

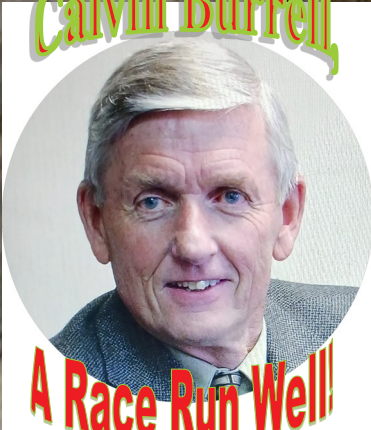


The Sabbath Sentinel

July-Aug
2022

IS AMERICA DESTINED FOR THE SAME FATE AS ISRAEL?

Calvin Burrell



A Race Run Well!

BSA — The Bible Sabbath Association

The LORD said, "... seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children"

The Sabbath Sentinel September/October, 2022

Volume 76, No. 5, Issue 616

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Cover photo courtesy of lifehopeandtruth.com.

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

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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.

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Correspondence and manuscript submissions: Address all inquiries to: *The Sabbath Sentinel*, PO Box 372, Stevens Point, WI 54481.

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A Nation That Forgets Will Soon Be Forgotten

God gives us a warning about what might happen when He brings us to a place of national prosperity. We find this warning in Deu 8:11-14 *Beware that thou forget not the LORD thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command thee this day: Lest when thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses, and dwelt therein; And when thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied: Then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the LORD thy God, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage;*

That prophetic utterance accurately describes the current state of the United States. Beginning in the 1960s the Supreme Court of the United States began issuing “findings” that have been used by progressives to run the country off the path it had enjoyed for nearly two centuries. The USA had emerged from World War 2 as the leading nation on the earth. God had given us peace on every side. Our blessings have continued to be increased since that time but have come with the evil that God warned us would come if we forgot about Him.

It is beyond dispute that we have forgotten about God nationally. Because we have forgotten God, our nation has been on a steep, downward slope towards destruction for over 50 years. Truthfully, wicked people ensconcing themselves in positions of power were working to take down this country from the moment the ink was dried on the Constitution for the united States of America (1787). It was those same people who desperately attempted to get George Washington to accept the position of king, who have worked tirelessly to centralize power in this country at any cost despite the true power being clearly stated to reside in the people of our nation.

An early event that actively took us off track was the Supreme Court decision in Engel in 1962. In a “finding” that the court had no business making, it held that the state could not create or condone a state sponsored prayer. This was another egregious step beyond its authority since the states were the ones who were empowered to determine what was done and taught in schools. It had

the effect of spawning other actions that served to embolden those hating God and His Commandments, allowing them to push further and further into our rights to worship God as we desired. Until recently, those engaging in prayer, even though not sponsored by the state or local government, were sued, harassed and in many ways belittled by others in authority. The decision in Engel did not go as far as the finding has been perverted; lower courts have twisted that holding to mean NO prayer in school of any kind. That perversion has made it easy for satan to cause generations of children to grow up thinking God is a myth, a fairy tale, or even a product of a superstitious past. Indeed, our inattention to our elected servants has brought us to this point.

Colleges are now filled with godless professors who mock and ridicule the God who created all things, who granted them life. They belittle and discriminate against any student who dares to hold out a belief in that One God. Is it any wonder our children and grandchildren have forgotten who God is and what He has done for all of mankind?

Truly, none of us wants state sponsored prayer or religion taught in public schools. But cases spawned from the decision in Engel have perverted that decision into prevention of any voluntary prayer in our schools. Fortunately, we are seeing that trend being reversed in decisions such as the Kennedy decision in which the court held that a coach had a First Amendment protected right to pray on the field after games. This was the depths to which our nation had sunk that a coach could be relieved of his job for praying!

It was this national state—related to prayer—which led to another foolish decision by the Supreme Court in Roe v. Wade. In that case the court held that a woman had a right to murder her unborn child through abortion. Since then, an estimated 63 million potential children of God had their lives sacrificed to the false god of convenience. We might as well say that we as a nation have condoned sacrificing children to Molech!

But, we did not stop at just perverting our ways before

God! We exported that evil to the rest of the world, even basing our financial support for other countries on how well they implemented programs of population control, i.e., abortions. As of the date this magazine will be published, an estimated nearly 1.7 BILLION potential children of God have been sacrificed since 1980. This great evil can be laid at our feet nationally.

Not only have we forgotten who our Creator is and what He is doing, we exported that ignorance to the world! Yes, the nation that is the recipient of the boundless blessings promised to the descendants of Abraham by God has in turn spat upon that legacy by mass murdering on a scale not even heard of in ancient Israel. God stated that such evil never even came into His mind! (Jer. 19:5, 32:35.) We fell to depths not even imagined by God! And worse, because we have forgotten God and stigmatized learning of Him, we in the USA have sunk to the same depths of evil, murdering our babies on a scale that dwarfs the evil that caused ancient Israel to be cast aside and disappear from recorded history. Do we think for a minute that God feels differently about those who CLAIM to be “called by His name” who do even greater evils than His people in the past?

Our God-given freedom to speak our mind has likewise been perverted by Supreme Court decisions. In the Brandenburg case the court held that even offensive speech is protected speech. On its face, that doesn't sound bad, but what that holding spawned was the opening of the door to allowing all manner of speech that is not merely opinion related but includes speech that promotes all manner of perversion and evil. The founders intended political of political speech to be protected from federal intrusion. It was not intended to state that any manner of perversity could be promoted under the protections of the First Amendment. And, yet, the holdings of the courts are now perverted to allow practically any speech as long as it does not engender immediate danger, i.e., yelling “Fire!” in a crowded movie theater.

The New York Times versus Sullivan case is an extension of the perversion of our rights to freedom of speech. In that case the court held that the press could not be sued for libel, i.e., lies in print, as long as they did not “knowingly and recklessly” publish lies. They set such a high barrier that we now see the press deliberately publishing lies, and failing to publish truth, in this nation. One need merely look at the lies the press published about President Trump and other conservatives for the last 6 years, and even before, to see that the First Amend-

ment has been perverted by the Court to allow a press that becomes nothing more than a propaganda wing of a godless political class. The promotion of lies under the banner of freedom proves once again that we have forgotten the God who is not mocked (Gal. 6:7), who knows the hearts of all men, and who set in motion laws that provide that whatever we sow we will reap.

In the Cohen case, the court held that people have the right to use any profanity they like as long as it is in the expression of a political opinion. One need only go to any number of “pride” parades that take place across this nation to see the absurd depths of depravity this decision has caused. Any sort of filth and vulgarity cast within the murky realm of “political speech” is said to be protected. And from there is was a slippery slope to any filth being published in the presence of our wives and children, and we are the criminals if we object! We recently have seen that transvestites have been allowed into our children's classrooms to read perverted stories. This, too, is done under their “right” to freedom of expression. Indeed, their right to freedom of expression has been perverted into rubbing our noses in their filth. After all, any difference of opinion can be cast as a political difference to be protected, now! How can this be? It can only be because we have forgotten who God is! We would not dream of standing before the God who created all that is and spewing the hatred and filth that so many in our nation have come to engage in—if we knew who God is.

We have become like Lot in this country, so steeped in perversity and loss of the knowledge of who God is that, like Lot, we see it as normal. Even Lot lost his way, offering his own daughters to the rabid crowd of people who wanted to have their way with the visiting angels. He forgot who God was! He should have known that God was more than powerful enough to stop that evil, but he forgot.

Yes, we have forgotten our God as a nation. We've come to the place where we think that this great nation was built by our hands. We've forgotten that it is God who empowers us to create wealth. We've forgotten that we have been the recipients of unwarranted liberty and wealth because God so declared it to Abraham for his descendants.

Yes, we have forgotten our God nationally. God also tells us what will happen if we come to that point. Returning to Due 8:17-20 we read the following: *and so that you might not say in your heart, My power and the might of*

my hand has gotten me this wealth. But you shall remember Jehovah your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, so that He may confirm His covenant which He has sworn to your fathers, as it is today.

And it shall be if you do at all forget Jehovah your God and walk after other gods and serve them and worship them, I testify against you today that you shall surely perish. As the nations whom Jehovah destroys before your face, so you shall perish because you would not listen to the voice of Jehovah your God.

Notice the fate of those nations who forget that YHVH/Jehovah is God! Do we think that God was just kidding Israel when He inspired those words? If we do, then we have also forgotten what happened to the Israel which became the most powerful nation in its region under the blessings of God. We have forgotten that God did indeed cause other nations to invade Israel and drag them off to a captivity from which they never returned. We have forgotten that God did indeed send the remaining tribes of Judah and Benjamin into captivity from which they have only barely returned in the land known today as “Israel,” a captivity that lasted nearly 2500 years. Were it not for the promise to Abraham of the Messiah, they might very well have gone to the same fate as the other 10 tribes of Israel.

We have firmly established that God wants to be remembered for who He is and what He has done for all of mankind. We have also firmly established that our nation has walked the same path as ancient Israel, not only forgetting who God is and what He has done, but we have done even greater evils. What remains for us, without a national repentance? God tells us plainly in a message directed to an Israel who had gone into captivity over a hundred years earlier: Jer 2:19-37 *Your own evil shall correct you, and your backslidings shall reprove you, therefore know and see that it is an evil and bitter thing that you have forsaken Jehovah your God, and that My fear is not in you, says the Lord Jehovah of Hosts. For long ago you broke your yoke and tore up your bonds; and you said, I will not transgress, when on every high hill and under every green tree you lay down like a harlot.*

... How can you say, I am not defiled; I have not gone after the Baals? See your way in the valley, know what you have done! ...

Withhold your foot from being bare, and your throat from thirst. But you said, There is no hope; no; for I have loved strangers, and after them I will go. As the thief is

ashamed when he is found, so is the house of Israel ashamed; they, their kings, their rulers, and their priests, and their prophets; saying to a tree, You are my father; and to a stone, You gave me birth. For they have turned their back to Me, and not their face; but in the time of their trouble they will say, Arise and save us!

But where are your gods that you have made for yourselves? Let them arise, if they can save you in the time of your trouble; for according to the number of your cities are your gods, O Judah. Why will you plead with Me? You all have sinned against Me, says Jehovah. In vain I have stricken your sons; they received no correction. Your own sword has devoured your prophets, like a destroying lion. ...

Can a virgin forget her ornaments, or a bride her attire? Yet My people have forgotten Me days without number. Why did you trim your way to seek love? Therefore you have also taught the evil women your ways.

Also in your skirts is found the blood of the souls of the poor innocents; I did not find them by breaking in, but on all these. Yet you say, Because I am innocent, surely His anger shall turn from me. Behold, I will plead with you, because you say, I have not sinned.

Why do you go about so much to change your way? You also shall be ashamed of Egypt, as you were ashamed of Assyria. Yes, you shall go out from this place, and your hands on your head. For Jehovah has rejected those in whom you trust, and you will not prosper by them.

Like ancient Israel, we have lost our way. Like Israel, if we continue on our evil path, we will go out with our hands on our heads as captives of another people. Our national evils have stained us with the blood of innocents, both those murdered in the womb, and those sacrificed to the abyss of ignorance of who God is. Our nation needs national repentance, a revival of dedication to knowing God and His greatness, and His mercy. Our nation needs to be ashamed of the depths of the depravity into which it has sunken. Without it we are surely as doomed as the ancient nations of Israel and Judah. God must lead us back to that state of repentance. Therefore, we must take up that powerful weapon we call prayer, confess our national sins to God, and pray for Him to fix our nation in His mercy. Who knows? Perhaps God will relent of the punishment that we surely deserve nationally.





The President's Corner

REMEMBERING CALVIN BURRELL – A BSA SERVANT

Kelly McDonald

On June 29th of this year, Calvin Burrell passed away. There are few people who have had the kind of impact on the BSA and the broader Sabbath community that Calvin had in his lifetime. In this edition of *The Sabbath Sentinel*, I want to pen a tribute to his life and work for the BSA and the Sabbath community.

Calvin was born at home to his parents Lawrence and Lottie Burrell in 1943. This was near the time that the BSA was founded. For many years, the Burrell house was the headquarters for the organization. His parents served as the BSA Secretary-Treasurer for over 40 years.

BSA Work

Calvin grew up in a home where serving God and others was emphasized. The dining room table was an assembly line for mailings. Folding, stuffing, addressing, stamping, sorting, and stacking for these mail-outs was a routine activity in their home.

Here is a quote from Calvin concerning his upbringing in a BSA home: “Growing up in a BSA home, we often mixed with folks beyond our own church. I still dream of greater fellowship, and collaboration among the many Sabbath keeping believers who are too often isolated behind denominational and doctrinal walls. BSA is one of the few voices out there committed to celebrate what we share in Christ, in the Bible, and in the good gift of God's weekly Sabbath. Let's make BSA work for all of us.”

Over the years, Calvin would tell us stories from his youth. Among them was how many visitors stopped by the Burrell home to visit with their family, ask questions about the Sabbath, and learn about the BSA. The Burrell family welcomed all people to learn about the Kingdom of God. Among these visitors were people who decades later would connect with the BSA work!

During his life, Calvin held many positions in the BSA. He was a board member from 1985-2020. From the late 1980s into the 1990s, he served as

Vice President on multiple boards. He served as President from 2012-2015, Secretary from 2016-2020, and was nominated and approved as Board Member Emeritus in 2021.

His other activities include: He was a regular contributor to the Sabbath Sentinel Magazine. He worked on updates to the group's Constitution/By-laws. He was instrumental in helping piece together the 2015 BSA directory of Sabbath keeping Churches. He participated in BSA elections and manned booths for the BSA. He served on a book committee to approve new materials to be offered through the organization.

To summarize, Calvin contributed in one fashion or another to nearly every activity connected to the BSA outreach.

Church of God Seventh Day Work

As busy as Calvin seemed with the BSA throughout his life, he was also a very dedicated member and minister for the Church of God Seventh Day (Denver Conference). He received a BA in teaching from Northwestern Teachers College in Alva, Oklahoma, and a Master of Religion from Bethany Nazarene College. These degrees equipped him for the work he would do through his home church.

As a member of the Church of God seventh day, he held nearly every position. This included, but was not limited, to: President of the General Conference of the Church of God (Seventh Day), Editor of The Bible Advocate (the Church magazine), President of the International Ministerial Congress, and Missions Abroad Director. He also taught at Summit School of Theology, Life Spring, and Artios. He was a teacher and principal at Spring Vale Academy and pastored churches in Fort Smith, Arkansas, Shawnee, Oklahoma, Denver, Colorado, and Houston, Texas. He was a published author, on countless boards and advisory committees.

Calvin was a busy man!

A Family Man

While Calvin was busy doing God's work, he did not neglect his loved ones. He was a family man. He married his wife Barbara in 1966 and together they celebrated their 56th year of marriage earlier this year. He was known as a dedicated husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. Together with Barbara, they reared three children. At the time of his passing, Calvin and Barbara had 17 grandchildren and three great grand-children.

An Avid Outdoorsman

Over the last seven years of knowing Calvin, I was not aware how involved he was with outdoor sports. He enjoyed golfing and sightseeing. Even more impressive was the fact that he hiked all 54 of the 14,000 ft mountains in Colorado. He also hiked in other states.

My Friend and BSA Mentor

This article would not be complete for me unless I shared some personal testimony about how he impacted my life. In 2015, Calvin Burrell invited me to run for the BSA board election. I was honored just to be invited to serve in this capacity. I honestly did not think anything would come of it, but some opportunities in life only come once. I accepted just so I could say I gave it a try!

I was in for a big surprise. First, I was nominated to the board by the BSA membership. For the first board meeting, I planned to run for secretary. I wanted to start at the bottom and understand how the organization worked. Well, God had a different plan. At the first board meeting, Calvin asked for nominations for President. No one said anything. Calvin then asked me to share my thoughts on the direction the BSA needed to take.

After I spent some time sharing, John Merritt nominated me for President. It was followed by a second and then unanimous yes. It happened so fast I didn't have any time to react. I was shocked! I accepted the nomination realizing that I didn't have much of a choice at the time. When Calvin prompted me to share my thoughts about the BSA, it was prophetic!

I did not have the slightest clue about how to run a board. I was baffled, to say the least. Little did I know that Calvin Burrell was going to be there for me and guide me every step of the way. In those early days, it seemed like I called or emailed him nearly every week.

As busy as he was, he always took the time to give advice and prayers for the situation or issue I was having. He always spoke to me with such gentleness and wisdom. I eventually got to the place where I did not have to contact him as much. But if I ever needed his assistance, he was gladly there. There was times I could actually



feel his prayers on my behalf as God gave me wisdom and guidance on the direction of the BSA.

As I became more experienced with the BSA, I sometimes would call Calvin just to report to him how the BSA was doing. In some ways, I am saddened that he won't be able to see some of our current work and the plans we have for the future. He was always excited to hear the progress we were making with the group.

Great Advice

Over the years, Calvin provided invaluable insight into working with people from other Sabbath groups and navigating through their differences with each other. Using this advice, I went on the road to visit various Sabbath groups across the country. The more I traveled, the more I appreciated the views that different groups had. Calvin prepared me for this experience and really helped me to adjust as I encountered some difficulties along the way.

I can remember one particular time I had people who really came against me. I asked Calvin as to how I should respond, and he simply said: "Sometimes the best defense you have against your enemies is silence." I took his advice on this many times and it was great advice to say the least! But Calvin had many other bits of wisdom he shared. He always encouraged me to never be afraid of the views of other Sabbath keepers. Learn to respect their beliefs, but also make sure you understand your own.

He was not quick to make an accusation against other Christians – sabbath keepers or not. He wanted to gain understanding about their practice in a way that was not judgmental. Calvin would ask me and others questions about their beliefs. It was not to argue, but to understand. This is a rare trait in the Sabbath community and even Christianity at large.

Great Example

To this point, Calvin was never afraid to fellowship with other Christians even if they had very different beliefs. He was never intimidated because he was secure in his own beliefs. A great reminder for us all. His attitude in this area always reminded me of the verse in 2 Tim. 1:7 – "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."

Often Sabbath keepers operate out of fear towards others who view things differently. In fact, a lot of problems in the Sabbath Community come from insecure leaders. This was not the case with Calvin. He knew how to stand his ground with his own be-



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liefs, but still love and appreciate others.

To illustrate this example, I will share with you an example. In 2016, the BSA board attended an in person gathering hosted by Dr. John Merritt in Tampa, FL. Dr. Merritt was attending a Hebrew Roots fellowship at that time, and we all went to visit. I remember this visit like it was yesterday.

The first part of the service was interesting. The leader of the group asked Calvin to speak about Sabbath history. Without hesitation, Calvin stood up and shared what he knew. That was impressive to me as many people would not be able to speak impromptu in a church with which they had no familiarity. Without fear, he spoke with conviction and passion.

The next part of the service involved live worship music. In the middle part of the meeting hall, they had Hebraic dance. Calvin jumped right in and danced without hesitation. This was amazing to me as most Sabbatharians do not practice this form of worship. He recognized that these ardent Sabbatharians were worshipping God even if it was different to him.

The last memory from this event is when we were in the car heading back for the board meeting that evening. Calvin curiously asked me why I practiced the Holy Days and what Bible verses supported the idea of a plan of salvation in the Holy Days. I shared with him Colossians 2:16-17, the meaning of those verses, and future prophetic events in Christ that they represent – past, present, and future. He acknowledged that I had a good answer and did not try to argue with me or nitpick my answers. He just wanted to learn more. He admitted that he had considered observing the Day of Atonement.

Calvin loved the Sabbath. He often said it was the best day of the week. In my early days as a BSA board member, I can recall him asking other board members: “How was the best day of the week for you?” He also loved Sabbath keepers of all beliefs.

He was a great family member, father, grand father, great-grand father, mentor, and brother to many people. He will be greatly missed.



Male/Female Friendships?

DJ Wellington

Friendships are very special relationships (2 Chronicles 20:7; 1 Samuel 18:1-3), but are they bound by gender? I have found not one reference in Scripture to “friendship” being gender-oriented. There is not one verse that says or even implies that males should have male friends and females should have female friends. In fact, Galatians 3:28 states: *There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Messiah Yahushua*, and goes on in verse 29, *If you belong to Messiah, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.*

Like any relationship, you must be careful not to let the adversary enter into it as that will only lead to destruction—not only of the friendship, but will destroy your opportunity for eternal life (Deuteronomy 13:6-9). Now that we have seen the tremendous value of friendship, remembering Yahweh called Abraham His friend, let’s proceed on with the topic at hand.

Is it wrong to have a close, personal relationship/friendship with someone of the opposite sex? What if you’re married—would it still be okay (remembering John 3:29 regarding the “friend” who attended the bridegroom)? There are so many things that could come into this type of situation that a “yes” or “no” answer would be impossible.

First of all, friends are actually better than brothers as it says in Proverbs: A friend loves at all times and a brother is born for adversity, (Proverbs 17:17). Although it is ideal that husbands and wives have the same friends, that is not always the case. Your marriage covenant must always take precedence over friendships outside of marriage or it will cause distress within the marriage.

What factors come into true friendship? Some would be similar interests, trust in each other, and faith in each other’s judgment. Many of the same characteristics that form good friendships can be the basis for a good marriage as well. However,

marriage is much, much more—there’s the “covenant” aspect as well as the physical element.

Not everyone would be “physically” attracted to each other, yet would share many similar interests. You may be close friends with someone whose housekeeping habits are vastly different to the point you could never live together. So there are differences.

Obviously a marriage based on friendship would be the ideal; a friendship with the intent of marriage is not necessarily the ideal—based on all the other factors involved.

If we look for Biblical examples, there are not many. In Judges 4, Deborah, albeit a prophetess, went with Barak and 10,000 men. Barak, it would seem, was close and personal with Deborah. Though it doesn’t really say if they were “friends,” it would seem so. He actually stated in verse 8 that if Deborah would not go with him, he would not go; what faith he had in her—a mere woman! Wouldn’t it be probable that he knew her pretty well in order to have that amount of confidence in her? As I wrote before, there is not a lot of information as to their relationship.

We know in the New Covenant that many women followed Yahushua—married women as well or we can probably make that assumption since they were mothers (Matthew 27:55). These women tended to Yahushua’s needs--can we assume they were friends? I don’t know. Yahushua was seemingly close to many people—men, women and children though women are not mentioned as frequently; perhaps because they tended to be more in the background?

We do, however, have one excellent example of a close personal friendship in the New Covenant and that is Yahushua with Martha, Mary and Lazarus. Yahushua loved them (John 11). Mary actually sat at Yahushua’s feet, put perfume on His feet and wiped it with her hair and, when Judas complained

about what she was doing, Yahushua defended her! He protected her! And said for Judas to leave her alone!

So what's the conclusion? Every situation is different; people are different. If you have a very close, personal relationship with someone of the opposite sex and it is not hidden from your spouse, there does not appear to be anything at all wrong or improper.

At the same time, you are taking a risk. Whenever you are close with someone, there is always the possibility of things going wrong. There are so many temptations in this world today that you **MUST** be aware of them. If you, and your friend,

have strong minds, strong faith, and firm convictions in what is right and wrong, there should never be an issue with a close, personal relationship based on that.

If, however, one or both of you have a disapproving spouse or a tendency to weaken, then it would be better to keep the friendship on a much simpler basis. One very, very important point however is the tremendous value of a good friend. A truly meaningful close friend is very hard to come by and is not something to tread on or throw away.

Remember, Yahweh brings people together; the adversary tears them apart.



SCRIPTURE NEWS 2 USE

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

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

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

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

<https://scripturenews2use.org>

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

PEACE OF MIND IN A TROUBLED WORLD

Tommy Willis

Changes seem to be coming more quickly. Some are calling them dramatic change. Since the Coronavirus, many are more panic stricken and on edge than we have seen in our lifetime. The death toll in the U. S. surpassed the death toll of the 1918 Spanish flu pandemic, making it the deadliest pandemic to strike America. Many people's emotions are often all over the place. I've had conversations with some about how angry people are, and road rage is worse than they have ever seen. Many Christians have had increased anxiety because of the plague.

If we are not careful we can let our emotions dictate our actions. If they do, they can make havoc in our lives, shipwrecking sound thinking. The Bible tells us not to have fear, and that God will give us a sound mind to reason matters out: *"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."* (2 Tim 1:7) KJV. He will give us the mind of Christ in which we can make decisions based on sound thinking. Our mind is what will go on into eternity once the body is put off.

Therefore, we need to make good use of our mind. That is one reason I write a lot. I have often said that there's no growth without thinking, and since writing is a form of thinking, therefore, I grow as I write. Most of the articles I share with the brethren are from my journal notes, which I write with pen and ink. Some have said the articles are more like letters; this is probably because they are from my journal.

I've often thought about David writing the Psalms. Many of the Psalms are prayers. David says things like: *"Why, LORD, do you stand far off? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?"* (Ps 10:1) NIV. We know of the many times David felt God's presence; but here he is wondering why he does not, and he is asking God about it. I know from experience that to feel God is distant in times of trouble can be agonizing. I felt this agony working with my invalid dad; then after weeks of

crying out to Him, I had the joy of experiencing His presence again! So, I feel I can relate to David's words and struggles; I think most of us can in the trials we go through in life.

David probably did like many of us do—he went back to read what he wrote years before, and was edified by what God gave him. It's important to reflect on all God does for us and thank Him daily. When I go back to look at my journal notes from years ago, I'm often surprised at how much I forgot. So, I pray and ask God to remind me of what I need to keep in mind. Faith involves memory; and this principle is obvious when God says: *"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy."*

Hatred is growing; and it will grow worse. Think of Matthew 24:10-13, where God says: *"At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved."* NIV.

In the above scripture, we see that many of us will turn from the faith and have our love grow cold, and many believers begin to betray one another, and hate one another. Think about how much they will be allowing their emotions to override sound reasoning here. They surely don't have the peace of God. They are not keeping the big picture in mind. Many are offended at present and are continually talking about the sins of the world, and it becomes a distraction from examining ourselves when we go about it this way. If we spent that time with God in prayer, we would be on much safer ground.

Emotional maturity is a wonderful thing; God will keep you at peace amid the chaos of the times. The more we allow Him to put the mind of Christ within us, the more we will handle the turmoil around us with the love and peace of mind God has in store for us.

The world will continue to be a "troubling place" in the

days ahead. But God tells us to come out of the world. Common sense tells us that we have to remain here physically. But the way that God takes us out of the world while we are in it is through the mind; the mind of Christ is instilled in us: *“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.”* (Phil 2:5) KJV. Then as we are taken out of the attitudes of the world, we won’t become offended and hurt in taking things personally the way the world does. And as many get offended around us, we will be at peace amidst all of the chaos with which many are becoming offended.

The trials of life are not easy; God never told us they would be. The world will continually throw things at us. We may get a little breathing spell after a trial, but usually another one comes along. But we can take positive steps to overcome the problems instead of letting them overcome us. Through the mentality and peace of Jesus Christ we are delivered from the ways and attitudes of the world. *“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”* (John 16:33) NIV. We can have His peace in the midst of a troubled world if we will seek God and pray as we should.

Daily life seems to have sped up since our forefather’s day; we fail to see how much the pulse of society pressures us to go at the speed of its wake. The accelerated pace leaves most with little time for reflection. Even with all the sins and problems that I’ve had, I have been blessed with the ability to live a simple life. I have had the time to reflect, because I dropped out of the rat race as a young man, lived a simple life, and never looked back. But many are caught up in the rat race, distracting them from the prayer life they need. Learning to live a more simple life would be such a blessing for them.

The world will continue to mold us into its way if we allow it. But it’s through the building up of our personal relationship with Jesus Christ that we become free from its distractions. We have to live, work, play, and someday die in this world. But with enough contact with God, He will take us out of it to rest in His peace: It is the only way we can deal with the stress and trials of the world as we should; we need the peace Jesus teaches us that we can have in a troubled world.

We need to reflect on all God has done for us and thank Him. And we need to do the things Jesus said on the

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.

Sermon on the Mount. Jesus said: "*But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do the things which I say?*" (Luke 6:46 (NKJ)). I've seen so many, including myself, take false comfort in the idea that we had all the right doctrine and in keeping the law, yet wouldn't forgive others who had done us wrong. I fell into this trap for years with an unforgiving heart, until God mercifully brought me to repentance. And to the unforgiving heart Jesus says: "*But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.*" (Mt 6:14-15) NIV. Yes, we should keep the law; but law without love becomes pharisaical.

Enter through the narrow gate! For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it. (Mt 7:13-14) NIV. A mature minister of God I fellowshiped with used to tell us: "This narrow road was difficult to find, and now that I'm on it, I'm going to stay on it."

Jesus tells us how to live in the Sermon on the Mount: "*You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that?*" (Mt 5:43-47) NIV.

Take Every Trouble to God in Prayer and Leave it There:

God tells us in scripture to take everything to Him in prayer. Phil 4:6-7 tells us: "*Do not worry. Learn to pray about everything. Give thanks to God as you ask Him for what you need. The peace of God is much greater than the human mind can understand. This peace will keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*" NLV.

Too often when troublesome things happen, we began to panic; we have to learn to let prayer be our first response; to stop the panic and start praying. Panic in the natural response, but it is the wrong one. Our mental torment will cease as we learn to apply this important principle. "*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.*" (John 14:27)

NIV.

When you put all the above scriptures together, they tell us do not let your hearts be troubled, but take it to God in prayer. But we often pray, then after a while we start to worry again. But we need to learn to take it to God and leave it on His shoulders—this is what He tells us to do in scripture. "*Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.*" (1 Pet 5:7) NIV. The problem is we often fail to see how much He cares, because we don't know God as we should. The more we get to know Him, the more we will learn to run to Him with our problems. When we commit our troubles to God in prayer, our mental torment will cease, and His peace will stand watch over our troubled hearts. Over the years, I have noticed that when someone is telling you about a problem they can't seem to make headway with, and if you ask them have you really prayed as you should about it—the answer is almost always no, they have not prayed as they should.

All our busy rushing ends in nothing:

We fail to see how transient it all is. There is a reason the Bible reminds us we don't have long in this world. "*Lord, remind me how brief my time on earth will be. Remind me that my days are numbered— how fleeting my life is... all our busy rushing end in nothing.*" (Ps39:4, 6) NLT. We can then be helped to slow down, and focus on what is most important—our relationship with Jesus Christ.

I've seen so many, including myself, go through so much misery because we don't take matters to God in prayer as we should. From much failure over the years, God has taught me to run to Him in prayer with my troubles. No matter what brave face we might put on for others, we all have our real problems, and as we learn that worry and mental anguish is dispelled when God's peace floods our very hearts and minds, then we learn to go to Him in prayer. Once we learn to bring our needs to God in prayer this way, His peace will guard our hearts and minds. This is the antidote to worry. Won't you please try? As we do, we will learn to have God's peace in the midst of a troubled world. If you have worries and fears then pray; and keep praying. As you learn to apply the above scriptures you will have peace; this is true success.

COMMANDMENTS OF THE LAW: MORAL, CIVIL, & CEREMONIAL?

Daniel Botkin

When Christians talk about the commandments of God in the Torah, they often say something like the following:

“The commandments of the law are in three categories: moral, civil, and ceremonial. God still expects us to obey the moral laws of the Old Testament, but not the civil and ceremonial laws.”

To the natural, carnal mind, that might make sense. But if it were true, who gets to decide which God-given commandments are moral and binding, and which commandments are civil or ceremonial and not binding? Who has the authority to make that decision, and on what basis do they make their decision? What exactly makes a law “ceremonial”? Some Christians think the dietary laws were ceremonial, but abstaining from pork and shellfish does not involve any sort of ceremony. All you do is quit eating that stuff, without performing a ceremony. Many other commandments that Christians call “ceremonial” do not involve any sort of ceremony. The word “ceremonial” is not even anywhere in the entire Bible, at least not in the KJV.

This oft-repeated claim that God’s commandments are categorized as moral, civil, and ceremonial is a claim that is made without any Biblical proof. The Bible nowhere categorizes the commandments of the Torah this way. However, the Bible does categorize the commandments into three distinct groups, but they are not moral, civil, and ceremonial. I wrote about this in the very first issue of *Gates of Eden*, way back in 1995. I do not want to reprint the entire article here, but I will briefly summarize it and add a bit more information. You can read the entire article at gatesofeden.online in the teachings archives in GOE 1-1, May 1995.

TORAH:

MISHPATIM, EDOT, & CHUKIM

The Torah itself lists three separate categories of commandments. The threefold categorization is in Deuteronomy 4:44f: *“And this is the law [torah] which Moses set before the children of Israel. These are the testimonies [edot], and the statutes [chukim], and the judgments [mishpatim], which Moses spake unto the children of Israel, after they came forth out of Egypt.”*

We see in this passage three types of commandments: mishpatim, the plural of mishpat (“judgment”); edot, the plural of ed (“testimony”); chukim, the plural of chok (“statute”). The differences between these three types of commandments are not based on morality, civics, or ceremonies. The differences are based on the reasons each of these three kinds of commandments were given.

MISHPATIM

The mishpatim are commandments such as the prohibition of things like murder, rape, robbery, etc. The mishpatim are called “judgments” in English, because anyone with good judgment can see that the reason for these commandments is obvious. People with good judgment do not scratch their heads and wonder why God forbids things like murder, rape, robbery, etc. God does not need to explain the reason for these commandments, because the reason is obvious.

EDOT

For some commandments, the reason is not obvious, but the reason is stated. These commandments are called edot, “testimonies,” because they testify of something.

For example: The reason to keep the Sabbath on the seventh day, and not on some other day, is not

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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.

obvious, but it is explained. *“Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy... the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God...”*

Why the seventh day?

“For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it” (Ex. 20:8-11).

The Sabbath command is one of the edot/”testimonies.” The reason to honor the seventh day, and not some other day, is not obvious, but it is explained. The Sabbath gives a weekly testimony that man and the universe did not come into existence by evolution. God is the One who created man and the universe.

The annual feasts of Leviticus 23 likewise testify of God's acts in history, both past and future. The spring feasts testify that Messiah came, and the fall feasts testify that He will come again.

The commandment to wear fringes with a strand of blue is also one of the edot. The reason is not obvious, but it is stated: *“that ye may look upon it, and remember all the commandments of the LORD, and do them; and that ye seek not after your own heart and your own eyes, after which ye used to go a-whoring”* (Num. 15:39).

CHUKIM

The chukim, the “statutes,” are commandments for which the reason is neither obvious nor stated. These are commandments that God gives for reasons known only to Him. He gives these commandments with no explanation of why. The natural man sees no obvious reason for these commands, so they seem illogical or even foolish to him.

Do not eat pork, or shellfish, or a kid cooked in its mother's milk. “Why not?” the natural man asks. “What's wrong with that? Why would God care if we eat those things?”

Do not worship God by using methods borrowed from heathen idol worship. “Why not?” the natural man asks. “The heathens have some pretty cool traditions that we can Christianize and use to glorify God.”

Ten Commandments

- 1 - YOU SHALL HAVE NO OTHER "GODS" BEFORE ME
- 2 - YOU SHALL NOT MAKE FOR YOURSELF AN IDOL
- 3 - YOU SHALL NOT TAKE THE NAME OF GOD IN VAIN
- 4 - REMEMBER THE SABBATH DAY TO KEEP IT HOLY
- 5 - HONOR YOUR FATHER AND YOUR MOTHER
- 6 - YOU SHALL NOT MURDER
- 7 - YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY
- 8 - YOU SHALL NOT STEAL
- 9 - YOU SHALL NOT LIE
- 10 - YOU SHALL NOT COVET

Exodus 20:3-17

Do not wear a garment made of wool and linen woven together. A woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the LORD thy God.

"Why not?" the natural man says. "So what if I get a thrill from wearing women's underwear? I'm not hurting anyone. Nobody even sees it."

"Yes, why not?" asks the natural woman. "If I want to wear pants like a man, what's wrong with that?"

Because people see no obvious reason for the chukim, and because God does not reveal the reason, these are the commandments that get the most resistance from people who think with their carnal mind. They do not see why it matters to God, because they are thinking with their carnal mind, and the carnal mind *"is not subject to the law of God"* (Rom. 8:7), and *"the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned"* (1 Cor. 2:14).

"LEGALISM!"

Some Christians confuse obedience with legalism. Obedience is not legalism. Obedience is showing our love for God, as it is written, *"For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments: and His commandments are not grievous"* (1 John. 5:3).

When I hear accusations of legalism, I point out that the words legalism, legalist, and legalistic are not even in the Bible, at least not in the KJV. According to my Webster's Dictionary, the oldest known use of these three words was around 1864. In the long history of the English language, these words are fairly new additions to our language.

If I am accused by someone of being a legalist, I want to say, "If I am a legalist, what does that make you? An illegalist?"

When Paul wrote about good soldiers of Jesus Christ being rewarded ("crowned") for their service, he said a man *"is not crowned, except he strive lawfully"* (2 Tim. 2:5). If you want to be rewarded for serving the Lord, you must serve Him within the boundaries of His laws.

ALM:

"ALL LAWS MATTER"

The chukim are often not the weightier matters of the law, but all God-given laws matter. Furthermore, our obedience to the chukim reveals how much we really trust God. When we obey commandments that seem illogical or even foolish to the natural man, we are showing that we trust God's wisdom. We believe our Father knows what He is doing. He knows what is best for us, even if we do not know the reasons for certain commandments. He has a good reason for every commandment He gives, and He is not required to reveal that reason to us.

If you are resisting the chukim or any other commandments, you are eating from the tree of knowledge. You are deciding for yourself what is good and evil, what is right and wrong, what is acceptable and unacceptable. Stop eating from the tree of knowledge and start eating from the tree of life. Accept God's authority in your life, even when you do not understand the reason for some of His commandments. Stop thinking with your natural mind, and start thinking with your spiritual mind, because *"to be spiritually minded is life and peace"* (Rom. 8:6).



My Journey to Finding God,

His Healing, and His Sabbath

Sharon Darling

The Sabbath is a delight and is a beautiful gift our Father has given us. I did not always know this though. The story of how I came into it is long, but I know it is exactly what God knew I needed so I could follow Him. So grab your favorite drink, get cozy and if you are like me, some chocolate perhaps, while I tell my story.

I grew up without any religion in my life. My father did not like his religious upbringing, so he purposely chose not to introduce anything about God or Church to us. We were taught that religion was a crutch; he made sure we understood that it was bad. I believed there was a God out there, but He was not real to me. I was so broken inside that I did not care. In fact, anything to do with the concept of God or Jesus made me very uncomfortable. I did not believe that life could get better.

A lot of people say they had a terrible childhood from which they never recover. That is so sad and tragic. During those early years, my life was traumatic. Thank God He had a plan for me to be free from that dark place, but it would take years to come around to accept His reality. You see, my mother left us when I was a baby. When I became older, I found out that I did not know my biological father. This does explain why I was treated so poorly.

When I was very young, we moved in with my grandmother. I had a cruel childhood. I lived much of my life feeling worthless, unloved, and hated. I felt as if I was a burden. I was demeaned and endured some pretty awful treatment. At fifteen, I was kicked out of the house. In those days, I had a major attitude and mouth on me that I am not proud of. In my teens, I was very angry and stayed away from home as much as I could. I wanted to feel like I mattered to someone and being away from home at least brought some peace in some way.

When I was fifteen, I met my now husband, Aaron. We were friends for a time before we started “dating”. I could tell that something was different about him. I was very drawn to that young man, but I had no idea why. God will work things out whether you want them to or not. We were fifteen and seventeen when our journey

began.

There was one thing about his family that stuck out to me. They kept the Sabbath and His ways. My husband had been born into it and raised that way. He grew up in the Worldwide Church of God. I have never heard of anyone keeping the Sabbath outside of Jewish people. It was kind of strange to me, but I didn’t care. By this time, he wanted nothing to do with it. He did not care.

Aaron had become disaffected with the church and the Sabbath because of the hypocrisy he witnessed throughout his childhood. He saw it and there was plenty to go around. Kids who are surrounded by hypocrisy in their families, brethren, and the leadership can get to the point where they do not see anything good from following His way. It turns them off, like it did him, and that continues to this day with the youth who see division, discord, and hypocrisy all around them by those who claim to be following God.

As I mentioned earlier, I had never been interested in religion because I did not trust anyone or anything. Aaron was the first person who ever made me see my own worth. He made me feel that I was worthy of being loved, the first person I ever trusted, and the only person to ever stand up for me. He was what my brokenness needed to start healing. Certain barriers in my brain and heart were penetrated by this man. God used him to start preparing me for my calling.

It was quite the journey to us getting married at nineteen and twenty-one. God took two broken people and brought us together at exactly the right time. As much as I needed him, he fully admits he needed me too. About the age of nineteen I started wondering about life. I wanted to belong somewhere. I did not really do much other than occasionally attend a Baptist Church and another Christian Church.

One and a half years after we got married our son was born. It was then that I started questioning life and our purpose in a bigger way. I did not know where to go or what to do; so a relative and I started going to their old church. I got baptized that summer and something entire-



ly shifted within me. During the laying on of hands I felt a peace come over me that was completely foreign. A hunger to know the truth of God began to be lit inside of me.

Within months I stopped going to that church and knew it was not what I was supposed to do. I started diving into the Bible and anything I could get my hands on which helped me understand the Bible. That went on for months. I wanted to know which day was the Sabbath and our purpose on earth. It is easy for us to say to someone: "Just look it up... it is easy to see." However, I had zero background in Bible study or the things of God that would help me. I was inspired by God to search out Truth in His Word and to try to find likeminded people. Since I was already aware of keeping the Sabbath through my husband's background, it was a familiar concept to me.

As part of this process, I did ask questions to learn about it. I read the Bible a lot. I can remember that my first focus was everything relating to the Sabbath. That was what I was truly searching for inside to know for sure. I do not remember how long it took for this subject to become solidified in my mind. During this same time, I also was receiving a lot of literature and material that I requested from various ministries. I cannot recall all of them but there were many. I had stacks of books and tapes. I listened to a lot of messages and read material online too. A lot of them were about the Sabbath.

It was a process, but it did not take long – perhaps a few

months. God revealed to me the true Biblical Sabbath. I was able to finally see that God wanted us to keep the Sabbath as His set apart day. I also did not have anything to unlearn when it comes to what day to keep in the same way as others. I wanted to follow Him, so I started observing it and wanted to know more of His Truth.

Even by this point, my husband still wanted nothing to do with any of it. Despite this attitude, he did not hinder me from pursuing God. I am thankful for that! At first, it was sad that I was on this walk alone but praise Yah that this situation lasted less than two years. God then opened his heart and we have been walking this walk together since about early 2006.

I wanted to find a group with which to fellowship. I looked heavily into the splinters that came from WCG. I had so much literature that I received or read online from some of them. They were a huge focus for me since I was familiar with them. Some got back to me, and some did not. One group had more information and responded more favorably than the others, so I chose to attend with them.

Although I attended by myself at first, I hoped and prayed my husband would come with me. He was a little hesitant because the group reminded him of his youth. After a year, he decided to go with me. We attended this group until 2016, when it became clear that it was time to leave. We have been on our own ever since.

My story shows that God can turn anything into something that glorifies Him. Personally, it was a long hard path for me to unlearn the lies and brokenness within. I was that child who was told so many horrible things from a very young age like "I didn't have to take you; I could have left you in foster care." I was yelled and screamed at with such a vitriol that it just wounded me. Things would be held over my head for months at a time and some of it has probably never been let go. I didn't trust anyone. Angry men scared me for many years.

I still don't like confrontation, but it doesn't do the same thing to me internally anymore. The things that I lived as a child break you. I did try a few years ago to have a relationship with the man who may be my father but unfortunately it did not work out. I still do not know my biological father, but I am satisfied knowing my Heavenly Father. Broken people do things that are just so unkind sometimes. Sometimes we do not understand the why, but we all need our Savior. This is a very broken world. One day that will change. Hallelujah!

Rejection was a constant theme in my life. Along my journey, I finally understood that our identity is not in other people, but it is in God and Jesus. We spend so much time in this life chasing love and acceptance from people, but God is waiting for us to respond to him and to experience real, true, Godly love that is unfettered to human error.

My process took from spring 1998 until 2004/2005 for me to fully surrender to God, but I still had much to learn. While I was so blessed to have been called into His way; it would take years for some of my broken parts to heal. Sometimes God does not instantly heal our brains and hearts. We must go to Him and continue our pursuit of His will for our lives. We fail when we try to do it on our own. God wants to heal the broken hearted and bind up their wounds. I finally learned that our Father in Heaven can be trusted! He loves us unconditionally! Yes, there are lots of “if...thens” but He does not withdraw His love from us the way humans sometimes do.

God is willing and waiting to forgive us! HE LOVES US! Everything He asks from us is for our good and His glory. He is not selfish or broken. He is love. Calling us into the Sabbath and following His ways is such a gift and not a burden. As I consider all the changes I have been able to make over the years, the changes I still am trying to make, where I am, where our marriage is today, the man my husband has become, and how our family is, I believe much of this progress comes from starting with obedience to the fourth commandment. How glorious that is! Praise Him. Something so simple ushers in so many blessings!

Sharon's Ministry – Heart of a Torah Woman

Sharon Darling is the founder of Heart of a Torah Woman. This ministry was birthed out of a God-given desire to help other women in their walk with God. She provides mentorship that helps women focus on how to bring glory to God in all aspects of life. She helps women adjust their thinking and approach to Biblical womanhood through an emphasis on the importance of routine prayer and Bible study, strengthening our marriages and families, and encouraging and supporting each other. You can find her on social media, her podcast, and her blog www.torahwoman.com.

May you be blessed by what God is using her to do.



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The No-Stress Zone

Lenny Cacchio

Another harrowing week on the job leaves me drained, and I know that I am not unique. The strain of our on-the-run culture is robbing us of our freedom and the quality in our lives. A recent article in the Kansas City Star poignantly pointed out that our information age has linked us to our offices 24/7 not only from home but from virtually anywhere in the world. Our cell phones and laptops make it next to impossible to escape the yoke of our employment's reach.

The age of just-in-time inventory, text messages, and overnight delivery are symptoms of a culture that demands what it wants and demands it now. The luxury of taking one's time is no longer afforded us, let alone a full escape from the pressures of daily living.

When God cleaned up the void and emptiness of Genesis 1, he could have completed the job in the blink of an eye. But instead we get the picture of a God who savors his creative endeavors and takes seven full days to do what he could have done in a nanosecond, every step of the way punctuated with shouts of joy that "this is good." That lesson is too easily lost on the high-speed, broad-band highways of our lives.

And there is another lesson too often lost in the busyness of our days. After the sixth day, the day

on which the man and the woman were made, God looked at them and essentially said, "Let's take a break" (Genesis 2:2-3). This was a day to spend time with God and with each other, and it was a blessing indeed. Too often we are so busy doing that we forget about taking time just for being. The concept of the Sabbath rest is just that: to be rather than to do. It forces us to slow down and contemplate the important things in life, to spend time with those we love, and to reconnect with the real Power of the universe.

As the children of Israel were poised to enter the Promised Land, Moses reminded them of the Ten Commandments given to their nation forty years before. Much is heard today, some 3,500 years later, about the wisdom of this law, but that fourth one is too often relegated to being the least of the Commandments. But as Moses pointed out in Deuteronomy 5, God gave the Sabbath as a great gift. "*You were a slave in Egypt,*" Moses told them. Slaves don't get days off. With God's law you get a day off, and that's a sign that you are free men and women. "*The Lord brought you out from there by a mighty hand and an outstretched arm; therefore the Lord your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day*" (Deuteronomy 5:15).

We might not think of ourselves as slaves, but in a very real sense we are. We are burdened with our need to earn a living. We are encumbered with responsibilities. We are laden with worries about tomorrow and beyond. We are stressed with activities and responsibilities that spin beyond our control. But the Fourth Commandment declares a "No Stress Zone". Claiming that zone is a declaration of freedom, a time where we are free to slow down and savor the good things in life and appreciate the things that are truly important: our families, our friends, and our God.



Charles J. (Charlie) Kirk

Charles J. Kirk an engaging and dynamic speaker is a well-known American conservative activist and radio talk show host. Just 28 years old, his daily three hour a day syndicated talk show is distributed by the large nationwide Salem Media company. He has a widespread audience and national influence.

He created *Turning Point USA* and serves as its executive director. Kirk has also written three books on conservative political philosophy and perspectives.

Born in Chicago and raised in Prospect Heights, Illinois, he was a member of the Boy Scouts and earned the rank of Eagle Scout. While still in high school he worked on the successful campaign of conservative Republican Mark Kirk (no relation) in Illinois.

Encouraged by fellow "Tea Party Conservatives" Kirk turned to full time conservative political activism.

As of December 7, 2021, his program, The Charlie Kirk Show podcast was ranked as the 21st most popular podcast on Apple podcasts. Kirk's "Turning Point

Live" is a three-hour streaming talk show aimed at the younger generation. His listeners are fast approaching the million mark!

In the spiritual arena there are other accomplishments much more noteworthy.

Charlie is a Christian, and in May 2021, Kirk he married Erika Frantzve, who was Miss Arizona in 2012. She also is a conservative podcaster and a Christian businesswoman.

According to a recent public podcast after discovering the truth about the Seventh Day Sabbath in the Bible, Charlie and his wife began observing the Seventh Day Sabbath Day this last year, and they keep it faithfully.

Kirk says he turns his phone off on Friday night and puts it in a drawer and it stays there until Sabbath is over. He also spends the time resting, reading the Bible, praying and writing. Sometimes they go for walks. He says the Sabbath day is restorative and a gift to mankind.

Erika says "There is something very powerful about obedience to Christ and honoring God with the Sabbath." She is quoted as saying...

"There's so much spiritual warfare is going on right now. It is palpable, you can feel it in rooms you walk into, when you're watching the news, it is surrounding us and the only way to fight back is with God's Word. The only way to understand and make sense of it [life] is with God's Word and if



you don't take time to literally quiet your mind from the noise of life you will be inundated. From news articles to press releases, to your friend doing something, your family member's not allowing you to come to the holidays or whatever. It's really something special to be aligned with the Sabbath and God's Word, to be able to just take the time to just breathe, cut out the noise and just be in alignment with the [Holy] Spirit and know what your role is in all of this."

It is a delight to see this young couple standing up for truth, in many different aspects, and social issues that go against God's way. It is exciting to see them embracing the Sabbath Truth as well. They need our prayers and Angelic protection, as they are consistently attacked and threatened in many ways. Our greatest respect to Charlie and Erika Kirk, for being Sabbath Keepers Who Make A Difference!



Author Bill Lussenheide has been a Sabbath Keeper for nearly 50 years. He serves as Vice President of the Bible Sabbath Association. He and his wife Terri reside in the Bitterroot Valley Montana.



Letters to the Editor

Greetings, Friends and fellow Sabbath Keepers!

There were no Letters to the Editor this edition. I thought that I would use the space to encourage all to step up to the keyboard and write their thoughts about something.

One of the things that has made the magazine increasingly more successful is the writers who pour their hearts out to us in every edition. Not every writer is polished or professional. But, that is how God calls us! In every case, we are called to give a witness, though, to be ready to give an answer of the hope that resides in us.

One of the most moving things that can be read is the witness of how God has worked in our lives. Giving your witness can often be the encouragement or insight that helps another through a crisis or trial in their life.

It is my feeling that this magazine should come together through the moving of the Spirit of God; I seldom seek a theme for an edition. We have encouraged writers in many different organizations to write articles and that has led to some wonderful insight. I wish this to continue on into the future.

However, I'd also like to see more personal testimonies related to how God has led you in His Way of life, wherever that Way has you fellowshiping! With that in mind, your editor is asking that you search your lives and your hearts to see how God has blessed you in His calling, and then share those glorious insights with the rest of us.

As always, you can send anything you'd be willing to share to me at tsseditor@yahoo.com.

The Sabbath Sentinel

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

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ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
SAN DIMAS, CA
PERMIT NO. 410



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