippers we have in our land. Keep the faith, pray, repent and fast; now is the time so let's do it.

Daniel 4:17 NKJ - *17 This decision is by the decree of the watchers, and the sentence by the word of the holy ones, in order that the living may know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, gives it to whomever He will, and sets over it the lowest of men.*

Everything is done in God's timing. Has God lost patience with his people?

2 Peter 3:9,17,18 NKJ - *9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. 17 You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; 18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.*

The Mystery of

the Los Lunas Commandment Stone



Back when I was in elementary school, I was taught a little poem in regard to the discovery of America, which I am sure many of you remember as well. It went like this...

In fourteen hundred and ninety-two,
Columbus sailed the ocean blue.

Although Columbus' voyages were nothing short of amazing, it is virtually certain that he was not the first to arrive on the shores of the American continents. Of course, there were already people here – many Native American nations inhabited what later became known as North and South America and even the Caribbean islands where Columbus landed.

Columbus probably wasn't even the first European to arrive here. The documentation of Icelander Leif Ericsson's successfully sailing to North America in the year 1000 – almost 500 years prior to Columbus's voyage, is regarded as historically valid.

Over the years, several curious discoveries have also entered the scene about early American transits and voyages. Eight ancient Phoenician copper coins have been found scattered across North America from Nebraska to Georgia to Connecticut.

Ancient Roman coins have been found in Venezuela and Maine. Additional ancient Roman coins were found in Texas at the bottom of an Indian mound in Round Rock. The mound is dated at approximately 800 AD.

Several historians believe there is evidence that a fleet of Chinese merchant ships was visiting and trading in California as early as 1418, including that of an amazingly accurate world map in possession of these Chinese mariners, 74 years before Columbus.

The Bible itself gives evidence of a navy of ships that were commissioned by Solomon that were involved with far away trade, as evidenced by the exotic cargo they carried...

1 Kings 10:22: *For the king had a fleet of ships of Tarshish at sea with the fleet of Hiram. Once every three years the fleet of ships of Tarshish used to come bringing gold, silver, ivory, apes, and*

peacocks.

1 Kings 9:26 *And king Solomon made a navy of ships in Eziongeber, which is beside Eloth, on the shore of the Red sea, in the land of Edom. 27. And Hiram sent in the navy his servants, shipmen that had knowledge of the sea, with the servants of Solomon. 28. And they came to Ophir, and fetched from thence gold, four hundred and twenty talents, and brought it to king Solomon.*

It is self-evident that travels in the ancient world were far more extensive than we have previously imagined. Which brings us to a most curious discovery in the wilderness of New Mexico, that has some interesting ramifications.

God's 10 Commandments Carved Anciently in the New Mexico Desert?

The Los Lunas Decalogue Stone is a large boulder on the side of Hidden Mountain, near Los Lunas, New Mexico. This is about 35 miles southwest of Albuquerque in a barren area. It bears an inscription carved into a flat panel of the Ten Commandments in an ancient Paleo/Hebrew language!

The stone is also known as the Mystery Stone or The Commandment Rock. The stone is controversial in that it is highly likely Pre-Columbian, and therefore proof of early Semitic contact with the Americas. Obviously, this does not collaborate with many modern narratives of how the history of American occurred.

The first recorded mention of the stone is in 1933, when professor Frank Hibben, an archaeologist from the University of New Mexico reported the stones discovery.

In 1996, respected Prof. James D. Tabor of the Dept. of Religious Studies, University of North Carolina - Charlotte, and who also taught Greek and Hebrew part-time at the Seventh Day observing Ambassador College in the early 1970s, personally interviewed the late Professor Hibben about the stone.

Hibben was convinced that the inscription is ancient and thus authentic. He reported to Tabor that he first saw the text in 1933. At the time it was covered with lichen and patination and was hardly visible. He was taken to the site by a

guide who had seen it as a boy, back in the 1880s. George Moorehouse, a professional geologist said that an age of 500 to 2000 years or even more would not be an unreasonable estimate of its antiquity.

The inscription uses Greek and Hebrew counterparts but a very ancient form of the letter Aleph.

The literal translation is as follows...

I am Jehovah your God who has taken you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of slaves. There must be no other gods before my face.

You must not make any idol.

You must not take the name of Jehovah in vain.

Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy.

Honor your father and your mother so that your days may be long in the land that Jehovah your God has given to you.

You must not murder.

You must not commit adultery.

You must not steal.

You must not give a false witness against your neighbor.

You must not desire the wife of your neighbor nor anything that is his.

The Los Lunas Commandment Rock site itself used to be accessible via the Rio Puerco, a contributory to the Rio Grande, which in turn leads into the Gulf of Mexico. It is quite possible that anciently, the present dry, arid conditions did not prevail in the region, according to several historic meteorologists, and allowing for the sailing of small ship to the region.

Were the first Sabbath Keepers in America, ancient Hebrew mariners, blown off course by a hurricane, or deliberate explorers of a new land? We will have some interesting things to ask after the Second Coming of Jesus in many areas and topics!

None the less, the engravers of the Los Lunas Mystery Stone, had a reverence for the true God, and an observance of his Seventh Day Sabbath as pioneers to a new continent!

Bill Lussenheide serves as Vice President of the Bible Sabbath Association and has been a Sabbath Keeper since age 17 as a first generation Christian.

Letters to the Editor

After reading the final installment of "The Sabbath Calendar in the Dead Sea Scrolls and the Bible," I felt compelled to write as I also have been checking out our Heavenly Father's Calendar. The author references the four seasons when, in fact, scripture denotes two—summer and winter. Genesis 1:14 may not directly specify the moon, but it is clear the seasons involve the moon from harmonizing them all throughout and our Father MADE the moon as well. From what I've read, He does nothing for naught. So, given those two scenarios, there is a point (a matter of seconds or minutes) that the sun crosses the equator and it is the same moment in time for the entire earth. It does this twice a year, changing from winter to summer and summer to winter. Likewise, there is a point (a matter of seconds or minutes) that the moon goes from one month to an-

other month, and likewise, it is the same moment in time for the entire earth. Just like on man's timepiece (the clock), 11:59 PM is today, but 12:01 AM is tomorrow. So, if the sun rules the day (sunset starts the day, changes where you're at), and the moon rules the month (a period in time over the entire earth), would not the two combined rule the year (ie., sun crosses the equator for "summer" and next moon cycle for the month)? Seems simplistic. The author is correct this necessitates an added month but whether you add a week or a month, it is still adding to His calendar. Actually, if a month needs to be added, it is the Father who sets it, not man because He causes the two points referenced. I personally have a feeling when the two witnesses come, they will set us all straight in preparation for Messiah's return and we will probably ALL be wrong! May Yahuweh guide all to doing their best for Him! DJ

Do you like this magazine?

Would you like to help the BSA continue its work of proclaiming Jesus and all that He taught?

The BSA needs more partners like you to help continue and expand this ministry. Recently we had a group of 50 pastors in Africa request to be added to our TSS mailing list. To do this, we need more partners to help with the expense!

Please donate today so that we can expand and expose more brethren, and future brethren, to the teachings of the Bible and the idea that brotherhood is better than dogma!

Do You Want to Learn More About the Sabbath?

Are You or is Someone You Know New To the Sabbath?

The BSA now offers some free resources to help you learn about the Sabbath.

We have short, 1 or 2 minute audio clips on topics such as:

“What is the Sabbath?” and

“When is the Sabbath and How Can We Know?”

Free booklet download “A Beginner’s Guide to the Sabbath.”

1. Go to our website: www.biblesabbath.org
2. Click on the Products Menu
3. Click on the “Free Resources” Link



You can help support the cause, and help us continue to provide our magazine and

services without charge. Simply sign up your Amazon Smile account with the BIBLE SABBATH ASSOCIATION named as your charity of choice.

Prices for products remain exactly the same, but Amazon will contribute 0.5% of the sale to your named chari-

ty: BIBLE SABBATH ASSOCIATION. Simply go to smile.amazon.com, log into your account and choose us as your charity. Then, whenever you shop at Amazon, enter the site by going to smile.amazon.com, being sure that we are listed as the charity. Again, there is NO ADDITIONAL COST TO YOU! If you are going to purchase products on Amazon.com anyway, why not support this great work!

The Sabbath Sentinel

A Bi-monthly Publication of
The Bible Sabbath Association
PO Box 372, Stevens Point, WI 54481 USA
Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 500
CLAREMONT, CA



Advertise in The Sabbath Sentinel

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, \$250 per half page and \$400 per whole 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 for a one-time charge of \$200. Send copy for all ads and payment to The Bible Sabbath Association, PO Box 372, Stevens Point, WI 54481, USA.

Discounts: Advertise in the TSS Classified Ads section for more than one issue and receive discounts: \$1.00 per word 1st issue, 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 September/October issue we must receive it before July). BSA reserves the right to reject or edit any ad copy.

Publication does not imply endorsement by the Bible Sabbath Association or The Sabbath Sentinel, its editor or staff.