



# The Sabbath Sentinel

**March  
2024**



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**BSA—The Bible Sabbath Association**

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

# The Sabbath Sentinel March, 2024

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## FEATURES

- 3 President's Corner—"Continuing the Worthy Goals of Christ!"  
by Dr. Royce Mitchell
- 5 "Is There Truth?" Part 3  
by Daniel Campau
- 8 "Let Not ..."  
by Daniel Botkin
- 10 "What is the Will of the Father?"  
by DJ Wellington
- 13 "Practical Ways to Purge and Organize"  
by Sharon Darling
- 15 "Our Net Worth As Seen Through God's Eyes"  
by Ruben Rios Cepero
- 22 "Our Scattered Broken Church Family"  
by Darl Arbogast

## SPECIAL

- 18 Meet your 2024 Board!

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**Editor:** Dr. Royce Mitchell, [tsseditor@yahoo.com](mailto:tsseditor@yahoo.com).

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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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### *Continuing the Worthy Goals Set by Christ!*

The Bible Sabbath Association (BSA) Board of Directors election is over and a new Board has been selected by the BSA members. The new Board has met and selected its officers for the coming 4 years. Anyone interested in who will be those officers can find that list inside the front cover. Perhaps YOU could join as a member also!

Although it was not within my desire to hold any office on the Board, being content to serve merely as your Editor, the Board members nominated and elected me to the office of President to replace retiring Kelly McDonald. Having served with Kelly for the past 8 years, I can tell you that his shoes will be big ones to fill, requiring several of us to coordinate our efforts just to maintain the marvelous efforts that Kelly produced in promoting the goals of the BSA. It is a task that humbles me and for which I am not sure that I am adequately prepared. But, with your patience and loving guidance as BSA members and readers, I hope that we can propel the BSA to even bigger and better promotion of its great goals over the next few years.

As one can see from the last edition of this magazine, elected to the board were some excellent examples of the variety of Sabbath keepers who are part of this Association. They come from a variety of Sabbath keeping backgrounds and will provide fantastic insight into methods whereby we can continue to improve upon the wonderful actions taken by the previous Board. Hopefully, we can be even better at reaching across Sabbatarian corporate lines to foster fellowship where there has been distrust and animosity in the past. I truly believe that this is what Jesus had in mind when He said that His followers would be known by their love for one another (John 13:35).

All too frequently we in the Church have filtered out other brethren by using differences in doctrine as the standard. What this has caused is an ever-widening gulf between the different groups who claim to be following Christ's teaching. Some groups are less strident about this, of course. But, too many groups remain insular in nature and avoid getting to know, much less accept, those of differing understandings from them.

But, Jesus, or Yahshua if you prefer, did not teach us that His disciples would be known by their perfect understanding of the scriptures, did He? No, of course not. What is Jesus' focus for His disciples? The focus is LOVE!

The question then becomes, "Can I love my brethren who think or understand differently from what I believe?" This is a hard question because it requires an honest look at how we approach those who have slightly different understandings of the nuances of scripture.

To get past these divisive matters, we need a new approach. It is an approach that reorients our mind in love and away from the politics of division in which so many engage for the purpose of protecting their "understanding."

As a beginning, let's consider what Jesus said shortly before He was nailed to a stake for us. He advised His disciples of this often overlooked, and sometimes misunderstood, truth. He said, "*Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth...*" (John 16:13).

Most fail to recognize an important point implied by a word that is NOT in that scripture. That word is the word "immediately!" You see, Jesus was not saying that He would open our minds to understand everything at once. In fact, if you look at such stalwarts as Peter, John and Paul, reviewing their actions and writings, it is easy to see that none of them had complete understanding from the beginning. In fact, we can even see that toward the end they recognized that they still had not quite discerned even the most important of things—when the Christ would return!

Why is this important? It is important because understanding our brethren in different groups requires us to accept that each one of us is at our own point in being led to ALL truth. I find myself wondering as I have gotten older whether or not Christ's words were even intended to convey that we would receive ALL truth in this lifetime!



Now, if I accept that I did not have all the truth over 40 years ago when the Father had called me to His Church, then I have to also understand that even now I may not have all of the truth firmly fixed in my mind. What we all need to understand is that none of us are any different in that respect! By this I mean that it is highly likely that none of us has ALL truth clearly understood as if the Father had directly spoken those truths to us.

For instance, I recognize that 40 years ago I had certain understandings of the scripture. 30 years ago, I had different understandings of the scripture. Likewise, I do not have the same understanding today that I did 20 years ago. We are told to GROW in grace and knowledge! (2 Pet 3:18). If the Spirit leads us to all truth immediately or quickly, or even ALL truth in our lifetimes, Peter would not have admonished us to grow in knowledge. Or, he might have reasoned with us that we need to grow in grace and knowledge until we have everything right. How many of us would fail that test? Or, even worse, how many of us think that we already know it all and don't need to continue to grow in knowledge?

How would we feel if a brother turned his back on us because we have not yet come to the same understanding as our brother? I suspect that we would not like that in the slightest. I know that I would not like it. But, that is exactly what has happened by our dividing ourselves over minor differences in doctrinal understanding.

Shouldn't we recognize that we are not all at the same understanding of scripture and afford one another the grace of giving God's Spirit the time needed to lead our brethren into those truths? Should we not recognize that if we were wrong in our understanding 20, 30 or 40 years ago, that would still be wrong in our understanding even today? And, if we could be wrong, should we display a lack of love and tolerance for those whose understandings are not in complete accord with our own?

Can we recognize the warnings of Christ related to children apply to those who are still spiritual children? Jesus told us that "*But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.*" (Matt 18:6). Of course, He was talking about physical children at the time. But, can we see that implication is also addressed to spiritual children? And, if we can see that, can we not reorient our mindset to allow others to be mistaken because God has not yet open their eyes to a truth that we see. Can we al-

low them to be mistaken without feeling the need to erect a wall between us pending their coming to the "correct" understanding? I hope that we can!

Coming to the realization that we could STILL be wrong should also have the effect of putting us back into God's Word to *prove all things and to hold onto those things which are good!* (1 Thess 5:21). I'm scared for my brethren who have come to the point where they believe that they have perfect understanding of all things and use that to erect walls between them and others of those who will inherit eternity!

What is important to our fellowship? As stated before, we need to love one another. It is true that we need a common point from which to work, on which we can all agree. One of those points is that Jesus said that man should live by EVERY word that God has spoken. (Matt 4:4). He did NOT say that we should live by what men have said about what God has said!

When we boil down what it is that we are to live by, we find that this amounts to keeping all of His commandments and accepting Christ, our Messiah, as our Savior and soon-coming King. I can safely say that all of the groups who keep the Sabbath have these two understandings in common! We all preach Jesus as our Lord and Savior, don't we? We all preach adherence to the commandments of God, including the keeping of His Sabbaths, don't we? Therein is the common ground from which we can build fellowship and love for one another! AND, this is exactly what Jesus taught us we should be doing!

The Sabbath Sentinel will continue to have writers from the various flavors of Sabbath keeping groups. This is not because the BSA wants to convert brethren from one group to another. We do not and we take no position on those differences in understanding. But, what we want to do is to foster understanding between the groups. The first understanding is that we have important truths in common. The second understanding is that the rest of our differences pale into insignificance compared to those great truths—and we ought to act like it!

Loving one another and being tolerant of our differences is important as we see this present evil time approaching its climactic end. We are going to need one another as the evil escalates. Let's use this relative peace to come closer to one another in love!





# Is There Truth?

## Part 3

*Daniel Campau*

### What Is Truth?

People over the centuries have sought truth, sought after the meaning of life, sought after the reason they exist. Pontius Pilot once asked the man who knew all truth, “What is Truth?” Interestingly, Pilot did not wait for an answer. After Pilot posed this question of the Messiah, he immediately turned and walked away. (John 18:37-38).

What about you? Are you interested in truth; especially truth that can affect your eternal life?

We live in a society full of “the truth you create for yourself.” Individuals choose for themselves their own form of truth; hence the growing belief that there is no absolute truth. People have their own idea of what is right, based entirely on what they currently feel or believe. So, if you believe in evolution, then your truth is evolution and not creation. I have read debates on whether there is even a physical reality let alone spiritual reality. Statements like the following create lengthy debate.

“According to quantum mechanics, observation affects reality. To my opinion, truth is always partially subjective, and depending on the viewpoint different conclusions may be reached.”

<https://www.researchgate.net/post/Does-certainty-or-absolute-truth-exist>

The debate generated from the above statement can influence our ideas about truth, with some concluding there is no absolute truth. Arguments about statements such as the one above are eagerly entered into, and the result is usually nothing more than useless banter, (interesting or not, true or not). Nothing is accomplished other than our focus being turned away from what is truly important in life.

The adversary would like us to believe in anything but truth. Failing this, the adversary will allow us to know and understand truth as long as we are distracted from accomplishing God’s Will. Not too long ago, I was conversing with a fellow believer who lamented the direction their small Sabbath gathering was headed. He related that for the past year, all the discussions within the group were centered around the latest conspiracy theories.

Since Adam, there has been a problem because the first two humans took of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. There were two choices for Adam and Eve and there

were two choices given by Moses. “...I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore, choose life...” (Deu 30:19). I believe these two choices still apply for God’s people today.

When Eve, then Adam, took from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, they made a choice. Yes, there was some prompting and deception by a certain talking serpent, yet ultimately it was their choice. It was not about Adam and Eve’s perspective in the situation, or some emotional attachment to the forbidden tree. It was simply about obedience and about who they, and by inference we, believe in, trust, and obey. Adam and Eve had already received direct instruction from God to not eat of that one tree. As you know, Adam and Eve took from the forbidden tree, breaking the relationship between God and His creation. As a result, man was then driven from the garden. Yet God in His wisdom allowed the serpent into the garden in the first place. God could have intervened at any time during the interaction between the serpent and Eve. The consequence from that first sin seems so unfair to us since we automatically die from their wrong choice.

“*For as in Adam all die...*” (1 Cor 15:22a) “*For the wages of sin is death...*” (Rom 6:23a)

God knew man would fall and He had a plan.

“*...even so in Christ all shall be made alive.*” (1 Cor 15:22b)

“*...but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*” (Rom 6:23b)

God gave Adam and Eve a choice in the garden, and He gives us a choice today. Who do we follow? Who do we listen to? Who do we believe? While you cannot control the belief of your friends or even your spouse, you do have a choice about your actions and hence belief. What I just said may seem odd, but it is my definition of the belief. What you do informs what you believe, not what you say you believe. Even when we stumble in our weakness, for that moment we are doing what we believe is ok to do.

We live in a confusing world. Morals are continually changing. We have distractions all around us. It seems that every day there is some new gadget to buy, new app to download, or new method for getting the wine stain out of your favorite shirt. All of this results in consuming our time and turning us away from our responsibility to build and pursue our relationship with God and man.

## 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.

### What is truth and where can I find it today?

When God was in a close relationship in the garden with Adam and Eve, He was able to walk with them and teach them what is right and wrong, good and evil. Taking of the wrong tree resulted in a broken relationship and mankind being driven from the garden and from the presence of God. Mankind was left without direct instruction from God. He was now making his own choices on subjects that were never intended to be left to our own reasoning apart from Godly instruction. This resulted in man continually thinking of evil (Gen 6:5). Man was so evil that God was sorry he created man, and He started over with Noah and his family. Later, God inspired His written word intended to be available to all people. It is this instruction that we can go to for wisdom and understanding. It is this instruction that is against our nature that makes following God's instruction so difficult.

Why not indulge and receive immediate gratification, which is short lived and usually addictive and destructive to those around us, vs. abstaining from our natural lusts and following God's instruction, thus obtaining true happiness and eventually eternal life?

Back to the Garden: Remember the broken relationship and broken trust between God and man? This relationship has been restored by the ultimate lamb sacrifice. *"For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross."* (Colossians 1:19-20).

Notice that this reconciliation not only affected earthly things but heavenly things. While we do not have the same type of relationship that is described in Genesis between God and Adam before the fall, we do have Christ dwelling in us as Counselor and Comforter, and we have God's written Word abundantly available to us today.

### What is Truth?

*"Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth. I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word."* (John 17:17-20).

This is only part of a prayer that was prayed shortly before our Messiah was arrested. Yet there are some very interesting things stated. Look carefully at verse 17. It declares what truth is. If anyone says anything contrary to this, they are wrong. God's Word is truth, not only when Christ said it years ago, but today. What "Word" is Christ talking about? As far as the written word, it was only the scriptures they possessed at the time; what we call the Old Testament. Christ also said that if you have seen Me; you have seen the Father, (John 14:9).



And that He has spoken nothing except what He has heard from the Father, (John 12:49). Using these statements and others, we can see how it is possible for the Father and the Son to be One. "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!" (Deu. 6:4).

For another interesting point, look at the Gospel of John. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1). The Greek "Word" in John 1:1 and John 17:17 is the same. Logos (G3056), which is defined as "a word, uttered by a living voice". In this case, it was the voice of God. Also remember that the Word who became flesh, spoke into existence the entire creation, except for man and animals who were formed from the ground. Was Christ declaring in John 17:17 that He, the Word of God, is truth? Is it only the written Word of God that is truth? Is it only the spoken Word of God that is truth?

The correct answer is YES, all the above, and probably more than we are able to understand.

We can be deceived if we do not know the truth, the Word of God. How many times in scripture does it say, "Do not be deceived"? Yet we see Christian churches departing from God's Word by accepting worldly practices and ideals into their congregations. Over the last few decades, the biblical world view of pastors and teachers in Christian Churches has steadily declined.

Dr. George Barna, Director of Research, Cultural Research Center at Arizona Christian University

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The Percentage of Christian Pastors That Possess a Biblical Worldview

Pastoral Position	Percent with a Biblical Worldview
All Christian Pastors	37%
Senior/Lead Pastor	41%
Associate/Assistant Pastor	28%
Teaching Pastor	13%
Children's/Youth Pastor	12%
Executive Pastor	4%

Source: American Worldview Inventory 2022, Cultural Research Center at Arizona Christian University; N=1,000 Christian pastors; Note: the "All Christian Pastors" statistic is a weighted average of all five pastoral positions based on the proportion of pastors represented by each of the positions in churches nationwide.

[https://www.arizonachristian.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/AWVI2022\\_Release05\\_Digital.pdf](https://www.arizonachristian.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/AWVI2022_Release05_Digital.pdf)

It is estimated that Christian pastors make up less than one percent of the total U.S. population. If the shepherd's biblical world view is this low today, where does that leave the congregants?

### Do not be deceived:

*"Be not deceived; God is not mocked. For whatever a man sows, that will he also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption; but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap life everlasting."* (Galatians 6:7-8).

*"Or don't you know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortionists, will inherit the kingdom of God."* (1 Corinthians 6:9-10).

This is not to say that those just mentioned cannot change and be saved. Read 1 Cor. 6:11. Note that there is a clear expectation for conforming to God's way if you want to enter the Kingdom of God. Yet I see that many churches have forsaken reading and teaching from God's Word in place of listening to a preacher talk about some interesting story. In many churches today, the congregants are merely entertained. Church leaders are scrambling, trying to "keep their numbers up", instead of properly shepherding the flock using the truth of scripture.

1 Corinthians 6:9 says the unrighteous will not inherit the Kingdom of God. Sin is unrighteousness. Sin is defined by God, not by our own reasoning. What is truth? "...Your word is truth." (John 17:17b).

Knowing God's Word and His way makes it abundantly clear when men are eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil instead of following God's instructions. Yet there are many people who call themselves Christian who are lulled by lovely stories and good orators who can spin and turn and deceive. God's Word is clear and plain. God loves His creation and has provided a WAY for eternal life. This WAY is the only way. There is no other WAY no matter how much we want another WAY.

*"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.'" (John 14:6).*

*"In Him was life; and the life was the light of men."* (John 1:4).

*"Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him."* (Proverbs 30:5).

*"But He said, 'More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!'" (Luke 11:28).*

In closing, a wise man once said: *"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all. For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil."* (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14).

Love God, Love Man, Read God's Word.





# "LET NOT..."

*Daniel Botkin*

In Paul's writings we often see statements that begin with the phrase "Let not..." Consider the way that we normally understand Paul's "Let not" statements.

Romans 6:12, "*Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.*" How do we follow this instruction? By letting righteousness reign in our body, and by obeying the will of God instead of the lust of the flesh, as Paul explains in the remainder of this chapter.

1 Corinthians 7:10f, "*Let not the wife depart from her husband... and let not the husband put away his wife.*" How do a wife and husband follow these instructions? By staying with their spouse.

Galatians 5:26, "*Let us not be desirous of vain glory.*" How do we follow this instruction? By seeking God's glory instead of our own.

Galatians 6:9, "*And let us not be weary in well-doing.*" How do we follow this instruction? By not overworking and overextending ourselves to the point of exhaustion.

Ephesians 4:26, "*Let not the sun go down upon your wrath.*" How do we do this? By being reconciled with an offended brother or sister before sunset.

1 Thessalonians 5:6, "*Therefore let us not sleep as do others.*" How? By staying spiritually awake, as the rest of the verse tells us, "*but let us watch and be sober.*"

2 Thessalonians 2:3, "*Let no man deceive you by any means.*" How do we do this? By testing everything with the Scriptures to determine whether it is true or false.

1 Timothy 4:12, "*Let no man despise thy youth.*" How? By not behaving in an immature way, but rather by being a good example, as the rest of the verse explains.

These are just a few examples of Paul's "Let not" statements. The way we understand and interpret these "Let not" statements could be summarized in this way: We "let not" a certain negative thing happen by doing something positive to prevent that negative thing from happening.

We let not sin reign in us by letting righteousness reign in us; we let not divorce happen by sticking together; we let not ourselves be weary by getting enough rest; we let not the sun go down on our anger by reconciling; we let not ourselves fall asleep spiritually by watching and staying alert; we let no man deceive us by consulting the Scriptures; we let no man despise our youth by being a good example.

In all these, and in other "Let not" verses, we do something positive to prevent a certain negative thing from happening.

That is the way we correctly understand and interpret Paul's "Let not" statements. Why then do Christians not understand and interpret Colossians 2:16, another one of Paul's "Let not" statements, in this same way?

Colossians 2:16, "*Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holy day, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days.*"

If we understand and interpret this "Let not" statement in the same way that we understand and interpret Paul's other "Let not" statements (i.e., by saying that we do something positive to prevent something negative from happening), then how do we follow this instruction in Colossians 2:16? By obeying God's dietary laws and by keeping the Sabbath and holy days in the proper way, so that no man will have a legitimate reason to criticize us for the way we do these things.

If we obey God's laws that govern these things, then no man will have a legitimate reason to judge us for our observance of the dietary laws, Sabbath, and holy days.

As with all the other "Let not" examples that we looked at, so with Colossians 2:16 we do something positive (we obey God's written instructions that tell us how to do these things) to prevent the occurrence of a certain negative thing (being condemned by men as law breakers).

Sadly, this is not the way that most Christians understand Colossians 2:16. Most Christians think that Paul is saying in this verse that the Sabbath, holy days, and dietary laws are not important anymore, and can now be ignored. They

think that Paul is saying “Don’t let anyone judge you for ignoring the God-given laws that tell us how to do these things. Just go ahead and ignore these God-given commandments, and don’t worry if people judge you for your disobedience.”

But by using that same logic, Paul’s instruction to “Let no man despise thy youth” would then mean “Don’t let anyone despise you for your immature behavior. Just go ahead and be as immature and reckless as you like, and don’t worry if people judge you for your improper behavior.”

But Paul is not giving Timothy permission to behave in an immature, improper way in 1 Timothy 4:12. And in Colossians 2:16, Paul is not giving Christians permission to eat pork and to profane the Sabbath. He is telling you to obey the dietary laws and Sabbath in the manner that God prescribes in His written law, and to not let yourself be judged by people who insist that you follow extra-Biblical traditions of men. (See verse 8, which provides important context.)

Traditions of men are man-made rules. Commandments of God are not traditions of men. You do not need to disobey commandments of God in order to “Let no man judge you.” If you disobey commandments of God, then you are actually giving men a legitimate reason to judge you.

Many Christians who do not keep the seventh-day Sabbath think of Paul as the great liberator who set them free from the “bondage” of Sabbath keeping. But do you realize, Christian friend, that in all of Paul’s writings, the word sabbath appears only one time? Look in your Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance and you will see that the only time Paul wrote the word sabbath was in Colossians 2:16.

Rather than misusing Colossians 2:16 as an excuse for disobeying one of God’s Ten Commandments, let’s be consistent. Let’s understand this “Let not” instruction in Colossians 2:16 in the very same way that we understand all of Paul’s other “Let not” instructions.

See Daniel Botkin's website, [gatesofeden.online](http://gatesofeden.online)



## *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:**

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

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# What is the will of the Father?

*DJ Wellington*

Do you ever wonder what the will of the Heavenly Father Yahweh is,—for US? He tells us, you know, but unfortunately most don't read His words—they listen to a preacher on the venerable day of the Sun and take the preacher's words over the Father's! Really....

So let's see what the Scriptures say. Since so many in Christianity today focus on the so-called "New Covenant," we will begin there and start with our Father's Messiah, Yahshua.

Right at the outset, it is clear what Yahweh's will is NOT. In Matthew 18:14, *Even so it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.* Our faithful and merciful Father does not want anyone to perish, but His desire is for all to come to repentance. 2 Peter 3:9, *The Master is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*

So, if part of "not perishing" is repentance, what is repentance? The definition of repentance is turning around; change of mind from evil to good or from good to better (see Strong's #G3341). Most know that evil is sin and righteousness is good. So, if there is no sin, there is no evil and nothing to repent of—we know that is ridiculous, especially in the world we live in. So, what exactly is sin, if we're to repent of it to come under Yahweh's will? Again, this is very clearly defined in Scriptures—1 John 3:4, *Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.* Lawlessness is "without law," "without instruction." So we are to repent of breaking the "law" or "instructions." Sad to say most churches today teach the "law was done away with" which would mean there is no sin by the Scriptural definitions.

John 5:30, *I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.*

So the Messiah Himself sought to do the "will of the Father." He accomplished that and now sits at the Father's

right hand. He was/is our example. If He lived a life without sin, and we are to "walk as He walked" (1 John 2:6), we can absolutely live a life without practicing sin (not that we do not slip; that's why He is our mediator [1 Titus 2:5]).

John 6:39-40, *This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.*

The Father's will for Messiah is that the Messiah should lose nothing. The Father's will includes that everyone who sees the Son and "believes in Him" may have everlasting life. Suffice it to say that Yahweh's will is that we believe in Him and His Son, and we will walk as His Son walked while on earth.

Matthew 12:50, *For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother.*

Messiah clearly shows the importance of doing the will of our Father because that is how we know who is His brother, sister, mother and it should be our desire to be Messiah's close relative, shouldn't it?

1 Thessalonians 4:3-7, *For this is the will of Yahweh, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know Yahweh; that no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter, because the Master is the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified. For Yahweh did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness.*

This clearly shows part of the Father's will for us, and this aspect is actually covered within His instructions as well—but it is only a part of those instructions, there's absolutely more to them.

Matthew 22:37-40, *Yahshua said to him, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YAHWEH YOUR ELOHIM WITH ALL YOUR HEART, 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.

The Messiah states very clearly how ALL the Law and the Prophets “hang” (“depend”) on the two greatest commands. They are a summary, from two (Matthew 22:37-40) to ten (Exodus 20:1-17) to all His instructions (Genesis through Malachi--remember the so-called “New Testament” was not even written when Messiah walked the earth).

Ephesians 2:12, *that at that time you were without Messiah, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without Yahweh in the world.*

This is speaking of gentiles prior to the time they had Messiah. Notice they were “aliens” from the commonwealth of Israel, Yahweh’s chosen people, and the ones to whom the ENTIRE Bible is addressed. Of course, outsiders are referenced frequently and it was always possible to become part of the commonwealth of Israel.

Jeremiah 31:31-34, *"Behold, the days are coming, says*

*Yahweh, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah— not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says Yahweh. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says Yahweh: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their Elohim, and they shall be My people. No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know Yahweh,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says Yahweh. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.*

These verses are also repeated in Hebrews 8:8-13. It does not appear that the instructions/laws were done away with at all. In fact, obedience to them is how we show our love for Messiah and His/our Father. John 14:15, *If you love Me, keep My commandments.* Did you notice what the “new covenant” actually is? HIS instructions/law/ Torah written on our hearts! If something is “written on your heart,” you will abide by them by habit, not because of fear of reprimand but because of love for the one giv-



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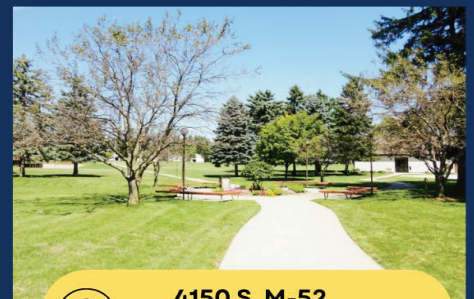
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ing it. Our Father wants a people to “love” Him, much like He loves us. And we show that love BY our obedience—nothing has changed in that regard. If you love someone, you want to please them, you want to learn all about them—their likes, dislikes. You find that information out about our Father by reading His words, especially the first five books of the Bible (“Torah”) because that is where all that information is contained as well as the bulk of His instructions for living. Of course, the entire Bible is important and it is only through the so-called “New Testament” books that you learn of our Messiah’s time on earth and the lessons taught therein.

Numbers 15:16, *One law and one custom shall be for you and for the stranger who dwells with you.*

Numbers 15:29, *You shall have one law for him who sins unintentionally, for him who is native-born among the children of Israel and for the stranger who dwells among them.*

Back in Numbers we’re told there is only one law/set of instructions—FOR EVERYONE!

Psalms 5:5, *The boastful shall not stand in Your sight; You hate all workers of iniquity.*

Our Heavenly Father HATES those who sin, despite nominal Christianity teaching “G-d hates the sin but loves the sinner.” Think about that...would you want someone to come to your home who really did not want to be there, who went against every thing you said or did, who did more antagonizing than helping? Of course not.

Deuteronomy 30:19-20, *I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; that you may love the Yahweh your Elohim, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which Yahweh swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them.*

All the way back in Deuteronomy, our Father gave His people (then and now) instructions and stated there are blessings for doing good, curses for not doing good; life and death; good and evil. It is not difficult.

1 John 5:3, *For this is the love of Yahweh, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.*

So, what is the will of the Father? His will is that people will repent (turn from evil to obedience of His instructions) and LOVE HIM! So many people throw around the words “sin” and “repent,” yet saying the law was done away with...just does not make sense, but they are blinded – usually from pride and arrogance.

Let us all try hard to learn and do the will of the Father!



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# Practical Ways to Purge and Organize

*Sharon Darling*

Hello from the MidWest! I wrote this article last year a few months before we moved. At the time we didn't know how close we were to moving ourselves! It is interesting and so cool that this was on my mind before we went through a huge purging and organizing of everything we had owned. I hope this is a blessing to you.

If you are anything like me, you would love to have all the areas of your life more organized. After all, it feels better to be in an organized environment. The Scriptures talks about doing things decently and in order (1 Corinthians 14:40) and looking well to the ways of our homes (Proverbs 31:27).

However, in order to be organized, we have to manage ourselves, our families, and our lives. Sometimes that is easier said than done.

Entropy happens, where things gradually fall back into disorder and chaos, and then it can get so very overwhelming. Both things and people call for our attention, contributing to the chaos. We can easily feel overwhelmed, with thoughts that we will never get out from under it all.

What if I told you that you do can do it? It's not as hard—or as taxing—as you might think!

I have been there. Even though I am naturally organized and neat, for more of my life than I would like to admit, staying organized was a struggle for me. Sure, at times I could get things better in my home, and it felt GOOD! Inevitably, the clutter would come back, a little here and little there—and the overwhelm would start again.

I simply did not know how to manage the many things I felt it would take to actually see success. I remember standing in my home, looking at all the clutter I wanted to tackle, thinking, “Am I forever doomed to not measure up to those perfect women who have it all together in their perfect homes?”

Would you like to know what I figured out? I used to think I had to do everything like “those perfect women.” Even if a few tips initially worked for me or if I was able to do a portion of what I imagined those women doing, it didn't stick for me. I had not been taught how to do many basic household tasks. Well into adulthood, I had to figure things out “on the run.” This was not an easy task! It would be an understatement to say I was overwhelmed.

I had to learn that I did not have to do things exactly like other women, and this is true for many things in life. We

can honor our Father while not being a carbon copy of the woman next to us. Learning to be both realistic and practical made a huge difference for me.

We learned to purge our possessions, and I found it to be a good heart exercise. In our home, we go through our possessions every six months, usually right before the Spring and Fall Feast seasons.

While seasonally purging, I came to understand that our things do not always have the value we may unconsciously place on them. For instance, I did not need to save fifteen pictures of the same thing or every piece of artwork our children made. Where I used to save everything, with clutter filling our closets, drawers, and every other secret place I stuck things into, I came to realize I did not actually need five of the same-sized vase if we only displayed one or two flowers at a time. I began to ask questions before buying pretty artwork, evaluating if it would be useful and edifying, or if it would just create unnecessary clutter.

- Could my decor serve a necessary purpose and add to our environment, rather than just being clutter to dust and move from time to time?
- Did I keep old clothes, books, toys or anything else just to fill up the space? Sometimes empty spaces invite us to fill them up with stuff. Empty closets can do this, too. Do we really need five colors of the same sweater? Do we really need a pair of shoes for every occasion, simply to fill empty spaces in a shoe holder?
- Children's artwork can be emotionally tough. Over the years, I have learned to downsize here, even though I still have quite a bit. Duplicates or crafts that weren't useful did not all have to be saved. I learned the idea of taking pictures of my children's artwork, so that I could save the memory. It is great to look back on the picture (not twenty pictures!) of the projects my kids made when they were young, and someday I plan to make a scrapbook for myself and each child.
- Instead of having a collection of cookbooks that sit on a shelf, I have learned to store only the recipes we enjoy. I have started making recipe binders, so that it's convenient to save our favorite dishes. Over time, I am getting my index-card recipes organized and into decorative storage boxes as well.

It can be difficult to go through items and make decisions about what to purge and what to keep. It is okay to put things into a tote or box, to revisit at a future time. While you wait, you may realize they were not needed during



their months in the “decision box,” or you may realize that not having the items did not affect you like you thought it would. I do not recommend throwing things out in anger or at any other emotional moment. You may regret it, as I have done before, wishing I had not acted so quickly.

Sometimes we have emotional attachments to things that have nothing to do with the items themselves. I have found that evaluating my emotions was a big factor in overcoming my organizational struggles.

For example, if a woman did not have many possessions as a child or early in her marriage, did acquiring things fill an emotional gap in her heart? Or was there a period of time when she had no pictures of important events, so now she takes fifteen pictures of the same thing? I am not saying multiple possessions or pictures are necessarily bad, but excessiveness can be a symptom of a deeper emotional hurt.

Figuring out your personality and the needs of your schedule also makes it easier to set up a system and maintain it. For example, buttons—I have so many of these! I used to think I should separate my buttons, right down to colors, sizes, and types. This sounds nice for a professional seamstress, but it did not fit my personality or needs. It was far more involved than I needed. I am perfectly content with my jars of buttons. However, I keep my other crafting materials, such as yarn, more organized. (I prefer to separate yarn by type, but I don’t bother organizing by color.)

Other examples include games (I like to organize by size, placing similar kinds of games together, keeping them all neat) and homeschool materials (I separate books and binders by subject and usage, keeping student and parent materials together and using cloth totes in cubbies for the materials we use daily).

Figuring out how neat you like things makes it easier not to compare yourself to other women. Do you feel more comfortable with a lot of empty space left over, or would you prefer to fill your shelves with books and other things? As I get older, I realize I prefer fewer things filling up a space—but your decision might be different.

If you don’t like to dust and clean, or if you don’t enjoy seeing clutter, or if the thought of purging your possessions every six months sounds overwhelming to you, then you should avoid having a lot of knickknacks.

It will just stress you out—and in turn, it will be harder for you to feel motivated to organize it all.

What are your priorities for the atmosphere you’d like in your home? If clutter creates a worse atmosphere for you, then reducing it will bring peace. As I realized, every family has a different idea of what constitutes clutter. Your family will have to evaluate what works for you.

For instance, some people can’t handle an extra item on a counter or table, while others can tolerate it just fine.

Writing down your priorities for your home—and even what purpose each room will serve—can help with the purging and organizational process.

Sometimes possessions serve a purpose and you want to keep them, but they could be stored in a place that isn’t convenient. There are no rules here. Try moving the games, as we once did, out of the dining room and into the living room. They served us better there—at least for now. We tried it and liked it, but in another season, we might move them again.

If you would like to save things for your children’s future or another purpose later in life, boxes and totes come in handy. However, you’ll need to find a space to store these boxes and totes. You may evaluate and find the attic is the best place for now. Storage spaces have limits, which helps us remember not to save every little thing but only those that serve a purpose or are meaningful.

Even when choosing storage devices, don’t feel you have to be like other women. Totes might be frustrating for you. Maybe you prefer Mason jars to organize things instead. I love using them in my kitchen and craft room, or even for things like pens. You can make jars pretty by adding stickers. Get creative if that fits your personality, as it does mine.

Maintaining your systems is another important point. If large messes stress you out, start small—just a single shelf or drawer. Pull one box out to go through, then move on to a second box after that. Sometimes a big mess can motivate me to get serious—and at other seasons, it’s just too overwhelming. Baby steps are still steps. Making small dents feels amazing, however small. Just keep going!

As you think on ways to purge and organize your life, you’ll find that spiritual lessons and introspection happen. These can be the times when I have a big “Aha!” moment. Perhaps as we do the physical things in life, the Father brings us much-needed spiritual growth as well.

Sometimes the spiritual breakthroughs were exactly what we needed to get past struggles in the physical.

Understanding our unique personalities, learning strategies to purge and organize, and then applying little actions—step by step—can help us achieve more peace in our lives. Creating a lovely atmosphere is worth it! “Let all things be done decently and in order.”

Happy purging and organizing of anything you set out to do so.

To read this and many other articles and blog posts, check out my blog at [torahwoman.com](http://torahwoman.com).



# Our Net Worth As Seen Through God's Eyes

**Ruben Rios Cepero**

Scripture states, *"The righteous walk by faith, not by sight."* Paul the apostle wrote, *"We see through a glass darkly."* Obviously, in our natural organic state, relying on our physical senses and the realities we can perceive through them is easier than trusting in God, whom we, typically, have no sensory perception of. Only through faith, with God's help, can we perceive what we are not naturally able to see.

My favorite song from the DreamWorks animated movie 'Prince Of Egypt,' titled 'Through Heaven's Eyes' and composed by Stephen Schwartz, a beautiful and eloquent musical declaration, makes the following profound statement: God does not use society's superficial metrics to measure human value. The song says, "A single thread in a tapestry, though its color brightly shines, can never see its purpose in the pattern of the grand design." Every follower of Christ is, in God's incredible plan, a single, but vital, thread in an ornate tapestry we cannot fully grasp.

The song asks, *"How do you know the worth of a man; in wealth, or strength or size? In how much he gained or how much he gave? By what he builds or buys?"* Can we rely on any of these 'metrics' to accurately assess human value? Can that value be quantified, and by what standards? Should our value be measured by transitory benchmarks - money, appearance, strength, health, size, abilities - commonly used by society?

Does God see any inherent value in each of us? If so, how does He communicate this to beings who have no sensory perception of Him? The song asks, *"So how can you see what your life is worth, or where your value lies? You can never see through the eyes of man. You must look at your life, look at your life through heaven's eyes."* We may be able to see the importance of a single thread in a beautiful tapestry, especially if we pull it and cause a section to unravel and damage the art. But imagine you were that thread and activated with self-consciousness. Would you be able to perceive, without outside input, your purpose in the overall design? Let's say you could stand, or sit up, and catch a

glimpse of the landscape you're a part of. You're awed by the beauty and intricacy of what you're able to see. But your vision reaches a vanishing point where everything becomes blurred. You may be able to see how you fit in with some small parts of the tapestry that directly intersect with you, and how other threads are inextricably woven through other sections, but your perspective is limited since you are an element of the art you're trying to see. What you see is something outside of you; not a 'selfie,' just as, when viewing the night sky or pictures of our galaxy, you cannot see yourself as an integral component of the scene you're viewing.

We may be able to see the purpose others serve; their importance, their 'invaluable' service, but rarely can we perceive our own worth and our role in God's complex plan; a plan that transcends all time, including all our lives. Without being, somehow, removed from, or lifted above, the tapestry, while still being in it, we may never be able to fully see how we are a meaningful part of the overall design. Hence, the song asks, "... how can you see what your life is worth, or where your value lies? You can never see through the eyes of man. You must look at your life...through heaven's eyes." But is that even possible? Can we really view our life through God's eyes? Can we know how God sees us?

The song says, "A lake of gold in the desert sand is less than a cool fresh spring." Obviously, an ocean of wealth, power, or influence, which provides no meaningful help to anyone outside a small network of relatives, 'friends', or business associates, is less valuable to those outside that clique than a small 'stream' that, in a tangible way, refreshes them. That small stream may include resources such as time, attention, advice, compassion, and contacts to expand one's network.

Another line in the song says, "to one lost sheep, a shepherd boy is greater than the richest king." Typically, we tend to think of rich, well known, and powerful people as more 'important' than 'common' working people, and certainly more worthy than poor people. Often, nice platitudes are made about single moms, parents who struggle to provide for their children, teachers, and care takers, but how society compensates and

treats these people betrays another truth: they are not considered as ‘important’ as CEO’s, billionaires, entertainers, sports figures, and high-level political leaders. The latter groups may be more valuable in the financial markets and governmental bureaucracies, but not necessarily in God’s economy. Obviously, someone in a vulnerable condition; a proverbial ‘lost sheep’, values a person who rescues them; perhaps a relative, friend, or pastor, despite how lowly society considers them, more than all the wealthy and powerful people who do not even know or care whether they live or die.

But sometimes that fact is not that obvious to the ‘lowly’ who sacrifice their limited resources to help others. Sometimes our true ‘net worth’ is not apparent to us. In fact, we can often feel as if we are not important at all, or that what we do—our best contributions, our most noble efforts, and our impact—is minimal, or even meaningless, especially when the rescued ‘sheep’ is unable to grasp or appreciate the enormity of the sacrifice made for them. We need to ask God to show us, not just our weaknesses, but also how to perceive ourselves through his eyes.

The song says, “If a man loses everything he owns, has he truly lost his worth?”

I was raised in a poor family, by American standards, and lived in what were then lower income neighborhoods in New York City. My mom and dad went as far as second and fifth grades, respectively. My father died when I was sixteen. Two years later, I started working full-time in a printing shop. At first, work was grueling for me, a 130lb-teenager handling rolls of paper weighing up to about 8,000 lbs, and other materials. But the job set a good foundation for a financially rewarding career. Thankfully, as an adult, God blessed me with continuous employment, and a good income until I retired. Within two years of getting married, I was blessed with what was for me a phenomenal opportunity. In my initial and only interview with the CEO of a well-known marketing firm, I was offered a position paying 25% more than I had asked for and allowed to take three weeks off for the Feast of Tabernacles within about two months of my start date. Later, I was provided with a company-paid car, generous bonuses, salary increases, and the unique privilege of setting my own compensation, bonuses, and title. Eventually, I obtained a senior level position at a highly respected marketing firm in a beautiful location, from which I retired after 20 years. However, our family had a massive health challenge that devastated us financially. I did everything I could to resolve it; invested more than four years’ net income in about three years, completely depleted savings and the equity

of our home. It took about fifteen years to begin to recover financially and that was not, by far, the most challenging aspect of the ordeal. I often became discouraged and, comparing myself and my family’s situation to ‘successful’ family members and friends—an unwise practice—I wondered if our worth is defined by our circumstances.

Messiah said in Luke 12:6 – 7, “*Aren’t five sparrows sold for two small coins? Yet not one of them is overlooked by God. Even the hairs on your head are all counted. Don’t be afraid. You are worth more than many sparrows.*” Is the point of this scriptural passage really to compare our worth to that of sparrows? Clearly, humans made in God’s image, and more importantly, God’s spiritually begotten children, are worth much more than sparrows. Perhaps this passage tells a greater truth. If God catalogs every creature that has ever come into existence, how much more involved is his plan for those made in his image? How much more did he invest in them?

God designed us for an incredible purpose and ‘saw’ us before we were even born, even before the dawn of time. See Psalm 139:16 (Amplified Bible) - “*Your eyes have seen my unformed substance; And in Your book were all written the days that were appointed for me, when as yet there was not one of them [even taking shape].*” And 2 Timothy 1:9 (Complete Jewish Bible) states, “*...since he delivered us and called us to a life of holiness as his people. It was not because of our deeds, but because of his own purpose and the grace which he gave to us who are united with the Messiah Yeshua. He did this before the beginning of time...*”

Considering how much God has invested in the lives of his children, do we really believe he primarily focuses on their imperfections, their flawed inclinations, and judges them accordingly? Let’s say your son introduces you to a dear friend, perhaps someone who served alongside him in battle, and vouches for his character. If you saw this person behave in a manner inconsistent with how your son described him and how you had previously seen him behave, how would you view him? Would you focus on his indiscretion, or would you not, at least, try to see him as an honorable person who unintentionally slipped and, to the best of your ability, offer him grace? Is God less merciful with us?

When we approach God ‘in the name of his Son’ He sees in us more than just our natural being. In a sense, He sees Christ and the blood He shed for us. Perhaps, He also sees a part of Himself. According to scripture, when we repent and, in faith, accept Christ as our master; our ruler, and savior, God places within us something that is not



natural to our being; a divine element He calls his Holy Spirit; a literal part of His essence. Having God's Spirit living inside of us makes us, in a unique way, children of God. Like the metamorphosis of a caterpillar into a butterfly, we are literally becoming a new life form.

Note *Romans 8:14*, "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God..." and verse 16, "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God..." This 'witness' is revealed through a form of communication that transcends human language. We can sense God's Holy Spirit working with our own human spirit; influencing our perspectives, mysteriously changing motivations, affecting inclinations, even making possible the almost incredulous conviction that we are really God's children. We may be convinced, intellectually, by powerful arguments offered by an articulate speaker or a skillful writer, but only the presence of God's Spirit within us can result in a powerful conviction that endures despite suffering, disappointments, temptations, setbacks, or failures.

Note the following assurance in *1 John 3:2*, "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is." Also note *Romans 4:17* (Amplified Bible, Classic Edition), "As it is written, I have made you the father of many nations. [He was appointed our father] in the sight of God in Whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and speaks of the nonexistent things that [He has foretold and promised] as if they [already] existed." In *Isaiah 43:4*, God says his people "...are precious and honored in (his) sight..." *Romans 8:37* states, "Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us."

We need to avoid the deception of the false concept that is popular within modern Christianity which, in a nutshell, declares, "It's ALL about me." We need to approach the Bible with reverence and humility; realizing that how God sees us depends, to some degree, on our intentions and our actions. We need to turn to God daily. But we also need to remember that God sees, in each of his children, a new being forming and becoming more like him, through his Spirit joining with theirs, a valued treasure hidden in earthen vessels.



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# Meet Your 2024 Board!



**Royce Mitchell**

President

As we head into another four years at the Bible Sabbath Association, I find myself thrilled and excited at the prospect of improving on the great strides forward that were made by the previous Board of Directors.

It is my goal to continue and even strengthen the BSA mission to preach God's Sabbaths as a divine blessing on all of mankind who step forward to embrace them. One of the major goals of the last board was to get the BSA finances under control with an eye toward being able to expand this ministry beyond the United States and Canada. While we did accomplish the former goal, we are still needing to improve BSA's financial resources in order to be able to expand the BSA mission beyond North America.

To reach those goals, the BSA will need to rely most of all on the blessings of our Father. We hope for the sincere, effective prayers of our member saints and of anyone interested in promoting what we feel is the Godly goal of bringing fellowship among the saints wherever they may be, as well as need for keeping God's commandments and accepting Jesus as our Savior.

I'll also be continuing as the magazine's editor and would love to have contributions from even more of you!



**Daniel Russo**

Vice President

I'm excited to be onboard for the next four years at the Bible Sabbath Association (BSA). The seventh day Sabbath is a test commandment, a sign of God's people, and a gateway to greater Biblical understanding! There is tremendous value in focusing specifically on the Sabbath day.

Over the next few years, it would be great to see the BSA become a prominent place for intellectual discourse between the various Sabbath keeping communities. Iron sharpens iron, and respectful, well studied discourse is hugely helpful in arriving at Biblical truth.

I hope to see the BSA continue to emphasize studying the history of Sabbath keeping organizations. It's an important area of study and preservation of this history is vital. I'm thrilled to be joined on the board of directors by Craig White who does phenomenal work on this front already.

I would also love to hear from the BSA members directly! Please send us your ideas, suggestions, and valuable input.



## **Bryan Burrell**

Treasurer

My thoughts and priority goals for BSA for the next four years.

Identify top issues.

Ensure the quality of our decisions.

Increase use of on line services and electronic programs.

Modernize how we as a board communicate.

Give consideration to new ideas without change just for change.

Address information on the database without making more work for Contract office staff and volunteers, their time is limited. Secure information and protect sensitive data.

Show that we care. Improve love, fellowship and services to our Seventh Day community. Determine to not offend or threaten the beliefs of others.

The Bible Sabbath Association has dedicated itself to helping Sabbath-keepers of all persuasions to learn about one another and to promote the Seventh Day Sabbath. Promoting love and fellowship among these groups and individuals is my continuing goal.

Throughout all nations of the world are millions of Christians who uphold the seventh-day Sabbath. They are diverse in race, language, and religious background. These Christians are dispersed among more than 400 denominations and over a thousand independent, local fellowships.

We need to let them know The Bible Sabbath Association loves them and wants to work with them in remembering the seventh day to keep it holy, six days you shall labor and the Seventh Day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. This is the Sabbath that all of the people from the various Seventh Day denominations have in common.

One important thought for our planning is God's will for us and that the Creator provided a definite day for the purpose of rest, worship and fellowship by hallowing the seventh-day at Creation and for God's law as contained in the Ten Commandments as fundamental to any well-ordered society.

One of my goals is to take good care of the fellow Sabbath keepers who also share the love and goals of BSA in our joint purpose to bring together into one strong organization all believers in the Seventh Day Sabbath, regardless of sect, creed, or denomination, for the sole aim of spreading knowledge of, belief in, and observance of the Seventh Day Sabbath. The Bible Sabbath Association. ....an independent, undenominational organization promotes the Seventh-day Sabbath of the Scriptures (Bible) and creating more of a fellowship of love with the BSA reaching out to other organizations and churches who love and observe the Seventh Day Sabbath. . . those we have not reached.



## **Sharon Darling**

Secretary

Hi, my name is Sharon and I am the Secretary on the Board of Directors for The Bible Sabbath Association. It is an honor and the utmost privilege.

Continuing to work deeper to foster unity among Sabbath keepers I believe is paramount, here is my hope for the BSA: . Discovering and having contact with others who are willing to work towards getting along and sharing commonalities would be encouraging to continue and increase. It would be wonderful to see more resources and educational material for youth of all ages and families to be able to benefit from and grow stronger in their faith as well as hopefully increase their feeling of belonging within the community of believers. Getting more out there among other congregations, fellowships, social media and other means available would help grow awareness of the work BSA does. We can do these things by increasing our presence on social media and in person that we are in connection with.

Outreach to churches, ministries, fellowships, individuals, and groups that might be interested in learning more, sharing about, writing for The Sabbath Sentinel, and working towards these very things in their own lives as we have seen in the past would be wonderful to continue.

Perhaps, resources could be created or found and shared that would help encourage bridge-building between those who already keep the Sabbath; as well as with those who do not. Fostering and encouraging better attitudes and non exclusiveness would be excellent to continue. Increasing communication towards encouraging serving our Father in humility and focusing less on differences that leads to arrogance, division, quarreling and strife. Increasing our presence with those who already know about BSA and/or The Sabbath Sentinel while proceeding to have outreach towards others to learn more about what the organization does especially on social media and in person would be great to continue. Hopefully, the more engagement we could get, the more good fellowship and community building could happen. Seeking other's thoughts on what they would like to see in resources and what they feel is lacking for believers as a whole would also help us to know what would truly work to bring glory to the Father in our getting along and building each other up in the ways He would like us to with those especially of like mind.

We have some big shoes to fill and it is an honor to continue in the work of those before us who have sacrificed their time and used their talents to serve our fellow brethren and work towards more awareness of the Sabbath and commandments.

***Do you like this magazine?***

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

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

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

**Brandy Webb**

At Large Board Member

I, Brandy Webb, am honored to have been voted onto the board of the Bible Sabbath Association.



I hope and pray that I will be an asset to the BSA during my term.

I would love to see the BSA expand its reach to others around the world, by planting seeds or watering seeds that others have planted.

We could possibly accomplish this through increasing our digital presence by maybe having a podcast or a YouTube channel.

Many do not know the blessings of God's Sabbath, and it is sad to realize what they are missing.

I also hope to help BSA to continue connecting Sabbath keepers from all different denominations.

As times keep moving towards God's Kingdom, we all will need each other to help us all stay strong in our faith, hope, love, courage, etc...





**John Lemley**

At Large Board Member

My desire is to contribute my prayers, energy and influence so the BSA will continue to excel, and become even more

effective, as a platform for Sabbath-observing groups in thee four areas:

Become acquainted with each other  
Share our Sabbath experiences, testimonies and stories

Be the hub for informing each other about Sabbath research and making those results available.

Bring the Sabbath truth to those who do not yet know of, or haven't yet been convinced to treasure, God's gift on the seventh day of each week.

As far as I know, the BSA plays a vital and unique role as the only organization whose sole purpose is to promote such cooperation, increase familiarity and provide opportunities for sharing insights throughout the family of Sabbath observers around the world.

Two more goals:

Help the BSA be represented when Sabbath observers gather for their annual campmeetings and conventions.

Solicit articles about the Sabbath for *The Sabbath Sentinel* so that readers will feel a sense of personal ownership of our excellent magazine.



**Craig M White**

At Large Board Member

It is an honour to have been elected to the BSA Board and I hope to demonstrate both my gratitude and worth over the coming months and years. God's will be done.

In reading the BSA's Objective, I found it most admirable: "The purpose of this Association shall be to increase the knowledge and observance of the seventh day of the week (Saturday) as the Sabbath of the Bible—a sacred and inherent element of the Christian faith. Specifically, the BSA will devote itself to (1) teaching the origin, history, purpose and value of the seventh-day Sabbath; (2) bringing together believers in Jesus Christ and the Bible Sabbath in a non-sectarian, inter-denominational manner for the purposes of fostering observance of God's Sabbath, as well as fellowship and good-will among them; (3) disseminating knowledge of the seventh-day Sabbath to those who accept Jesus (Yahshua) but who don't know the Sabbath; and (4) devising strategies to accomplish these ends through regional groups, foreign branches, and other projects and means as shall seem expedient. The BSA shall not constitute a church or a denomination."

The BSA has held the line for these overarching values for many decades.

But with changes in any governing body comes a responsibility to examine existing structures and processes. To ask the hard questions such as: "What do we need to do to advance to the next stage?" Or "What changes should be implemented to modernise our approach?"

I believe that one of my roles is to zealously promote change where needed so that we keep pace with a world with its evolving structures and operate in an effective manner.

Strategic planning, implementation of policies, reporting, utilising technologies and modernisation wherever needed is something to be desired and pursued.

If I can be a part of assisting BSA to advance to the next stage, that would be personally fulfilling, but more importantly, positively assist with promoting BSA into the community at large.

God willing (ICor 4:19), we can power ahead as never before.

# OUR SCATTERED BROKEN CHURCH FAMILY

## Darl Arbogast

The unscrupulous action(s) of an unscrupulous man led to the demise of the Worldwide Church of God. As a result all the people scattered going in different directions.

We watched as the ministers, some of whom were opportunists, hastened to recruit members to their side and form little congregations of their own; in many cases it was not for the sake of the brethren. These ministers were out of a job and they desperately wanted the brethren to still continue to support them; many of these ministers failed. A few dozen ministers did survive: The Living Church of God started by Rod Meredith. The United Church of God was started by some headquarters ministers, they had a rough start but kept going. COGWA (The Church of God a Worldwide Association) headed by Jim Franks is still surviving. There are dozens of small independent congregations in nearly every state in the nation. Fred Coulter has CBCOG (Christian Biblical Church of God) with a main office located in Hollister, California.

This is where the remnants of the WCG now stand! We know that time is closing in on all of the various groups of the Church of God as we read Matthew 12:25 NKJ - *But Jesus knew their thoughts, and said to them: "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand."* (Such is the once Worldwide Church of God with its now aged and scattered membership).

The question is what separates us from being one church family again and why do we not reconcile and be one Church of God? Looking at various congregations we notice those who have clung to the faith but have not retained friendship or fellowship with each other from one group to another, why is that? It is apparent that human nature is a big factor—and not love!

Because of the scattered church family many have left the faith and have gone back into the world's religions having shallow conversions, that is, if they were converted at all. Many were in the church because of a friend or a relative which is not a bad thing as written in Romans 10:14-18 NKJ - *How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!" But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our report?" So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. But I say, have they not heard? Yes indeed: "Their sound has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world."*

Why is it that some people develop malicious and unjustifiable feelings toward other church members of a different group?

The Apostle John writes in 1 John 2:9-11 NKJ - *He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now. He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him. But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.*

We can assume all groups are still in the faith but one believes this way and another believes that way which is different. Remember we are all of the house of God and need to love and respect our brother and sister in Christ as each of us make a contribution according to their talents and their calling. Therefore, giving and sharing with each other would be nice and helpful!

Regardless of what one believes, no one group or



one person should consider themselves more righteous than another! Satan likes to see an attitude of 'holier than thou' causing people to have an attitude of superiority. Without knowing all the scriptures, or understanding them all ourselves; some, or all, of us may be in error! It is our responsibility to know God's truth which God Himself shows us! It goes without saying we are to follow God's Word and not the traditions of men.

We are not responsible for the calling of a brother, a family member or a friend. God is: He does the calling! However on a rare occurrence it is not impossible for a beloved friend to reach out and restore a backslider to the faith. James 5:19,20 NKJ - *Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.*

Mankind can not just come in and adapt to the way of life that God requests without the calling of the Father. God does the increase! John 3:27 NKJ - *John answered and said, "A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven."* John the Baptist told his disciples in John 3:29,30 NKJ - *Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled. He (Jesus the Christ) must increase, but I must decrease.*

As a follower of Jesus Christ we are given an opportunity to serve God with our abilities and be tough until the end because we can fail at our calling by not keeping our eyes on Him.

We must have a redemptory attitude toward our brother.

No one can love God and despise or hate his brother, the one who loves God truly must love his brother as written in 1 John 5:1-2 NKJ - *Whoever believes that Jesus is the -Christ is begotten of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments.*

Mark 12:28-31 NKJ tells us more - *Then one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, perceiving that He had answered them well, asked Him, "Which is the first commandment*

*of all?" Jesus answered him, "The first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one. And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."*

All of the organized offshoots of the WCG plus all independent congregations should learn to love one another and stop any quarreling! When we stand before Jesus and face His judgment will he say 'well done' if we are split, uncaring and no love is found in us toward each other?

God has given everyone the knowledge, the talents, gifts and skills that they possess at present but we are all a work in progress and we will continue to progress and grow. We are not all on the same level at the same time.

Mark 9:38-40 NKJ - *38 Now John answered Him, saying, "Teacher, we saw someone who does not follow us casting out demons in Your name, and we forbade him because he does not follow us." But Jesus said, "Do not forbid him, for no one who works a miracle in My name can soon afterward speak evil of Me. "For he who is not against us is on our side.*

Matthew 7:1 NKJ – *Jesus said, "Judge not, that you be not judged."* Judging each other is a chronic problem holding the Church at disobedience. Pride and judging one another are two evils that stymies God's work.

God hasten the day for His righteousness upon the earth.

May God bless us all in our efforts as we make progress!



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