

2024

# The Sabbath Sentinel

A Worthy Mission —

The Bible Sabbath Association

BSA—The Bible Sabbath Association

Jesus said, "If you would enter into life, keep the Commandments...

### The Sabbath Sentinel January-February, 2024

### Volume 78, No. 1, Issue 624

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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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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.

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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 Worthy Mission—the BSA

As everyone undoubtedly knows who is familiar with the Bible Sabbath Association (BSA), we have just finished the Association's quadrennial election process for its governing Board. The new Board of Directors as well as the outgoing Directors have all been notified. Soon, we will begin the process of moving the BSA forward for another 4 years of service to the people of God.

As the new board prepares to take up the reins of governance, it might be fitting to rehearse the purpose and goals of the BSA for all of the members and readers. To do so, a rehearsal of the mission given to us by our Savior would seem to also be in order, providing us with a framework for our BSA mission.

Before ascending to heaven to take up His rightful place at the right hand of the Father, Jesus gave a commission to His disciples. Many people use the following scriptures to form the basis of a "Great Commission."

In Mat 28:18-20 we read the following: "And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, All authority is given to Me in Heaven and in earth. Therefore go and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things, whatever I commanded you. And, behold, I am with you all the days until the end of the world."

Much mischief has been done through the misapplication of that scripture. However, I'll leave that for another time. What should be focused on is another scripture which is truly the mission Christ gave to His disciples when He walked the earth. That commission can be found in Joh 13:34-35: "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. As I have loved you, you should also love one another. By this all shall know that you are My disciples, if you have love toward one another."

Jesus expanded on the idea through another statement that He made to His disciples in Joh 15:12-14 "This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. You are My friends if you do whatever I command you."

The command then is that to show our love for God and our fellow man, we ought to be willing to lay our lives down for one another. Too often that idea is taken to the extreme that Christ had to take it so that we had access to salvation, and to the Father, through Him. And, if the truth is to be told, there have been times in the past where that ultimate sacrifice was required of some of the brethren.

But—and this is your author's opinion—Jesus was not indicating that unless our love was so strong such that we submitted to martyrdom then we don't love Him and are not His disciples. If we take the rest of scriptures into consideration, including the Decalogue, it becomes easy to see that any way we set aside part of our lives to help others, especially the brethren, we are in effect laying that part of our lives down for them.

Your new Board of Directors for the BSA have generously decided to lay down a part of their lives for the purpose of causing the BSA to be a tool of unity in the Spirit. They are sacrificing a part of their lives to reach across corporate barriers in an effort to have all of God's Children see the many ways that we see things alike, just as past boards have done for the brethren.

The outgoing Board, under the leadership of Kelly McDonald, made great strides in this effort to bring fellowship to the many differing groups of brethren who have in common the keeping of God's Sabbaths and the desire to promote Jesus as the Messiah. We who will serve on the incoming board ask that everyone pray that we are able to build on the great foundation laid by our past leadership on the Board.

To accomplish one part of our commission, we at the BSA have been, and will continue to be, promoting the keeping of God's Sabbaths. The world at large claims it worships Jesus but refuses to accept what He said to us all. He told us, "... It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God." Mat 4:4.

The churches of the majority teach that we don't need to keep God's Sabbaths, but those words are God breathed! While not having repeated every commandment specifically in the New Covenant, Jesus did have this to say about them. When the rich young man came to Him and asked what good thing He could do to enter into life, Jesus responded thusly, "And He said to him, Why do you call Me good? There is none good but one, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments. He said to Him, Which? Jesus said, You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not bear false witness, honor your father and mother, and, you shall love your neighbor as yourself." Mat 19:17-19.

Jesus repeated those parts of the Commandments that related to how to love our neighbors as ourselves, one of the two Great Commandments. In another place Jesus explained that loving our neighbors as ourselves would not just be refraining from killing another, but to even refrain from hating them. Shouldn't that include *ALL* Sabbath keepers as well?

He also tied the Commandments all together when He dealt with the young expert in the Mosaic Law who tested Jesus with a question. In Mat 22:36 we read: "Master, which is the great commandment in the Law?

"Jesus said to him, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment.

"And the second is like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

If the final six commandments apply to loving our neighbors as ourselves, then the first four must apply to loving the Lord our God with our hearts, souls and minds!

Therefore, since in no place have we ever seen Godbreathed words stating that we need no longer obey ALL of God's Commandments, then we must default to Christ's admonition to live by every God-breathed word. We can't rationalize around those words of God like so many do who want to keep their own traditions rather than doing what God has asked us to do.

If we do try to rationalize around God's spoken words then we will be among those Christ described here: "Not everyone who says to Me, Lord! Lord! shall enter the kingdom of Heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in Heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, Lord! Lord! Did we not prophesy in Your name, and through Your name throw out demons, and through Your name do

many wonderful works? And then <u>I will say to them I never knew you!</u> Depart from Me, those working lawlessness!" Mat 7:21-23.

These blind-leading-the-blind preachers of the world are teaching people to rebel against God, to hate His Sabbaths, and to continue in sin in the name of Jesus. That is not the message that Christ brought to the world and it is likewise the antithesis of the message that the BSA is promoting.

Moreover, they ignore the plain words of Jesus wherein He says that all of those who claim to have been doing great works in His Name will be turned away as strangers who are unknown to Him. One would think that such an admonition would be enough for those "teachers" to stop teaching the lie and instead to teach what God has to say!

Jesus told us all to love. That is the great commission given to us. He explained to us that loving God and our fellow man so much that we would never consider trespassing against either should be the goal for every minute of our lives.

Summing up, preaching and teaching Jesus as our Savior necessarily means speaking the words that He spoke, teaching the concepts that He taught. That has been one of the goals of the BSA—part of its Mission Statement if you will—for over 75 years. Jesus wants us to have unity in the Spirit—unity with Him and with the Father. We can't have unity if we are always focusing on what makes us different from one another. Indeed, that focus is a divisive one and we know who the author of division is; it certainly did not come from the mouth of God.

Instead, as we have been teaching at the BSA for many decades, we need to focus on loving one another. When we love one another we are to do so as Christ loves us. When we love we overlook things that bring discord between us; it becomes much easier to see each other as God sees us. And, after all, should that not be part of our goals individually, also?

To do this great work, however, we need many hands. This small team can be your hands and the hands of God to accomplish this ministry, but hands need a body to direct them to accomplish the will of God. We need writers, donations and prayers! Won't you join with us in this worthy goal?



## The President's Corner

## Reflecting on the Last Eight Years

I first started writing for The Sabbath Sentinel in 2009 under the tutelage of Kenneth Ryland. At that time, I was about to graduate college and still had much to learn about writing and the Bible. As time passed, my writing got better. Ken was very patient with me!

In 2015, an opportunity came forth to run for the BSA board of directors. I honestly didn't think anything would come from it. A few months after accepting the nomination, I was surprised to learn that I had been elected to the board. At the first board meeting, I was elected as President of the group! Another shocker!

During that first board meeting, I didn't have that slightest clue how God was going to change my life and the lives of many others. Yet again, I was blessed to have another mentor there beside me in Calvin Burrell. I emailed and called him often, and each time he provided sound advice in leadership and directing matters. As time passed, I became more comfortable with the role of BSA President.

Over the course of those four years, the BSA gradually became established as a hub for exegetical understanding of the commandments of God and for Sabbath history. I was blessed to travel to many different Sabbath churches across the country. I learned more about how to be an ambassador for the Kingdom of God despite doctrinal differences that existed between groups. I also learned more about working with others despite doctrinal differences for the sake of promoting the Kingdom of God. The BSA started to emphasize online outreach in a way that had not been done before. We had tremendous results, and the BSA became revitalized. New people were introduced to the BSA, and others were re-introduced.

In 2018, I was re-elected to the board and to President. We had a task to continue the work begun four years before. However, other areas needed to be addressed. While we had made significant strides in the previous four years, we still had our work cut out for us. The organization needed significant restructuring to help with our financial state, and God used Bill Lussenheide to offer wisdom and guidance in this area. He also has been a tremendous friend and mentor the past several years. We

got to work and successfully made the changes necessary to create a significant deficit reduction in the year-to-year expenses of the group. We had two years in a row where we were in the black! That has not happened to the BSA in well over a decade.

Our online outreach also continued to grow in the last four years. We continued to write more articles exploring the truth concerning the Sabbath and church history. We were able to produce nearly a dozen books on Sabbath history and related subjects. Our articles also started to show up in search engines such as Google, Bing, Yahoo, duckduck.go, and others. More opportunities opened to present these truths at churches across the US.

The last eight years have been eight great years for the BSA. We have navigated a transition from antiquated methods of outreach to more modern methods. This has allowed us to reach tens of thousands of Sabbath keepers every year and enabled thousands of free book downloads at no or very little cost to the organization.

The greatest development of my second term as BSA president was when I married my wonderful wife, Jessica. That of course was a tremendous life change for both of us, but we were together still able to help with the BSA work. Earlier in 2023, she gave birth to twin boys! They are truly a blessing, but also a great responsibility. Being an effective, involved husband and dad takes a lot of time, energy, and effort. It also means that I don't have the time to be an effective member of the BSA board for the next four years. Leaders must recognize that they are a limited resource. Over the years, I have recognized that trying to do too much can mean being ineffective in all areas, which benefits no one.

#### What does this mean?

It means that the BSA will be served by seven awesome children of God once again for the next four years. Several of them will have their first chance to serve on the BSA board. This should be exciting as many previous boards desired new faces to serve. Such an opportunity has been created by several people, including myself, deciding not to run for the board again.

I will remain an active contributor to the BSA cause in

other areas, such as offering any advice/guidance in any areas the board should approach me with. I will also remain active in helping to manage the online outreach of the organization. Lastly, I plan to contribute with articles as time allows. I do hope to be involved in a greater way with the BSA down the road, but now is not the time to make such a commitment.

Much work needs to be done to continue the task that we started. We didn't quite get to finish the modernization process and there are other methods of online outreach that we never tapped into, such as the making of educational videos. However, we have hundreds of articles and over a dozen books of materials that can be drawn upon to create such videos.

I believe that the BSA is in a much better place in all areas of the organization than it was eight years ago when I was first president. There are things I had hoped to do that never materialized, but we trust that God will work those things out (Romans 8:28).

Contrary to what you may hear, I'm not quitting the BSA, but moving aside for new faces to be used by God to help a great organization. This is truly for the best for all people involved. The BSA was never intended to be connected heavily to one person, but always connected to God's Kingdom and His plan and purpose for us all.

The last eight years, I have been blessed to travel across the country preaching at different Sabbatarian churches and helping others contend for the faith once delivered to the saints (Jude 1:3). I have been able to write hundreds of articles for the BSA in both the print and online versions of The Sabbath Sentinel magazine. We have reached farther than we ever thought, and to God be the glory for that.

I want to thank God and Christ for Their continued faithfulness to work in our lives and the BSA. I also want to thank each and every precious child of God who contributed financially or in other ways the past eight years to help us promote truth, righteousness, and hope. There are so many of you and it would take a long time to name you all! I also especially thank those who have served on the board the last eight years. We had two great teams. I believe our efforts show what God's people can do when we trust in Him and work together.

God bless and I look forward to seeing the bright future of the BSA!

Kelly McDonald, Jr.



## 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.

# A SYNOPSIS OF GOD'S PLAN FOR MANKIND

### Darl Arbogast

In Matthew 12:31 thru 37 – (Jesus said) 31 "Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men."

In the Bible we are told there is only one unpardonable sin which is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. Many people today are of the opinion that the Holy Spirit is a spirit being equal to God the Father and Jesus Christ the Son, which is Satan's deception; this is where the trinity doctrine originated.

John 3:8 NKJ – (Jesus said) 8 "The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

The Holy Spirit is like the wind having no body. The Holy Spirit is power or energy from the Almighty God that produces lightning, thunder and can move mountains. THE HOLY SPIRIT (GOD'S HOLY SPIRIT) MUST NOT BE SPOKEN AGAINST!

During the 'Day of the Lord' the Holy Spirit will remove islands, remove mountains, dry up the seas, generate great earthquakes and more.

Mark 3:28,29 NKJ – (Jesus said) 28 "Assuredly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they may utter; but he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is subject to eternal condemnation"— Question: What is blasphemy (wickedness), what is condemnation (blame)?

What is our reaction as we witness earthquakes, mud slides and/or other severe natural disasters? Do we respond to these things railing against the power of the Almighty?

Isaiah 54:16 NKJ - 16 "Behold, I have created the blacksmith who blows the coals in the fire, who brings forth an instrument for his work; and I have created the spoiler (Lucifer, Satan the Devil) to destroy."

Satan is the prince of the powers of the air and probably is responsible for some tornadoes, hurricanes, typhoons etcetera but when these natural events reshape the surface of the earth with its movement, it is my understanding they come from God, using His Holy Spirit and its energy.

Our response in any of these events should be to pray for the affected people, help them, and try not to place blame on a source. Railing against the power of the Holy Spirit is blasphemy which we must not do.

### GOD HAS NEVER LOST CONTROL OF HIS PLAN

If a synopsis can be written for such a vast topic as God's plan for mankind we need to read Genesis 1:1 NKJ - 1 "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." 'In the beginning'—to some inquisitive minds—the beginning of 'what'? Some believe the beginning of time was when Elohim (the Most High God) and the (Word or Spokesman of the Godhead Who became Jesus the Christ the Son) spun the earth on its axis. 'In the beginning' was in existence before time began, before the earth was spun on its axis marking time'.

Not many of us today can read, write or speak Hebrew so we rely on those who can help us to understand many things.

Elohim for example is a plural word showing that God is not a single being as we read in John 1:1,2 NKJ - 1 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God.* John 10:30 NKJ – (Jesus said), 30 "I *and My Father are one.*" Nowhere in scripture is a third member of the Godhead mentioned.

Jesus said in Matthew 5:16 NKJ - 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. In the third heaven is where God dwells, He is the master of the universe, He reins from His throne where His headquarters abides.

The first heaven is where the birds and planes fly and the second heaven is where the planets are and the third heaven is where limitless outer space is, where galaxies and stars exist. God's throne, His headquarters of the earth abides in the third heaven. Acts 7:49 NKJ - 49 *Heaven is My throne, and earth is My footstool...* In 2 Corinthians 12:2 NKJ - The

Apostle Paul tells us more. 2 *I know a man in Christ who* fourteen years ago--whether in the body *I* do not know, or whether out of the body *I* do not know, God knows--such a one was caught up to the third heaven. These heavens and the earth were created sometime prior to what is written in Genesis 1:1 and the earth became without form and void, there was no light for the sun was not created yet and the earth was covered with water and darkness! The question is "How did the earth get into the condition of being dark, without form and void, from its beginning?" Genesis 1:2 NKJ - 2 *The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters*. (Satan apparently caused the destruction on earth because of his anger).

Jeremiah 4:23 NKJ - 23 *I beheld the earth, and indeed it was without form, and void; and the heavens, they had no light.* (Satan came to the earth before light was created).

Revelation 12:7 thru 9 NKJ - 7 And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, 8 but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. 9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Satan was banished to the earth making him the ruler of this world; God's footstool is Satan's domain. There was nothing on earth but water and darkness when Satan and his minions came.

John 12:31 NKJ 18 *And He* (Jesus) *said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven."* and Luke 10:18 NKJ - 31 *Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be* (has been) *cast out.* 

As it was written in Job 1:6 NKJ Satan was allowed to attend a meeting or conference after civilization was established on earth – 6 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. Job 2:2 NKJ - 2 And the LORD said to Satan, "From where do you come?" So Satan answered the LORD and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it." Satan is the cause of the 'anti-God effort' as written in 2 Corinthians 4:4 NKJ - 4 whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

Jesus was also tempted by Satan as we read in Matthew chapter 4. Jesus submitted in allowing Satan to tempt Him by offering Jesus a way out or around the crucifixion; for man's sake that did not happen. Matthew 4:9 NKJ 9 *And he* (Satan) *said to Him, "All these things I will give Y ou if Y ou will fall down and worship me.*" In Isaiah chapter 53 it was prophesied what would be required of Jesus, our Creator, concerning His crucifixion.

Knowing the fall of Adam and Eve affecting all of mankind, God's project and His determination to see His plan through to its completion was prophesied. Hebrews 2:10 NKJ - 10 For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

All humanity was created by Him and it started with Him creating a human being out of the elements that are in the soil, calling this first homo-sapien Adam which means red clay.

Our Creator worked five days fashioning the earth, creating everything knowing what humans would need in order to live. On the sixth day a conversation happened between the two-spirit entities of the Godhead Genesis 1:26 thru 31 NKJ - 26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." 29 And God said, "See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food. 30 Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life, I have given every green herb for food"; and it was so. 31 Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. *So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.* (Notice that the evening came before morning).

It didn't stop there the Most High God (Elohim) started a family by creating Adam, a human being that has the same image as the Creator! Genesis 2:18,21,22,23 and Genesis 3:20 NKJ - 18 *And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."* 21 *And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall* 

on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. 23 And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." 20 And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.

Satan came calling on Eve in the form of a serpent in the Garden of Eden. No doubt Satan was dressed in beautiful colors. Ezekiel 28:12 NKJ describes Satan ... 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty". Satan enticed Eve to sin and she enticed Adam to sin so Elohim put them out of their beautiful garden home, they were evicted and could not go back. What happened to them was written in Genesis chapter three. Adam and Eve were shut out of the garden like Satan had been shut out of heaven.

It was and still is Satan's desire to keep God from having His family. Getting Adam and Eve evicted was Satan's first step. Satan had brought an insurrection against God with 1/3 of the angels. Reading Isaiah 14:12 thru 17 NKJ will give us an understanding of what happened and what is going to happen - 12 "How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! 13 For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.' 15 Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the Pit. 16 "Those who see you will gaze at you, and consider you, saying: 'Is this the man who made the earth tremble, who shook kingdoms, 17 who made the world as a wilderness and destroyed its cities, who did not open the house of his prisoners?'

Satan's rebellion is why he was banished to the earth and why he lost his position in God's heaven. Satan has put the lie in the minds of people that heaven is the reward of the saved. John 3:13 NKJ - 13 No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven.

Satan wants to return to heaven and become the dominant power over the 'Father and the Son'; that will not happen, God has other plans for Satan and his minions. Man believes the lies of Satan, as he has inspired all worldly religions to believe heaven is the place mankind will eventually be. Many talk about heaven, sing about heaven but heaven is not man's place or reward and never will be.

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
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God's plan is much bigger and wider in scope than merely ascending to a visionary place of 'golden streets' according to some beliefs, receiving a pair of wings, a robe, playing a harp, have a halo for a crown, living on a white cloud and a beautiful river.

Satan has filled the hearts and minds of church people with a deception to want what he (Satan) is lusting for in heaven; this is a false and unsatisfying desire, as Psalms 37:4 NKJ tells us – 4 *Delight yourself also in the LORD, and He shall give you the desires of your heart.* (Our happiness will come from God for us today and in the future being with God in His kingdom on earth.)

God's plan for mankind is beyond awesome! When the last trumpet sounds those that sleep in Jesus and we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep, we will then be resurrected and changed to spirit beings in the twinkling of an eye.

Read 1 Corinthians 15:51 thru 58, 1 Thessalonians 4:13 thru 18 and Revelation 20:11 thru 21 for complete understanding.

The resurrected Christians will rule the earth under the leadership of Christ as King of the earth, the resurrected David will be King of the new Israel and the Apostles will be judges over the new Israel for 1,000 years.

This article is but a synopsis of God's plan for mankind; many, many more scriptures detail the rest of the story. But this is a good beginning as we live today on the earth, leading us on into an eternity with our heavenly Father and our Saviour Jesus Christ. Read Revelation chapters 21 and 22 as they are very inspiring.

Satan has deceived the world and the modern erroneous belief Christians go to heaven when they die is another lie. Yahweh, God the Father who now reigns in heaven is moving to the earth and bringing the New Jerusalem with Him. God will dwell with us here on earth as we read Revelation 21:3 NKJ - "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with us and God will dwell with us, (here on earth) and we shall be His people. God Himself will be with us and be our God."

No more Satan, no more sin, no more death, these will be things of the past.



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# Is There Truth?

(Part 2)

Daniel Campau

### Why it Matters.

In Part 1 we asked the question is there truth? Here in Part 2, we address why truth matters.

We live in a world where many people believe they can have their own personal truths. Morally, this creates a problem because when we think, talk, and act on our own truths we, at the very least, create confusion to those around us.

Does it matter if there is truth in this mixed-up world? Is truth something you need to know? If you know some "truth" how does this information affect your life and the lives of your neighbors and family? Why does it even matter?

Simply put, every choice we make in thought, word, or deed has consequences. We ultimately must live with those consequences. If the premise of our choices is based on truth, the resulting consequences are much more likely to be effective. For example, if you are mixing or dispensing medication and you do not believe the truth that the amount matters, you could cause someone's death. When baking a cake, adding, and correctly mixing the right ingredients result in good flavor. Attention to boarding the correct train will get you to your desired destination. These types of examples are easily understood. Why? Because most people have experienced making wrong and right choices in their lives, finding out firsthand that their choices have consequences.

Fortunately, our wrong choices do not always lead to immediate death. If this were the case, there would be no one left to teach the value of right choices. (See Rom 3:23). Since most of us are still around after making many wrong choices, we may conclude that there are no absolute truths and by extension no real consequences. We may get into arguments that end with "I will do it my way and you can do it your way". Is there a clear true and false here? No, sometimes this can be labeled as

preferences, opinions, or situational ethics. Be assured, I am not promoting situational ethics nor relativism, but there are times when our personal situation will direct our choices. Let me explain. If you are driving and a police car pulls up behind you with its lights flashing and siren wailing, you have a choice to make that moments before you would not have had to make. In this particular example, you have only two viable choices; try to get away or pull over and stop. The wise person knows which choice to make.

Let's move on from these obvious examples of common sense in everyday life. All of us have regular occasions to learn from our mistakes and make correction. I refer to these choices as lesser matters in life. There are, however, some choices we must make based on truths' whose consequences are not immediate. Like the consequence of following the command to love God with all of your heart, (Deu. 6:5) usually does not show an immediate result. Some of God's instruction is not intuitive. For example, we would not naturally keep the Sabbath without having been instructed to. Yet there are other commands that are more intuitive such as the command against murder. Most nations have some form of law against murder. Over time, selfish individuals figured out that murder, unabated, prevents a society from surviving, so laws were created against murder.

If the Creator, who cares for His creation and understands the destructive consequence of murder, says Do not Murder, and man in his selfish state also realizes that murder is detrimental to society, wouldn't other less intuitive instruction from this same loving God also be valuable to follow? Wouldn't one want to seek even more diligently for truth in such matters? Choosing well in what I call the greater matters carries eternal consequence. Therefore, obedience is much more important, though we do not necessarily, intuitively, see the value in following those particular instructions. The "why" of correct and true choices in some of the greatest matters in life is not

always easy for our natural minds to discern. Jeremiah 17:9 tells us our own nature, or heart, is deceitful above all things and if that is not startling enough, it is desperately wicked. Wow, do you see how truth matters? We must not rely on our own wisdom or emotions to make right choices, especially in the greater matters.

These greater matters in life I am referring to have to do with who our God is, how we listen to Him, and how we treat our fellow man. The ultimate consequence for getting this right, making the right choice, has to do with something man has been searching for since the beginning. Eternal life. It is in this sense that truth, real truth, absolute truth, matters.

In this part, we have discussed why truth matters. Yet we have not fully addressed what that truth is. In the next segment, what is truth, we will discuss in more detail where to go for instruction on the greater matters.



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# History of the Fair Chance Doctrine

Part 2

This article is continued from Part 1 in the May 2023 edition of this magazine.

Ed.

§

Craig M. White

In part one we explored the restoration of understanding, to some degree, of the fair chance doctrine by scholars in the nineteenth century. In part two we continue to discuss prominent advocates and preachers of this doctrine.

### Charles Taze Russell (1852-1916)

It was in 1879 that he began publishing Zion's Watch Tower and Herald of Christ's Presence. Two years later he formally founded the Bible Students which became known organisationally as Zion Watch Tower Society in 1881. His followers called him "the Laodicean Messenger" to the seventh epoch of the church (The Laodicean Messenger, being the Memoirs of the Life, Works and Character of That Faithful and Wise Servant of the Most High God, pp. 122, 153). Many Jehovah Witnesses and the original Russellite groups still espouse church eras in one form or another.

Their great "mystery" doctrine was that God raised up the Church through Christ – and it is the Church that will help to save mankind during the Millennium (Encyclopedia of Christianity in the United States, p. 1995). Later, in 1917, Joseph Rutherford took over the movement and changed many of its doctrines and the faithful formed their own groups which are extant to this day. The organization adopted the name of Jehovah's Witnesses in 1931. However, it still adheres to Russell's fair chance doctrine.

Russell believed that this was indeed "the day of salvation" for Christians (forming the little flock and the Bride of Christ). Yet a further day of salvation awaited all of those that were not cognizant of God's way. This "day" would be during the Millennium when "the

times of restitution of all things which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began." It is likely that Russell learned of this fair chance for humanity doctrine from George Storrs and there are hints of this belief sometimes in Sabbatarian history.

Today the Jehovah Witnesses (in part, successors to Russell) teach that all those since Adam and Eve that did not have their eyes opened to the truth or who died in ignorance and are not resurrected to eternal life at Christ's coming - will be resurrected to mortal life and given a fair chance of salvation during the millennium.

#### Other Advocates of a Fair Chance

Another early work advocating a fair chance in one form or another (without being universalist) is <u>The Intermediate State between Death and Judgment</u> by Herbert Luckock (1896). Of further interest, Second Advent scholars, including Isaac Wellcome and Clarkson Goud, were well aware of a plan that God had in mind for the human race. In their 1867 book <u>The Plan of Redemption</u> they attempted to expound upon this.

#### **Church of God Belief**

It should be recognized that this idea (or similar) was also finding its way among the Church of God people. Recall that earlier we met Jacob Blain who promoted the fair chance doctrine and whose works were advertised in the Church of God's publication, The Hope of Israel, in the 1860s. Notice the following:

"Church of God (Seventh-day). Adventist group that traces it origin back to the original sabbatarian Adventist movement. After H.S. Case and C.P. Russell came into conflict with Ellen G. White in Jackson, Michigan, in 1853, they began publishing the Messenger of Truth and two years later formed an alliance with J.M. Stephenson and D.P. Hall in Wisconsin who were advocating the belief that

during the millennium individuals would have a second chance to accept Christ" (Historical Dictionary of Seventh-Day Adventists: Historical Dictionaries of Religions Philosophies, and Movements, p. 63). [emphasis mine] [by "second chance" they should have stated "first chance" and this demonstrates how the doctrine is often misunderstood by others and sometimes even confused with universalism]

Also, about this time, some Sabbatarian Adventists (many whom became Seventh-day Adventists and others became Church of God) taught the fair chance ("age to come" or "future probation") doctrine:

"J.M. Stephenson and D.P. Hall were two of the first converts of J.H. Waggoner in Wisconsin [apparently this was in the 1850s]. For some years they were prominent ministers, though they never abandoned but sometimes hid their belief in that doctrine of probation for sinners after the Second Coming called the "age-to-come," which was held by some Adventists, then quite a party." (AW Spalding, Origin and History of Seventh-day Adventists, p. 229)

There is also a hint of this belief in Gilbert Cranmer's address delivered to the sabbatarian Church conference 13 June 1863 and published as "Synopsis of a Discourse," The Hope of Israel, 10 August 1863:

"The gospel is simply good news of the appearing and kingdom of Jesus. This has to be preached to "every nation, kindred, tongue and people." (Rev. 14: 6) ...

"Miller however proclaimed one untruth. He taught that the judgment would sit in 1844. That the day of judgment was one day of 24 hour, and that the righteous and wicked were to be judged together. And there are those still who claim that the judgment upon the righteous commenced on the 10th day of the 7th month 1844. They claim two days of judgement. This is not true, as there is but one day of judgement spoken of in the Bible. That day of judgment will continue one thousand years. "And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years." Rev. 20:4.

"When the Son of man shall sit on the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel" ...

"The saints are to sit in judgment upon wicked men and angels. But father Miller did not understand this. The judgement did not sit in 1844." (p.3) [emphasis mine]

Of further interest is how many of these early Adventists and Sabbatarians were part of the Christian Connection grouping (outlined in the article <u>The Doctrinal Heritage of the Church of God in the Nineteenth Century</u>). The Connection was "a hotbed" for universalism (Captains of the Host, p. 51) and thus also other similar thinking about what will happen to those who never had a chance of salvation.

I have before me a letter by Alex Dugger (brother to the famous Andrew Dugger) to 'Brother Ballinger' written in 1947. Alex Dugger was responding to Ballinger's letter and attached a copy of an 1899 letter from Owen Crozier to Andrew Ferguson Dugger (father of the aforementioned Duggers). The letter from Crozier in effect was condemning of Ellen G White's 'shut door' doctrine wherein he listed five defects in this doctrine, but it is the fourth point that intrigues me for he states:

"There is Scripture proof that there will be pardon and salvation under the reign of Christ - - for the left of the nations, after the second coming. This, chiefly, brought me out of the shut-door."

He is referring to the millennial prophecy contained within Matthew 24:32-46 (though, of course, this passage also has personal lessons). So, what he appears to be saying is that there is yet a future period of opportunity for salvation during the Millennium; this offer is rejected by those to Christ's left (ie the goats). It would be an interesting exercise to trace the origin for this belief of his.

In addition, there may have also been something approximating this belief among the German Seventh Day Baptists. Though they did not believe in universal salvation (History of all the Religious Denominations of the United States, p. 114),

"The idea of a universal restoration did exist among some in the early days, and it is to be at-

tributed to attempts to explain the fifteenth chapter of the first epistle in the Corinthians, and the twentieth chapter of the Revelations, and reconcile some other parts of the Scriptures. It, however, is never taught as a doctrine, but is always approached with the greatest caution and delicacy, by their pastor in private conversations with the members, who desire to be instructed upon this subject; and who invariably admonishes them to be diligent in making their calling and election sure; to be prepared for the first resurrection and not to depend on a second." (p. 115)

So, the belief that mankind is not lost but most will yet be given a fair chance of salvation, was being explored by Sabbatarians and the Church of God folk even in those days.

## **Herbert W Armstrong and the Worldwide Church of God**

Later, Herbert W Armstrong picked up on this belief and this first appeared in the article "<u>Predestination</u>. <u>Does the Bible teach it?</u>" Plain Truth, Nov-Dec 1943 (pp. 8-12). Although his early belief seems to indicate that this would occur during the Millennium rather than during the Last Great Day – the latter understanding came later, apparently by the early 1940s.

In the aforementioned article he wrote the following of the separation of the sheep and goats parable:

"Notice, all those called and saved prior to Christ's second appearing on earth had been SEPARATED from the unsaved before Christ stood upon earthwhile still in the clouds of the air -- before He sat upon the throne of His glory! The SEPARATION going on after He sits upon that throne ruling over THE NATIONS, therefore, is a different, and succeeding separation!

Here are earth's nations – earth's mortals--all nation's! And now begins a process of SEPARA-TION. It is according to the decisions they make, and the actions they take. Those who turn to a life of RIGHTEOUSNESS are set on the RIGHT hand. They are converted-given IMMORTALITY-because Christ says to them: "Inherit the Kingdom!"-and mortal flesh and blood cannot inherit that Kingdom! (I Cor. 15:50). Those who do evil then receive the full penalty of the law-DEATH! They are sentenced to depart into the lake of fire!

Certainly this passage pictures nothing but a process of salvation going on, after Christ's return. DURING His millennial "Sabbath Day."

That is the great "FALL Harvest of Souls! ...

But, if one has been truly called of God, convicted by God's Spirit, his mind opened to the precious spiritual knowledge of the Truth, then if that man sins wil-fully, deliberately, intentionally, without resistance - THAT MAN IS THROUGH! He has had his chance! He shall have no other, during the coming millennium!

... our loved ones who have died unsaved in all probability did not die LOST! In all probability they were not called, during this age. But their call is coming later! They shall be resurrected back to life, and given their fair chance!" (pp.10-11)

"Let us make our calling and final election sure. Let us not grieve over departed loved ones who probably were not called, in this life. God is able to raise them up again. They will come up in the Great White Throne Judgment. And in that judgment, the book of life shall be opened, and many shall then find it." (p. 12)

The above seems to show that Herbert Armstrong believed that the period of fair chance for all would occur during the Millennium, rather than after it; yet he also says that those not now called will arise in the Great White Throne Judgment. Perhaps he did not edit it properly from an earlier draft that contained his original stance on the subject? It is hard to ascertain at this time.

He even calls it fair chance as did many of the authors referred to previously. In addition, he uses the word chance on a number of occasions throughout the article.

Here is one tidbit of historic information that is helpful in attempting to track the development of this doctrine:

"The Conns and Bobbie Fisher cite a 1940s incident that they vividly recall. Mr. Armstrong had at first thought that all of the dead would be resurrected during the Millennium. A woman named Belle Rogers set Armstrong straight when she pointed out the scripture in Revelation 20 about the resurrection after the Millennium." (Richard C Nickels, 'Appendix C. Herbert W. Armstrong:

1892-1986' in Early Writings of Herbert W. Armstrong, Giving & Sharing, 1996, p. 237)

It is doubtful that Herbert Armstrong was familiar with any of the above men, with the exception of Charles Taze Russell. Mr Armstrong certainly took this understanding to another level and after careful sifting and reflection, purified and deepened the doctrinal understanding that others had commenced research on.

### **Concluding Thoughts**

The Churches of God have leveraged off and drawn upon the research of others in various doctrines. After all, we do not have the resources or membership numbers to enable us to produce many scholars. In fact, the sense of rivalry, jealousy and the spirit of competition has driven many scholars out of the Church.

Certainly, since the 19th century some protestant scholars began to teach a fair chance for all humanity – this restoration of humanity would occur during the Millennium according to this belief. Charles Taze Russell and his followers (the Russellites) took up that view as did the Jehovah Witnesses. Herbert Armstrong, however, taught a fair chance would occur during the Great White Throne Judgment period, after the Millennium.

The only other one that taught that prior to Mr. Armstrong arose on the scene, as far as I know, was George Storrs. He came to believe that most now living have never had a fair chance of salvation – that their opportunity is still future. And that will be during the Great White Throne Judgment period after the Millennium. This doctrine was taught, at least to some degree by others and was likely lurking around the outskirts of the Church of God at during the 1920s and 1930s before being accepted by Herbert W Armstrong by 1943 at the latest. It was promulgated and taught widely by the original Worldwide Church of God from that time on until around the early 1990s. Many Church of God groups have continued to teach this doctrine to this day.



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# Praying for Animals? What do the Scriptures say?

DJ Wellington

First of all, I was astounded how many times in scripture animals are mentioned! With that, it would be good for everyone to check these things out for themselves because you may find even more than what I did. I will not mention all the times, but as you study, you will see for yourself.

Very early and actually elementary to this study, we know that Yahweh made ALL the animals and He saw that it was good (Genesis 1:24-25). Animals were given the "breath of life" the same as humans were (Genesis 7:15). The righteous man (or woman) will have regard for their animals (Proverbs 12:10). Even the animals are to rest on the Sabbath (Exodus 23:12)!

Probably the biggest difference between humans and animals is that animals were born with "instinct' and humans were given "free will." A young animal who loses its mother may still survive, but a young child would not. Most folks who have had animals as pets or with jobs (such as hunting dogs, guide dogs, etc.) would acknowledge that we humans have domesticated animals A LOT! Animals have always been here, though, and were used among other things to help humans.

Another big difference is what happens to animals when they die. Ecclesiastes 3:19-21, For the event of the sons of men is also the event of beasts – one event befalls them: as one dies, so dies the other. Indeed, they all have one breath – man has no advantage over beasts. For all is futile. All are going to one place – all came from the dust, and all return to dust. Who knows the spirit of the sons of men, which goes upward, and the spirit of the beast, which goes down to the earth? This indicates that the spirit (breath) of the animals does not go "upward," but to the earth.

There was a time when ALL flesh was destroyed (Genesis 6:17), but that was because it had become corrupt (Genesis 6:11-12)—which man was responsible for, not the animals, but man corrupted the animals as well (surmised based on scriptures mentioning "lying with" [having sex with] with animals, Exodus 22:19).

Let's look at just some verses pertaining to animals and how Yahweh cares for them and what they were created to do at times:

Psalm 104:14, He causes the grass to grow for the cattle, And vegetation for the service of man, That he may bring forth food from the earth,

Job 39:13, "The ostriches' wings flap joyously With the pinion and plumage of love, For she abandons her eggs to the earth And warms them in the dust, And she forgets that a foot may crush them, Or that a wild beast may trample them. She treats her young cruelly, as if they were not hers; Though her labor be in vain, she is unconcerned; Because Elohim has made her forget wisdom, And has not given her a share of understanding.

So do the animals have "wisdom"? This is a bit interesting because if "wisdom is the fear of Yahweh" (Psalm 111:10; Job 28:28), it stands to reason that animals probably have that wisdom, right? Did you ever hear of an animal "sinning"?

1 Kings 17:4-6, Yahweh commanded the ravens to feed EliYah and they did so.

Numbers 22:28, one of my favorite stories is where Yahweh "opened the donkey's mouth" to speak.

Job 38:41, "Who prepares for the raven its nourishment When its young cry to Elohim and wander about without food?"

The young cry out to Yahweh and He hears them. Job 40: 15-24, In speaking of Behemoth, scripture

speaks of all the beasts of the field playing. Actually, Job Chapters 38, 39, 40 and 41 have lots of information on animals generally.

There is another huge difference it seems between humans and animals. As humans, we have the potential for eternal life—our physical death does not have to be final. Sadly from our human perspective, that does not appear to be the same for animals. Psalm 104 has a lot about animals in it, how they were made, cared for, and most specifically what happens when they die:

Psalm 104:28-30, You give to them, they gather it up; You open Your hand, they are satisfied with good. You hide Your face, they are dismayed; You take away their spirit, they expire And return to their dust. You send forth Your Spirit, they are created; And You renew the face of the ground.

Mankind also returns to dust but it is referenced as "sleep," with the spirit of life returning to Yahweh (Ecclesiastes 12:7; Job 14:12). In addition, scriptures clearly say how the "dead will live" (Isaiah 16:19); those "who sleep in dust will awake" (Daniel 12:2); Job talks of how after his skin is destroyed, he will see Elohim (Job 19:25-26); and there are more verses such as these throughout scripture but not one pertaining to animals.

We know that Yahweh gives life and takes life, yet in 1 Kings 17:21-22 we see EliYah praying to Yahweh asking Him to return the child's life to him. What difference would it be to pray for the widow's dog? Really...think about this. They are both living beings—one is human, created for eternal purposes and the other created for more temporary purposes but one which aids the other, be it physically or emotionally. We know if the animal does not survive, it returns to dust—expiring.

Scripture also tells us how, when the Messiah returns to rule, "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb" and "the nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole," (Isaiah 11:6-8). No one could imagine in today's time a baby playing by a cobra's hole or a wolf dwelling with a lamb (without consuming it)!

There may be many ideas on this topic; however,



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The Sabbath Sentinel

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scripture clearly indicates that Yahweh made animals, He cares for them, He feeds them, He wants us to take care of them (it could be said Yahweh gives US the "job" of doing His will in caring for His creation?), but WHEN THEY EXPIRE, they return to their dust. If they are sick, why wouldn't we pray for Yahweh to help them since that is what He does? When we are sick, we mentally know that Yahweh is the healer, but don't we pray anyway?

Although scripture never "says" we should pray for animals, I believe it appears to be perfectly acceptable. Do you think Yahweh would not heal, or make an animal suffer, for the sins of its owner? I just don't think so because animals are instinctive, they cannot sin, they have not "fallen" like humans did. Sometimes it may be an acceptable prayer for Yahweh to take that animal's life to put it out of its suffering or guide us as owners in a decision to put them down. As caretakers of animals, have we been granted "authority" to make a decision on putting an animal down when it is very sick? This is probably another topic, however, something to consider is: If that animal were in the wild, would it not have died because of sickness or disease? Sometimes as animal owners, we've made our "pets" almost "human" and have actually taken away some of the natural consequences of the wild.

This is a short, quickie study on praying for animals and any input would be appreciated!



### THE WARRIOR

-Ruben Rios Cepero

He stormed a thousand castles; Citadels of foes. And in the heat of battle, Brought down walls and opened doors.

In perpetual strife,
He faced the edge of sword
With threats to limb and life,
In lonely exile had to hide
In solitary sanctuaries
And shelters deep inside.

Rising every dawning,
He resumed his ardent fight.
But, once,
When din and dust had settled,
In the early morning light,
As his enemies were falling,
He stood upon the rubble,
Beneath a cleansing rain,
And saw the death of Trouble,
And existential Pain.

He saw the end of Doubt and Sorrow;
The cheery promise of Tomorrow.
He saw the end of morbid Fear;
Its lonely years and gloomy tears.
The end of every Evil;
All that in his world was wrong.
But the worn and weary Warrior,
Was still standing,
Standing strong.

### Meet your 2024 BSA Board of Directors!

Here are your new BSA Board of Directors for the next 4 years! Please join the outgoing Board in welcoming these brethren to their new calling. The people shown on the next two pages have graciously agreed to serve us all as the next Board members and have been duly elected by the Bible Sabbath Association (BSA) membership in the recent election.

If you are a member of the BSA, you are eligible to vote in a board of directors' election. Each dues-paying member of the Bible Sabbath Association in a household completes one ballot, with signature. In Family memberships, the family casts one vote. The ballots are sent via US mail or via email if we have a valid email address on file for you. If you did not receive a ballot it is because we did not have an updated address for you.

These seven (7) candidates below received the highest number of votes on ballots received in the BSA Home Office and are hereby declared elected to the BSA Board.

Would you like to join us in this great mission to spread understanding and cooperation amongst the various groups who keep God's Sabbath Days and proclaim Jesus/Yeshua to be our Savior? Please become a member and you'll help us in this effort to be Christ's disciples, showing love for His brethren! Details on how to become a member are located in advertisements in this magazine.

### **Bryan Burrell**



Bryan Burrell is a life member of BSA and a member of the Board of Directors, currently serving as Treasurer. He and his wife Sue live near Fairview, Oklahoma. They have two sons, Mark (Lisa) and Paul (Jill). Bryan is a licensed securities agent specializing in financial planning and has served as a mediator in the Alternative Dispute Resolution System, volunteering as a mediator for businesses, individuals, families and churches. Bryan is a member of the Church of God, Seventh Day, and active in the local church where he serves as adult class teacher. Being able to share the Sabbath truth, encourage fellowship among the groups and promotion of the Bible seventh-day Sabbath and the BSA by structuring and continuing plans for moving forward in the electronic digital times.

### **Craig White**



Craig White began to observe the seventh-day Sabbath in 1973 and five years later baptized as a member of the Worldwide Church of God. His heart is to help other Sabbatarians work together on their common beliefs and goals. Over the years he has worked with Church of God, SDA, SDB, and Messianic groups. Craig has done extensive research into Sabbatarian history and written many articles on this subject. He has done a thorough job of helping to preserve Church of God history through the scanning of thousands of documents. His collaborative experience and extensive network of contacts will help him be a tremendous asset in promoting BSA/TSS content. He brings committee experience and policy development skills to the Board where it is much needed.

**Daniel Russo** 



Daniel Russo is a lifelong New Yorker and currently resides in Albany, New York. Daniel obtained an undergraduate degree in American History from the State University of New York at Albany in 2013. He then received a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the Rockefeller College of Public Affairs & Policy in 2017. He is a second generation member of the Church of God and was baptized in 2009. While he enjoys traveling and meeting brethren in various groups, his home congregation of 25+ years is an independent Westchester, New York congregation. Daniel founded the Church of God Network to facilitate cooperation between various Church of God churches. As a new board member for the BSA, Daniel desires to facilitate and promote knowledge of the Sabbath as well as connection amongst Sabbatarians.

### **Dr. Royce Mitchell**



Dr. Royce Mitchell is a BSA life member and returning board member of the Bible Sabbath Association. He continues to serve as the editor of the BSA's flagship publication, The Sabbath Sentinel. Royce also serves as an elder and pastor of a local Church of God congregation in Houston, Texas. Royce is also a writer of both biblically based articles and books as well as technical books related to his profession. Royce is honored to continue to serve the membership of the BSA for another 4 years on the Board of Directors.

### **Sharon Darling**



Sharon Darling is the founder of Heart of a Torah Woman. She and her husband Aaron are passionate about following the Creator and have been married for 21 years. They and their two teenagers reside in the Midwest. Her 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.

**John Lemley** 



John Lemley grew up in a household where God's seventh-day Sabbath and dietary laws were observed. He was 18 when we found the Church of God (Seventh Day). Not long afterwards we learned about the Bible Sabbath Association and subscribed to The Sabbath Sentinel. He has been blessed to write for TSS over the years. He has pastored churches in Washington, Missouri and Alberta. He is now retired and living in Vancouver, WA with his wife, Lois Youngs Lemley, of 51 years. They have four children and eleven grandchildren. His goals for the BSA include trying to get greater involvement from the entire Sabbath-observing family. He is in contact with SDA and SDB leadership and hope to encourage those denominations to be more active in the BSA.

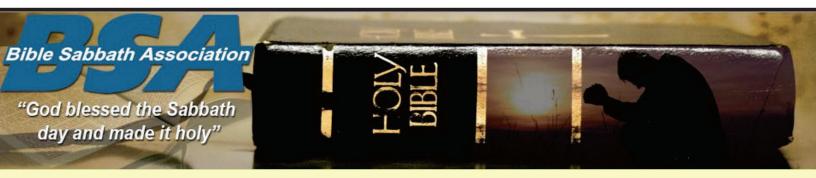
**Brandy Webb** 



Brandy Webb lives in a small northeast Texas town called Avinger. She and her husband, Josh, enjoy living in the country on 23 acres with goats, chickens and a few cattle. She is a mother of two beautiful young adults, Jazmyn and Asher. She is also overflowing in love with her first grand-child Adelynn Rose Stotts who was born this June to her lovely daughter Jazmyn and son-in-law Cole Stotts. Besides being a wife, mom, and now a grandmother, she currently works full time as a deed clerk & researcher for a local appraisal district. Brandy also loves writing, learning new things, and serving. She constantly prays for God to guide her steps so that she can do His will and not her own. Her hope is to one day hear, "well done my good and faithful servant."

### 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
CLAREMONT, CA
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