

Popular Delusion

EXPOSED

THE LAST GREAT GLOBAL CONFLICT WILL BE OVER THIS ISSUE

- **Amidst the strife and tumult of nations, men and nations are being measured by the plummet in the hand of Him who makes no mistake.**
- **Heaven is worth everything. If we gain the eternal reward, we gain everything; and if we lose it, we lose everything.**

GOD'S SECOND OLDEST INSTITUTION (and your eternal destiny)

CREATION WITNESSED BY THE HEAVENLY HOST

Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said,

Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? ...

When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy? See Job 38:1, 4, 7.

God's glory "covered the heavens, and the earth was full of his praise" (Hab. 3:3).

Jesus refers to Himself as the bright and morning star in Rev. 22:16. Stars are another name applied to the angels in Rev. 1:20. One would have to safely assume that 'all the sons of God' must be intelligent created beings from other worlds of the universe. Is it not a sobering thought to consider that we on planet earth are a spectacle to the angels, even to the whole universe? The psalmist says that man was made "a little lower than the angels." [Ps. 8:5].

All things were created by the Son of God. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God. . . . All things were made by Him; and without Him was not anything made that was made." John 1:1-3

In the beginning the Father and the Son had rested upon the seventh day after Their work of creation. When "the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them" (Gen. 2:1), the Creator and all heavenly beings rejoiced in contemplation of the glorious scene. "The morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy." Job 38:7.

The Creator has given abundant evidence that His power is unlimited. He upholds the world by the word of His power. He made the night, marshaling

the shining stars in the firmament. He calls them all by name. The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament showeth His handiwork, (Ps. 19:1) showing men that this little world is but a jot in God's creation.

The Sabbath calls our thoughts to nature, and brings us into communion with the Creator. In the song of the bird, the sighing of the trees, and the music of the sea, we still may hear His voice who talked with Adam in Eden in the cool of the day. And as we behold His power in nature we find comfort, for the word that created all things is that which speaks life to the soul. He "who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." 2 Cor. 4:6.

It was this thought that awoke the song,—
"Thou, Lord, hast made me glad through Thy work;

I will triumph in the works of Thy hands.
O Lord, how great are Thy works!
And Thy thoughts are very deep."

Ps. 92:4, 5.



That first seventh day was the grandest most magnificent celebration that this world has ever seen. The 'Master of Ceremonies' would have been no less than Jesus for He unequivocally states that He is the Lord of the Sabbath. ("He [Jesus] said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath." Mark 2:27, 28).

Inextricably, Jesus is linked to the Sabbath and mankind, the crowning act of His creation, receives both the Sabbath and Jesus as the most precious gifts, we often fail to comprehend. Most glorious gifts!

Man was the crowning act of the creation of God, made in the image of God, and designed to

- **The Sabbath is a sign of creative and redeeming power; it points to God as the source of life and knowledge; it recalls man's primeval glory, and thus witnesses to God's purpose to re-create us in His own image.**
- **All are by their own choice deciding their destiny.**

be a counterpart of God. Man is very dear to God, because he was formed in His own image. As Adam came forth from the hand of his Creator he was of noble height and of beautiful symmetry. Envisage Adam being more than twice as tall as men now living upon the earth, well proportioned glowing with the rich tint of health. Eve, not quite as tall as Adam her head reaching a little above his shoulders, noble, perfect in symmetry, and very beautiful.

The great Lawgiver at the end of the day (after the angels in their resplendent robes and the other beings from other worlds concluded their songs of praise) by certain acts turned the ordinary seventh day into a holy day for all perpetuity, thereby not leaving mankind abandoned in the earth just made, hence, mankind was made the beneficiaries of the three persons of the Godhead. For the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit were all present on that first seventh day.

THE SEVENTH DAY SET APART

After resting upon the seventh day, God sanctified it, or set it apart, as a day of rest for man. Following the example of the Creator, man was to rest upon this sacred day, that as he should look upon the heavens and the earth, he might reflect upon God's great work of creation; and that as he should behold the evidences of God's wisdom and goodness, his heart might be filled with love and reverence for his Maker.

In Eden, God set up the memorial of His work of creation, in placing His blessing upon the seventh day. The Sabbath was committed to Adam, the father and representative of the whole human family. Its observance was to be an act of grateful acknowledgment, on the part of all who should dwell upon the earth, that God was their Creator and their rightful Sovereign; that they were the work of His hands and the subjects of His authority. Thus the institution was wholly commemorative, and given to all mankind. There was nothing in it pointing to a

future event or of restricted application to any people.

God saw that a Sabbath was essential for man, even in Paradise. He needed to lay aside his own interests and pursuits for one day of the seven, that he might more fully contemplate the works of God and meditate upon His power and goodness. He needed a Sabbath to remind him more vividly of God and to awaken gratitude because all, that he enjoyed and possessed came from the beneficent hand of the Creator.

God designs that the Sabbath shall direct the minds of men to the contemplation of His created works. Nature speaks to their senses, declaring that there is a living God, the Creator, the Supreme Ruler of all.

The Sabbath was hallowed at the creation. As ordained for man, it had its origin when "the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy." Job 38:7. Peace brooded over the world; for earth was in harmony with heaven. "God saw everything that He had made, and, behold, it was very good;" and He rested in the joy of His completed work. Gen. 1:31.

Because He had rested upon the Sabbath, "God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it,"—set it apart to a holy use. He gave it to Adam as a day of rest. It was a memorial of the work of creation, and thus a sign of God's power and His love. The Scripture says, "He hath made His wonderful works to be remembered." "The things that are made," declare "the invisible things of Him since the creation of the world," "even His everlasting power and divinity." Gen. 2:3; Ps. 111:4; Rom. 1:20.

God sanctified the seventh day. That specified portion of time, set apart by God Himself for religious worship, continues as sacred today as when first hallowed by our Creator.

All things were created by the Son of God. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God. . . . All things were made by Him; and without Him was not anything made that was made." John 1: 1-3. And since the Sabbath is a memorial of the work of creation, it is a token of the love and power of Christ.

The Sabbath, sanctified of God, was to be kept for a perpetual covenant. It was a memorial that was to stand from age to age, till the close of earth's history and beyond.

Had the Sabbath been universally kept, man's thoughts and affections would have been led to the Creator as the object of reverence and worship, and there would never have been an idolater, an atheist, or an infidel. The keeping of the Sabbath is a sign of loyalty to the true God, "him that made heaven and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters."

THE SABBATH: THE CONCEPT OF REST

Moses mentioned the word Sabbath in the Bible before the giving of the Ten Commandments. "And he said unto them, This [is that] which the LORD hath said, To morrow [is] the rest of the holy sabbath unto the LORD:" Exodus 16:23.

The Sabbath was embodied in the law given from Sinai; but it was not then first made known as a day of rest. The people of Israel had a knowledge of it before they came to Sinai. On the way thither the Sabbath was kept. When some profaned it, the Lord reproved them, saying, "How long refuse ye to keep My commandments and My laws?" Ex. 16:28.

The Sabbath was not for Israel merely, but for the world. It had been made known to man in Eden, and, like the other precepts of the Decalogue, it is of imperishable obligation. Of that law of which the fourth commandment forms a part, Christ declares, "Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law." So long as the heavens and the earth endure, the Sabbath will continue as a sign of the Creator's power. And when Eden shall bloom on earth again, God's holy rest day will be honored by all beneath the sun. "From one Sabbath to another" the inhabitants of the glorified new earth shall go up "to worship before Me, saith the Lord." Matt. 5:18; Isa. 66:23.

Nature must continue her unvarying course. God could not for a moment stay His hand, or man would faint and die. And man also has a work to perform on this day. The necessities

of life must be attended to, the sick must be cared for, the wants of the needy must be supplied. He will not be held guiltless who neglects to relieve suffering on the Sabbath. God's holy rest day was made for man, and acts of mercy are in perfect harmony with its intent. God does not desire His creatures to suffer an hour's pain that may be relieved upon the Sabbath or any other day.

The demands upon God are even greater upon the Sabbath than upon other days. His people then leave their usual employment, and spend the time in meditation and worship. They ask more favors of Him on the Sabbath than upon other days. They demand His special attention. They crave His choicest blessings. God does not wait for the Sabbath to pass before He grants these requests. Heaven's work never ceases, and men should never rest from doing good. The Sabbath is not intended to be a period of useless inactivity. The law forbids secular labor on the rest day of the Lord; the toil that gains a livelihood must cease; no labor for worldly pleasure or profit is lawful upon that day; but as God ceased His labor of creating, and rested upon the Sabbath and blessed it, so man is to leave the occupations of his daily life, and devote those sacred hours to healthful rest, to worship, and to holy deeds. The work of Christ in healing the sick was in perfect accord with the law. It honored the Sabbath.

The Lord points back to his own example: "For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day; wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it." (Ex. 20:8-11). This reason appears beautiful and forcible when we understand the days of creation to be literal. The first six days of each week are given to man for labor, because God employed the same period of the first week in the work of creation. On the seventh day man is to refrain from labor, in commemoration of the Creator's rest.

In the beginning the Father and the Son had rested upon the Sabbath after Their work of creation. When "the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them."

(Gen. 2:1). God still rests from His work of creation, but the day will come when the feet of the wicked will never desecrate the earth made new. Fire will come down from God out of heaven and devour them, burn them up root and branch. Satan is the root, and his children are the branches. The same fire that will devour the wicked, will purify the earth. At which time, "He shall make all things new," (Rev. 21:5), there shall be a "restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began" (Acts 3:21), the creation Sabbath, the day on which Jesus lay at rest in Joseph's tomb, will still be a day of rest and rejoicing. Heaven and the new earth will unite in praise, as "from one sabbath to another" (Isa. 66:23) the nations of the saved shall bow in joyful worship to God and the Lamb. "The meek shall inherit the earth" Matt. 5:5.

Jesus' invitation to each soul is, "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls" (Matt. 11:29).

Pure spiritual power is fresh every morning and new every evening. It expels from the soul all selfishness the head of all sin.

God designs that the Sabbath shall direct the minds of men to the contemplation of His created works. Nature speaks to their senses, declaring that there is a living God, the Creator, the Supreme Ruler of all. "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth His handiwork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night showeth knowledge." Psalm 19:1, 2. The beauty that clothes the earth is token of God's love. We may behold it in the everlasting hills, in the lofty trees, in the opening buds and the delicate flowers. All speak to us of God. The Sabbath, ever pointing to Him who made them all, bids men open the great book of nature and trace therein the wisdom, the power, and the love of the Creator.

The fourth commandment is the pivotal commandment placed after the first three, which underlines our worship and standing with God and the last six, which points out our obligations to our fellow human beings. The

authority of God and His "seal" vests in the fourth commandment, as such, it is to our eternal doom that we walk away from or ignore the seventh day.

The fourth commandment:

Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.

Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:

But the seventh day [is] the sabbath of the LORD thy God: [in it] thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that [is] within thy gates:

For [in] six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them [is], and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it. Exodus 20:8-11.

To simply rest from labor on the seventh day or any other day is not true Sabbath-keeping, and never can be. To keep the Sabbath of the Lord, the soul must rest in God by faith in Christ. He alone who learns meekness and humility of Christ and finds rest in Him can keep the rest, or Sabbath, of the Lord. But he that finds rest in Christ finds rest by faith in his atoning sacrifice; he finds rest in his teaching and in following his example. He delights in following Christ in all things. But Christ did not keep any other weekly Sabbath except his own Sabbath and his Father's Sabbath on which he rested, having created all things in six days. When the Sabbath of the Lord is kept by faith in Christ, it is indeed a sweet memorial of the creation in the beginning, and of the new creation in our hearts which was brought about by the same almighty power and love. And it is also a pledge of the eternal life in the kingdom of glory; for the Spirit of God has written the Sabbath in our hearts, and by the Holy Spirit of God we are sealed until the day of redemption. Eph. 4:30.

Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might He increaseth strength." "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with

the right hand of My righteousness." "Look unto Me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else." This is the message written in nature, which the Sabbath is appointed to keep in memory. When the Lord bade Israel hallow His Sabbaths, He said, "They shall be a sign between Me and you, that ye may know that I am Jehovah your God." Isa. 40:28-29; 41:10; 45:22; Ezek. 20:20.

THE LITERAL WEEK

Like the Sabbath, the week originated at creation, and it has been preserved and brought down to us through Bible history. God himself measured off the first week as a sample for successive weeks to the close of time. Like every other, it consisted of seven literal days.

In the law given from Sinai, God recognized the week, and the facts upon which it is based. After giving the command, "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy," and specifying what shall be done on the six days, and what shall not be done on the seventh, he states the reason for thus observing the week, by pointing back to his own example: "For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day; wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it." (Ex. 20:8-11). This reason appears beautiful and forcible when we understand the days of creation to be literal. The first six days of each week are given to man for labor, because God employed the same period of the first week in the work of creation. On the seventh day man is to refrain from labor, in commemoration of the Creator's rest.

But the assumption that the events of the first week required thousands upon thousands of years, strikes directly at the foundation of the fourth commandment. It represents the Creator as commanding men to observe the week of literal days in commemoration of vast, indefinite periods. This is unlike his method of dealing with his creatures. It makes indefinite and obscure that which he has made very plain. It is infidelity in its most insidious and hence most dangerous form; its real character is

so disguised that it is held and taught by many who profess to believe the Bible.

"By the word of the Lord were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth." "For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast." (Ps. 33:6, 9). The Bible recognizes no long ages in which the earth was evolved from chaos. Of each successive day of creation, the sacred record declares that it consisted of the evening and the morning, like all other days that have followed. At the close of each day is given the result of the Creator's work. The statement is made at the close of the first week's record, "These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created." (Gen. 2:4). But this does not convey the idea that the days of creation were other than literal days. Each day was called a generation, because that in it God generated, or produced, some new portion of his work.

THE SEVEN-DAY WEEKLY CYCLE

The new science of "chronobiology" has had some of science's most impressive successes in seeing back to creation with its discovery of "primitive origins" to the seven-day cycle found in human cells and other life forms.

Simply put: Chronobiology is the study of how living things handle time.

Chronobiology is no longer a minor science. Perry and Dawson note that it ". . . is now being studied in major universities and medical centers around the world. There are chronobiologists working for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), as well as for the National Institutes of Health and other government laboratories. Chronobiology is becoming part of the mainstream of science, and it is changing our way of looking at life and time."

The most intriguing of all biological rhythms are those set to a clock of about seven days. In his chapter "The Importance of Time," Jeremy Campbell reports:



NIGHT AND DAY

"These circaseptan, or about weekly, rhythms are one of the major surprises turned up by modern chronobiology. Fifteen years ago, few scientists would have expected that seven-day biological cycles would prove to be so widespread and so long established in the living world. They are of very ancient origin, appearing in primitive one-celled organisms, and are thought to be present even in bacteria, the simplest form of life now existing."

"For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, [even] his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse" (Romans 1:20).

The more we look at creation and especially the miracle of life, we are forced to conclude with the psalmist that only "The fool says in his heart, 'There is no God'" (Psalm 14:1).

THE SEVENTH DAY

Men of the greatest intellect cannot understand the mysteries of God. "His ways are past finding out." (Rom. 11:33).

The creation was now complete. "The heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them." "And God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was very good." Eden bloomed on earth. Adam and Eve had free access to the tree of life.

When the foundations of the earth were laid, when the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy, then was laid the foundation of the Sabbath. Well may this institution demand our reverence; it was ordained by no human authority and rests upon no human traditions; it was established by the Ancient of Days and commanded by His eternal word.

Before the creation of man, angels were in existence as part of the heavenly host.

The Sabbath was given to the world, that man might remember Him as the true and living God.

The Sabbath was hallowed (made holy) at the creation. Peace brooded over the world; for earth was in harmony with heaven. "God saw everything that He had made, and, behold, it was very good;" and He rested in the joy of His completed work. Gen. 1:31.

As it came from the Creator's hand, not only the Garden of Eden but the whole earth was exceedingly beautiful. No taint of sin, or shadow of death, marred the fair creation. God's glory "covered the heavens, and the earth was full of His praise." Habakkuk 3:3. Thus was the earth a fit emblem of Him who is "abundant in goodness and truth" (Exodus 34:6); a fit study for those who were made in His image.

When the foundation of the earth was laid, the foundation of the Sabbath was laid also. "When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy," God saw that a Sabbath was essential for man, even in Paradise. In giving the Sabbath, God considered man's spiritual and physical health. To withdraw from the true Sabbath, is to withdraw from the blessing.

"God is love" (1 John 4:16). His nature, His law, is love. It ever has been; it ever will be. "The high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity" (Isaiah 57:15), whose "ways are everlasting" (Habakkuk 3:6), changeth not. With Him "is no variableness, neither shadow of turning" (James 1:17).

Every manifestation of creative power is an expression of infinite love. The sovereignty of God involves fullness of blessing to all created beings.

THE SABBATH HAS A MORAL PURPOSE

With God being the Creator, everything is subordinate to Him.

If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and

abide in his love. John 15:10.

God - not Adam or Eve - is the subject of the first six days of creation. More than 30 times in the first chapter of Genesis alone we find expressions such as "God created;" "God said;" "God saw;" "God called;" "God made;" and "God blessed:" By using this level of repetition, God has made it very clear that He did everything during those first six days. Man, on the other hand, did absolutely nothing.

This fact is just as true for the seventh day as for the other six. God was at the very centre of the seventh day of creation as well.

"And on the seventh day **God** ended **His** work which **He** had done, and **He** rested on the seventh day from all **His** work which **He** had done. Then **God** blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it **He** rested from all **His** work which **God** had created and made." (Genesis 2:2, 3 emphasis added)

The weekly Sabbath of the Fourth Commandment directs our attention to the fact of Creation and all the attendant responsibilities for humanity that flow from recognition of the Creator and our place in Creation. We worship God precisely because He is the Creator: "O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker." (Psalm 95:6). The Sabbath commandment encapsulates our obligation to worship God and gives direction to that worship. As long as Creation stands, we are to remember the Sabbath as God's designated sacred memorial of Creation: "Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled" (Matthew 5:18). God will not modify His expressed will. His law is eternal. (Psalm 119:89, 152, 160).

Significantly, the Fourth Commandment links the first three commandments with the last six commandments. Sabbath observance not only preserves faith in God and submission to His will but it also touches our duty to man and animals and even to ourselves. By commanding rest, it protects our lives and health, protects the lives and health of employees, and protects the health of working animals. By allowing for reflection, worship,

fellowship and service, the Sabbath takes us out of ourselves and helps us to keep life in its proper perspective. The Fourth Commandment is universal in obligation, over-riding in its importance, other-regarding in its focus, and significantly related to the promotion of human welfare and the avoidance of harm to others. It also encourages due respect for God's authority and loyalty to truth. The Sabbath commandment is saturated with morality.

Of all the commandments, the Sabbath commandment is the only one that identifies the God who is giving the commandments, His authority for doing so, and the legitimate extent of that authority. The Sabbath is placed at the centre of the Ten Commandments because it is crucial to the authority of the Decalogue and because it binds the two tables of the law together by containing obligations to both God and man. When observed as God intended, it is the one commandment that provides the conditions under which an increase in holiness can take place. The Sabbath commandment is one of Scripture's brightest jewels.

One nineteenth century Protestant author, Richard Winter Hamilton, LL.D., D.D., captures the uniqueness of the weekly Sabbath in these words: "The Sabbath, as we have seen, was a part of the moral law. There it not only had a place, but it gave a meaning and motive to it. With that Christianity cannot interfere. "Yea, we establish the law." Never is it represented to be part of the ceremonial economy. It is not a type of anything but itself. With nothing can it exchange. The Sabbath is the Sabbath, and nothing but the Sabbath can it be.

The Sabbath is incontestably moral and the suggestion that it is a shadow of things to come and supplanted by Jesus Christ in Colossians 2:14-17 is not defensible. Jesus, looking forty years into the future in relation to the destruction of the temple in 70 A.D., upheld the sacredness of the Sabbath in Matthew 24:20. Isaiah, looking beyond this world to the realm of eternity, stated in Isaiah 66:22, 23 that the weekly Sabbath would continue to be observed as a focal point for the worship of God."

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this [is] the whole [duty] of man.

For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether [it be] good, or whether [it be] evil. Ecclesiastes 12:13,14.

THE LAW IS A TRANSCRIPT OF GOD'S CHARACTER

God is Spiritual (John 4:24)

His law is Spiritual (Romans 7:14)

God is Love (1 John 4:8)

His law is Love (Matthew 22:37-40)

God is Truth (John 14:6)

His law is Truth (Psalm 119:142)

God is Righteous (1 Cor. 1:30)

His law is Righteous (Psalm 119:172)

God is Holy (Isaiah 6:3)

His law is Holy (Romans 7:12)

God is Perfect (Matthew 5:48)

His law is Perfect (Psalm 19:7)

God stands Forever (James 1:17)

His law stands Forever (Ps. 111:7,8)

God is Good (Luke 18:19)

His law is Good (Romans 7:12)

God is Just (Deuteronomy 32:4)

His law is Just (Romans 7:12)

God is Pure (1 John 3:3)

His law is Pure (Psalm 19:8)

God is Unchangeable (James 1:17)

His law is Unchangeable (Matt. 5:18)

God is Light (1 John 1:5)

Law is Light (Prov. 6:23)

God is Righteousness (Romans 1:17)

Law is Righteousness (Ps. 119:172)

God is Faithful (1 Cor. 10:13)

Law is Faithful (Ps. 119:86)

God is Wisdom (Job 12:12,13)

Law is Wisdom Ps. 111:10; 119:98)

God is Great (Job 36:26)

Law is Great (Hosea 8:12)

God is Peace (2 Cor. 13:11)

Law brings great Peace (Ps. 119:165)

GOD'S LAW A HEDGE AGAINST EVIL

[His commandments] stand fast for ever and ever, and are done in truth and uprightness. Ps. 111:8.

O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day.

Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they are ever with me.

I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation.

I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts.

I have refrained my feet from every evil way, that I might keep thy word.

I have not departed from thy judgments: for thou hast taught me.

How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

I have sworn, and I will perform it, that I will keep thy righteous judgments.

I am afflicted very much: quicken me, O LORD, according unto thy word.

Accept, I beseech thee, the freewill offerings of my mouth, O LORD, and teach me thy judgments.

My soul is continually in my hand: yet do I not forget thy law.

The wicked have laid a snare for me: yet I erred not from thy precepts.

Thy testimonies have I taken as an heritage for ever: for they are the rejoicing of my heart.

I have inclined mine heart to perform thy statutes alway, even unto the end.

I hate vain thoughts: but thy law do I love.

Thou art my hiding place and my shield: I hope in thy word. Ps. 119:97-114.

“It is not the importance of the thing, but the majesty of the Lawgiver, that is to be the standard of obedience. Some, indeed, might reckon such minute and arbitrary rules as these as trifling. But the principle involved in obedience or disobedience was none other than the same principle which was tried in Eden at the foot of the forbidden tree. It is really this: Is the Lord to be obeyed in all things whatsoever He commands? Is He a holy Lawgiver? Are His creatures bound to give implicit

assent to His will?” Andrew Bonar, referring to the laws found in Leviticus, quoted in J. Bridges, *The Pursuit of Holiness*, p. 23.

He who willfully breaks one commandment, does not, in spirit and truth, keep any of them. “Whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all” (James 2:10).

It is not the greatness of the act of disobedience that constitutes sin, but the fact of variance from God’s expressed will in the least particular; for this shows that there is yet communion between the soul and sin. The heart is divided in its service. There is a virtual denial of God, a rebellion against the laws of His government.

Were men free to depart from the Lord’s requirements and to set up a standard of duty for themselves, there would be a variety of standards to suit different minds and the government would be taken out of the Lord’s hands. The will of man would be made supreme, and the high and holy will of God — His purpose of love toward His creatures — would be dishonored, disrespected.

Whenever men choose their own way, they place themselves in controversy with God. They will have no place in the kingdom of heaven, for they are at war with the very principles of heaven. In disregarding the will of God, they are placing themselves on the side of Satan, the enemy of God and man. Not by one word, not by many words, but by every word that God has spoken, shall man live. We cannot disregard one word, however trifling it may seem to us, and be safe. There is not a commandment of the law that is not for the good and happiness of man, both in this life and in the life to come.

Again, there is not a commandment of the law that is not for the good and happiness of man, both in this life and in the life to come. In obedience to God’s law, man is surrounded as with a hedge and kept from the evil. He who breaks down this divinely erected barrier at one point has destroyed its power to protect him; for he has opened a way by which the enemy can enter to waste and ruin.

A legal religion is insufficient to bring the soul into harmony with

God. The only true faith is that which “worketh by love” (Gal. 5:6) to purify the soul. It is as leaven that transforms the character. Jesus proceeded to show His hearers what it means to keep the commandments of God — that it is a reproduction in themselves of the character of Christ.

By venturing to disregard the will of God upon one point, our first parents opened the floodgates of woe upon the world. And every individual who follows their example will reap a similar result. The love of God underlies every precept of His law, and he who departs from the commandment is working his own unhappiness and ruin.

Man’s happiness must always be guarded by the law of God. In obedience only can he find true happiness. The law is the hedge which God has placed about His vineyard. By it those who obey are protected from evil. In transgression Adam became a law to himself. By disobedience he was brought ‘under the law.’ Thus a discordant element, born of selfishness, entered man’s life. Man’s will and God’s will no longer harmonized. Adam had united with the disloyal forces, and self-will took the field.

God’s Law in the New Testament

1

Matthew 4:10. “Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve.”

2

1 John 5:21. “Little children, keep yourselves from idols.”

3

1 Timothy 6:1. “That the name of God and His doctrine be not blasphemed.”

4

Hebrews 4:4, 9. “For He spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all His works. There remaineth therefore a rest (margin: Sabbath-keeping) to the people of God.”

5

Ephesians 6:2. “Honour thy father and mother.”

6

Romans 13:9. “Thou shalt not kill.”

7

Matthew 19:18. “Thou shalt not commit adultery.”

8

Romans 13:9. “Thou shalt not steal.”

9

Romans 13:9. “Thou shalt not bear false witness.”

10

Romans 7:7. “Thou shalt not covet.”

“IF YOU LOVE ME, KEEP MY



COMMANDMENTS”

As we continue through this section let us keep in mind that this is Jesus speaking and when He says, ‘keep My commandments.’ There is also the precondition, ‘if you love Me.’

The rich young ruler answered Jesus without hesitation, “All these things have I kept from my youth up; what lack I yet?” His conception of the law was external and superficial. Judged by a human standard, he had preserved an unblemished character. To a great degree his outward life had been free from guilt; he verily thought that his obedience had been without a flaw. Yet he had a secret fear that all was not right between his soul and God.

Jesus desired to reveal to the young man, and He gave him a test that would make manifest the selfishness of his heart. He professed to have kept the commandments, but he was destitute of the principle which is the very spirit and life of them all.

He did not possess true love for God or man.

In his reply to Jesus, he said, 'All these (commandments) have I kept from my youth up.' See Luke 18. Without love in our hearts, just keeping the ten commandments will not be our ticket to heaven.

When men's hearts are softened and subdued by the constraining influence of the Holy Spirit, they will give heed to counsel; but when they turn from admonition until their hearts become hardened, the Lord permits them to be led by other influences. Refusing the truth, they accept falsehood, which becomes a snare to their own destruction.

The promise is "If ye abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." John 15:7. And John declares: "Hereby we do know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth His word, in him verily is the love of God perfected." 1 John 2:3-5. "Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city" Revelation 22:14.

Those who humbly and prayerfully search the Scriptures, to know and to do God's will, will not be in doubt of their obligations to God. You must follow the plain word of truth, feeling or no feeling, emotion or no emotion. Obedience must be rendered from a sense of principle, and the right must be pursued under all circumstances. This is the character that is elected of God unto salvation.

The test of a genuine Christian is given in the word of God. Says Jesus, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." John 14:15. "He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. . . . If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but

the Father's which sent me." John 14:21, 23, 24.

EVERYONE GOES TO HEAVEN, RIGHT?

The warfare against God's law, which was begun in heaven, will be continued until the end of time. Then God will vindicate His law and deliver His people. Satan and all who have joined him in rebellion will be cut off. Sin and sinners will perish. The rejecters of His mercy reap that which they have sown. God is the fountain of life; and when one chooses the service of sin, he separates from God, and thus cuts himself off from life. He is "alienated from the life of God." Christ says, "All they that hate Me love death." Eph. 4:18; Prov. 8:36. God gives them existence for a time that they may develop their character and reveal their principles. This accomplished, they receive the results of their own choice. By a life of rebellion, Satan and all who unite with him place themselves so out of harmony with God that His very presence is to them a consuming fire.

Here are the conditions upon which every soul will be elected to eternal life. Your obedience to God's commandments will prove your right to an inheritance with the saints in light. God has elected a certain excellence of character; and every one who, through the grace of Christ, shall reach the standard of his requirement, will have an abundant entrance into the kingdom of glory. All who would reach this standard of character, will have to employ the means that God has provided to this end. If you would inherit eternal life that remaineth for the children of God, you must become a co-laborer with God. You are elected to wear the yoke of Christ, —to bear his burden, to lift his cross. You are to be diligent "to make your calling and election sure." 2 Peter 1:10. Search the Scriptures, and you will see that not a son or a daughter of Adam is elected to be saved in disobedience to God's law.

The Bible is the only rule of faith and doctrine.

There is earnest warfare before all who would subdue the evil tendencies

that strive for the mastery. The work of preparation is an individual work. We are not saved in groups. The purity and devotion of one will not offset the want of these qualities in another. Though all nations are to pass in judgment before God, yet He will examine the case of each individual with as close and searching scrutiny as if there were not another being upon the earth. Every one must be tested, and found without spot or wrinkle or any such thing.

Both the living and the dead are to be judged "out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works." Revelation 20:12.

All will be justified by their faith and judged by their works.

None need be deceived. The law of God is as sacred as His throne, and by it every man who cometh into the world is to be judged. There is no other standard by which to test character. "If they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." Now, shall the case be decided according to the Word of God, or shall man's pretensions be credited? Says Christ, "By their fruits ye shall know them."

We must beware of the pretended holiness that permits transgression of the law of God. Those cannot be sanctified who trample that law under their feet, and do judge themselves by a standard of their own devising.

There is a hell to shun and a heaven to be won.

JESUS PROVIDES

Man is Satan's captive and is naturally inclined to follow his suggestions and do his bidding. He has in himself no power to oppose effectual resistance to evil. It is only as Christ abides in him by living faith, influencing his desires and strengthening him with strength from above, that man may venture to face so terrible a foe. Every other means of defense is utterly vain. It is only through Christ that Satan's power is limited. This is a momentous truth that all should understand. Satan is busy every moment, going to and fro, walking up and down in the earth, seeking whom he may devour. But

the earnest prayer of faith will baffle his strongest efforts. Then, take "the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked."

The people of God must be prepared to withstand the wily foe. It is this resistance that Satan dreads. He knows better than we do the limit of his power and how easily he can be overcome if we resist and face him. Through divine strength the weakest saint is more than a match for him and all his angels, and if brought to the test he would be able to prove his superior power. Therefore Satan's step is noiseless, his movements stealthy, and his batteries masked. He does not venture to show himself openly, lest he arouse the Christian's dormant energies and send him to God in prayer.

Through Jesus, God's mercy was manifested to men; but mercy does not set aside justice. The law reveals the attributes of God's character, and not a jot or tittle of it could be changed to meet man in his fallen condition. God did not change His law, but He sacrificed Himself, in Christ, for man's redemption. "God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself." 2 Cor. 5:19.

The law requires righteousness, a righteous life, a perfect character; and this man has not to give. He cannot meet the claims of God's holy law. But Christ, coming to the earth as man, lived a holy life, and developed a perfect character. These He offers as a free gift to all who will receive them. His life stands for the life of men. Thus they have remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God. More than this, Christ imbues men with the attributes of God. He builds up the human character after the similitude of the divine character, a goodly fabric of spiritual strength and beauty. Thus the very righteousness of the law is fulfilled in the believer in Christ. God can "be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus." Rom. 3:26.

By His life and His death, Christ proved that God's justice did not destroy His mercy, but that sin could be forgiven, and that the law is righteous, and can be perfectly obeyed.

Satan's charges were refuted. God had given man unmistakable evidence of His love.

EDEN'S TWIN INSTITUTIONS STILL WITH US TODAY

Jesus began His work on earth by sanctioning the marriage relation at Cana. Thus He who made the first holy pair, and who created for them a paradise, put His seal upon the marriage institution first celebrated in Eden. God made from man a woman, to be a companion and helpmeet for him, to be one with him, to cheer, encourage, and bless him. And he in his turn is to be her strong helper. All who enter the matrimonial life with a holy purpose, the husband to obtain the pure affection of a woman's heart, the wife to soften and improve her husband's character, and give it completeness, fulfill God's purpose for them.

The Sabbath was instituted in Eden before the entrance of sin in this world, and was observed by Adam and Eve, and all the heavenly host.

First, marriage and then the Sabbath were instituted in Eden, when man was upright and innocent before God. They were established when the foundations of the earth were laid, when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy. But men broke the rules which God gave respecting these institutions, and brought upon themselves condemnation and woe.

THE EARTH IS SATAN'S BATTLEFIELD

The world has broken away from its true center. The churches of today have allowed Satan to enter in among them. Had the church remained pure and steadfast, Satan could not have deceived them, and led them to trample on the law of God. In this bold plan, Satan strikes directly against the foundation of God's government in heaven and on earth. His rebellion caused him to be expelled from heaven. Satan knows that if he can cause others to violate God's unalterable law, he has gained them to his cause; for every transgressor of that law must die the second death. See Revelation 20:14

Satan decided to go still farther. He told his angels that some would be so jealous of God's law that they could not be caught in this snare; the ten commandments were so plain that many would believe that they were still binding, and therefore he must seek to corrupt only one of the commandments. He then led on his representatives to attempt to change the fourth, or Sabbath, commandment, thus altering the only one of the ten which brings to view the true God, the Maker of the heavens and the earth. Satan presented before them the glorious resurrection of Jesus, and told them that by His rising on the first day of the week, He changed the Sabbath from the seventh to the first day of the week.

Thus Satan used the resurrection to serve his purpose. He and his angels rejoiced that the errors they had prepared took so well with the professed friends of Christ. What one looked upon with religious horror, another would receive. Thus different errors were received and defended with zeal. The will of God, so plainly revealed in His Word, was covered up with errors and traditions, which have been taught as the commandments of God. Although this heaven-daring deception will be suffered to be carried on until the second appearing of Jesus, yet through all this time of error and deception, God has not been left without witnesses. Amid the darkness and persecution of the church there have always been true and faithful ones who kept all of God's commandments.

Satan's work is to condemn and destroy, to take away man's liberty and destroy his life. Transgression always leads men to act as Satan's agents, to carry out his purposes against God and righteousness.

WHY THE SABBATH / SUNDAY CONTROVERSY?

Satan strives to turn men from their allegiance to God, and from rendering obedience to His law; therefore he directs his efforts especially against that commandment which points to God as the Creator. Satan is determined that the knowledge of

God, of his creative power, shall be banished from the contemplation and remembrance of men. But he cannot accomplish his purpose while the fourth commandment is kept; for the Sabbath directs the minds of men to the Creator.

Says the apostle Jude, "Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." The apostles and their co-laborers in the early Christian church were constantly obliged to meet heresies, which were brought in by false teachers in the very bosom of the church. They had no connected chain of truth, but taught a disjointed medley of ideas, supported by a passage of Scripture here and another there. These disconnected scriptures were woven together into a tissue of falsehood that would strike the fancy, and would deceive those who had not, by searching the Scriptures for themselves, become established in the truth for that time.

Satan worked through these false teachers. Under a profession of regard for the truth, they concealed base purposes, for their hearts were corrupt. Had they come disclaiming faith in Christ, they would have been rejected at once; but professing to believe in him, they gained the confidence of some, and without shame or conscience perverted the truth to suit their own unsanctified hearts. And when once these deluded souls had departed from the old landmarks of faith, they had let go their anchor, and were tossed about like the waves of the sea. These lying prophets are described in the word of God; their deeds are recorded in the register of Heaven. Their hearts and their deceptive, wicked works were not understood by men; but the Lord saw them; he read their hearts as an open book, and knew that their very thoughts and purposes were corrupt.

The apostle Paul, in his second letter to the Thessalonians, foretold the great apostasy which would result in the establishment of the papal power. He declared that the day of Christ should not come, "except there come

a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshiped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God." And furthermore, the apostle warns his brethren that "the mystery of iniquity doth already work." 2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4, 7. Even at that early date he saw, creeping into the church, errors that would prepare the way for the development of the papacy.

Little by little, at first in stealth and silence, and then more openly as it increased in strength and gained control of the minds of men, "the mystery of iniquity" carried forward its deceptive and blasphemous work. Almost imperceptibly the customs of heathenism found their way into the Christian church. The spirit of compromise and conformity was restrained for a time by the fierce persecutions which the church endured under paganism. But as persecution ceased, and Christianity entered the courts and palaces of kings, she laid aside the humble simplicity of Christ and His apostles for the pomp and pride of pagan priests and rulers; and in place of the requirements of God, she substituted human theories and traditions. The nominal conversion of Constantine, in the early part of the fourth century, caused great rejoicing; and the world, cloaked with a form of righteousness, walked into the church. Now the work of corruption rapidly progressed. Paganism, while appearing to be vanquished, became the conqueror. Her spirit controlled the church. Her doctrines, ceremonies, and superstitions were incorporated into the faith and worship of the professed followers of Christ.

This compromise between paganism and Christianity resulted in the development of "the man of sin" foretold in prophecy as opposing and exalting himself above God. That gigantic system of false religion is a masterpiece of Satan's power—a monument of his efforts to seat himself upon the throne to rule the earth according to his will.

Satan once endeavored to form a compromise with Christ. He came to the Son of God in the wilderness of

temptation, and showing Him all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them, offered to give all into His hands if He would but acknowledge the supremacy of the prince of darkness. Christ rebuked the presumptuous tempter and forced him to depart. But Satan meets with greater success in presenting the same temptations to man. To secure worldly gains and honors, the church was led to seek the favor and support of the great men of earth; and rejected Christ.

Many, many in the Christian world are following a course after the order of that which Cain followed. The Lord has given to men his law, and has promised that he will bless those who keep his commandments. In the fourth commandment he has enjoined upon men the keeping of the Sabbath, a memorial of his creative works and power; but men have sought out many inventions, and Satan has been permitted to wind his way into the faith and doctrine of the professedly Christian church, until the Sabbath of the Lord, the memorial of creative power, has been set aside, and the law made void by sinful men, while a spurious sabbath has been instituted in its place. Men declare that the first day of the week is commemorated in honor of the resurrection of Christ from the dead, when not one line in the word of God can be found requiring this at their hands. "To obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams." But many sweep away the Ten Commandments entirely, announcing that they were nailed to the cross with the ceremonial law of types and sacrifices. While professing to honor the Son by keeping a day in honor of his resurrection, they pour contempt upon the law of Jehovah, and are following the course of Cain in offering that which God has never commanded, and in ignoring a plain command which he has given. Those who obey the voice of God, as did Abel, receive from the hands of the disobedient, treatment similar to that which Abel met with from the hands of Cain. John says, "Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you."

The word of God is to be of supreme authority. The Lord says, "My covenant will I not break, nor alter

the thing that is gone out of my lips." God could not change one tittle of his law without ceasing to be supreme. Men can not bend the law of God to suit their ideas, and, failing to bring it into harmony with themselves, they break its commands and violate its precepts. All too late the world will learn that they can not judge the word of God, but that the word of God will judge them. Would that men would consider how foolish and how wicked it is to contend with God! Would that they would cease to oppose their will against the will of the Infinite! Those who oppose God will yet learn that in so doing they have forsaken the only path that leads to holiness, happiness, and heaven.

The word of God says that His creation took six days. Let us presume for a moment that God could have created all in one day or even a hundred days. Irrespective, of how many days God took to create, the first day of the week must always be "a day of creation." Therefore, the first day of the week, Sunday, can never be the Sabbath, the memorial of creation. The first day of the week has not one particle of sanctity.

Men will surely set up their laws to counterwork the laws of God. They will seek to compel the consciences of others, and in their zeal to enforce these laws they will oppress their fellow men.

SEAL / SIGN / MARK

The fourth commandment alone of all the ten contains the seal of the great Lawgiver, the Creator of the heavens and the earth. Those who obey this commandment take upon themselves His name, and all the blessings it involves are theirs.

By the observance of the Sabbath, the children of Israel were to be distinguished from all other nations. "Verily My Sabbaths ye shall keep," Christ said, "for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the Lord that doth sanctify you." "It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever: for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day He rested, and was refreshed."

"Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant." Exodus 31:13, 17, 16.

The Sabbath is a sign of the relationship existing between God and His people, a sign that they are His obedient subjects, that they keep holy His law. The observance of the Sabbath is the means ordained by God



of preserving a knowledge of Himself and of distinguishing between His loyal subjects and the transgressors of His law.

The law of God is the foundation of all enduring reformation. Obedience to God's law is the greatest incentive to industry, economy, truthfulness, and just dealing between man and man.

Love is expressed in obedience, and perfect love casteth out all fear. Those who love God, have the seal of God in their foreheads, and work the works of God.

The seal of the living God will be placed upon those only who bear a likeness to Christ in character. Those that overcome the world, the flesh, and the devil, will be the favored ones who shall receive the seal of the living God.

The seal of God will never be placed upon the forehead of an impure man or woman. It will never be placed upon the forehead of the ambitious, world-loving man or woman. It will never be placed upon the forehead of men or women of false tongues or deceitful hearts. All who receive the seal must be without spot before God,—candidates for heaven. Search the Scriptures for yourselves, that you may understand the fearful solemnity of the present hour.

Those who are uniting with the world, are receiving the worldly mold, and preparing for the mark of the beast.

Those who are distrustful of self, who are humbling themselves before God and purifying their souls by obeying the truth, these are receiving the heavenly mold, and preparing for the seal of God in their foreheads. When the decree* goes forth, and the stamp is impressed, their character will remain pure and spotless for eternity.

The sign, or seal, of God is revealed in the observance of the seventh-day Sabbath, the Lord's memorial of creation.

The mark of the beast is the opposite of this — the observance of the first day of the week. "He causeth all, both small and great, . . . to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads." (Rev. 13:16). Not only are men not to work with their hands on Sunday, but with their minds are they to acknowledge Sunday as the Sabbath.

If the light of truth has been presented to you, revealing the Sabbath of the fourth commandment, and showing that there is no foundation in the Word of God for Sunday observance, and yet you still cling to the false sabbath, refusing to keep holy the Sabbath which God calls "My holy day," you receive the mark of the beast. When does this take place? When you obey the decree that commands you to cease from labor on Sunday and worship God, while you know that there is not a word in the Bible showing Sunday to be other than a common working day, you consent to receive the mark of the beast, and refuse the seal of God.

Now, is the time to prepare for when the decree goes forth, and the stamp is impressed.

The Sabbath will be the great test of loyalty; for it is the point of truth especially controverted. When the final test shall be brought to bear upon men, then the line of distinction will be drawn between those who serve God and those who serve him not. While the observance of the false sabbath in compliance with the law of the State, contrary to the fourth commandment, will be an avowal of allegiance to a power that is in opposition to God, the keeping of the true Sabbath, in obedience to God's law, is an evidence of loyalty to the Creator. While one class,

Note on Revelation 13:16

*When Sunday observance shall be enforced by law, and the world shall be enlightened concerning the obligation of the true Sabbath, then whoever shall transgress the command of God to obey a precept which has no higher authority than that of Rome, will thereby honor popery above God. He is paying homage to Rome, and to the power** which enforces the institution ordained by Rome. He is worshiping both the beast and his image.

The Archbishop of Reggio in a summing up address to the Council of Trent, said: "The Protestants claim to stand upon the written word only. They profess to hold the Scripture alone as the standard of faith. They justify their revolt by the plea that the Church has apostatized from the written word and follows tradition. Now the Protestants claim, that they stand upon the written word only, is not true. Their profession of holding the Scripture alone as the standard of faith, is false. PROOF: The written word explicitly enjoins the observance of the seventh day as the Sabbath. They do not observe the seventh day, but reject it. If they do truly hold the scripture alone as their standard, they would be observing the seventh day as is enjoined in the Scripture throughout. Yet they not only reject the observance of the Sabbath enjoined in the written word, but they have adopted and do practice the observance of Sunday, for which they have only the tradition of the Church. Consequently the claim of 'Scripture alone as the standard,' fails; and the doctrine of 'Scripture and tradition' as essential, is fully established, the Protestants themselves being judges." 18th of January, 1562.

There was no getting around this, for the Protestants' own statement of

faith - the Augsburg Confession, 1530 - had clearly admitted that "the observance of the Lord's day" had been appointed by "the Church" only.

The man of sin has worked with a marvelous perseverance to exalt the spurious sabbath, and the disloyal Protestant world** has wondered after Rome, and has called obedience to the Sabbath instituted by Jehovah disloyalty to the laws of the nations. Kingdoms have confederated to sustain a false sabbath institution, which has not a word of authority in the oracles of God.

God's word has given warning of the impending danger; let this be unheeded, and the Protestant world will learn what the purposes of Rome really are, only when it is too late to escape the snare. Rome is silently growing into power. Her doctrines are exerting their influence in legislative halls, in the churches, and in the hearts of men.

Significantly, most of the good Shepherd's sheep are in the Catholic fold. However, they will respond when they hear His voice, "saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues." Revelation 18:4. None are condemned until they have had the light and have seen the obligation of the fourth commandment. "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:" Acts 17:30.

"... the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out.

And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice.

And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers." John 10:3-5.

Moses, saying, Speak unto Aaron and unto his sons, saying, On this wise ye shall bless the children of Israel saying unto them,

"The Lord bless thee, and keep thee:

The Lord make His face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee:

The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.

And they shall put My Name upon the children of Israel;

And I will bless them." Numbers

6:22-27.

The Sabbath is the sign of God; it is the seal of his law. "Bind up the testimony, seal the law among my disciples." "To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, [it is] because [there is] no light in them." Isaiah 8:16, 20. It is the token of his authority and power. It is a sign whereby we may know that he is God, and therefore it is appropriately said to be placed in the forehead.

Conversely, whoever shall trample upon God's law to obey a Sunday human enactment, will receive the mark of the beast; he accepts the sign of allegiance to the false power. The solemn warning from Heaven is, "If any man worship the beast and his image (both are religious powers), and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation." Revelation 14:9,10.

A seal contains three elements — the name of the person — the title of that person — the territory that person occupies. The fourth (Sabbath) commandment does contain all three elements. "The LORD (Name) made (Creator) heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them [is] (Territory).

The Sabbath is the token of His authority and power. It is a sign whereby we may know that He is God, and therefore it is appropriately said to be placed in the forehead. The worshippers of the power, whose authority is Sunday (Revelation 13) are said to receive his mark in their foreheads or in their hands.

In Ezekiel 9:4 and Revelation 7:2, 3, the mark or sign is said to be placed in the foreheads of the servants of God. Both these Scriptures refer to a time when utter destruction is coming on the ungodly. The seal is placed upon God's people as a safeguard to preserve them from the evil impending. But "the forehead" is evidently used as a figure, to denote the intellect or mind, as "the heart" is used to denote the disposition or affections. To mark or to seal in the forehead is the same as to "write in the mind." Hebrews 10:16.

What is the condition of those who

keep the commandments of God and have the faith of Jesus? If there are those who are refusing obedience to the Lord in keeping His Sabbath, then the seal cannot be placed upon them. The sealing is a pledge from God of perfect security to His chosen ones (Exodus 31:13-17). Sealing indicates



you are God's chosen. He has appropriated you to Himself. As the sealed of God we are Christ's purchased possession, and no one shall pluck us out of His hands. What is written in the forehead? God, New Jerusalem. "I will write upon him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God." Revelation 3:12.

The seal of the living God will be placed upon those only who bear a likeness to Christ in character. Love is expressed in obedience, and perfect love casteth out all fear. Those that overcome the world, the flesh, and the devil, will be the favored ones who shall receive the seal of the living God.

Just as soon as the people of God are sealed in their foreheads — it is not any seal or mark that can be seen, but a settling into the truth, both intellectually and spiritually, so they cannot be moved — just as soon as God's people are sealed and prepared to stand in the sight of a holy God without a mediator, at the time, when Jesus issues His decree and ceases His role as our great High Priest, at which time, the seven last plagues are poured out.

What are you doing in the great work of preparation? Those who are

uniting with the world are receiving the worldly mold and preparing for the mark of the beast. Now is the time to prepare. We have a heaven to win and a hell to shun.

*** "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still." Revelation 22:11.

THE SEVENTH DAY SET ASIDE

To substitute the external forms of religion for holiness of heart and life, is still as pleasing to the unrenewed nature of man, as in the days of the apostles. For this reason, false teachers abound, and the people listen eagerly to their delusive doctrines. It is Satan's studied effort to divert the minds of men from the one way of salvation, faith in Christ, and obedience to the law of God.

In every age the arch-enemy adapts his temptations to the prejudices or inclinations of the people. In apostolic times he led the Jews to exalt the ceremonial law, and reject Christ; at the present day he induces many professed Christians, under the pretense of honoring Christ, to cast contempt upon the moral law, and teach that its precepts may be transgressed with impunity. It is the duty of every faithful servant of God, to firmly and decidedly withstand these perverters of the faith, and to fearlessly expose their errors by the word of truth.

King Charles II, on April 23, 1647 stated: "I conceive the celebration of the feast (Easter) was instituted by the same authority which changed the Jewish Sabbath (actually, it is God's Sabbath) into the Lord's day or Sunday, for it will not be found in the Scripture where Saturday is discharged to be kept, or turned into the Sunday. Wherefore, it must be alas church's authority that changed the one and instituted the other; therefore in my opinion those who will not keep this feast (Easter) may as well return to the observance of Saturday, and refuse the weekly Sunday." Extracts from the Query to the Parliament

Commissioners by King Charles II.

The Lord has clearly defined the road to the city of God; but the great apostate has changed the signpost, setting up a false one, a spurious sabbath. He says: "I will work at cross-purposes with God. I will empower my delegate, the man of sin, to take down God's memorial, the seventh-day Sabbath. Thus will I show the world that the day sanctified and blessed by God has been changed. That day shall not live in the minds of the people. I will obliterate the memory of it. I will place in its stead a day bearing not the credentials of heaven, a day that cannot be a sign between God and His people. I will lead the people who accept this day, to place upon it the sanctity that God placed upon the seventh day. Through my vicegerent I will exalt myself. The first day shall be extolled, and the Protestant world shall receive this spurious sabbath as genuine. Through the non-observance of the Sabbath God instituted, I will bring His law into contempt. The words, 'A sign between me and you throughout your generations,' I will make to serve on the side of my sabbath. Thus the world will become mine. I will be ruler of the earth, prince of the world. I will so control the minds under my power that God's Sabbath shall be an object of contempt."

The man of sin has instituted a false sabbath, and the professed Christian world has adopted this child of the papacy, refusing to obey God. Thus Satan leads men and women in a direction opposite to the city of refuge; and by the multitudes who follow him, it is demonstrated that Adam and Eve are not the only ones who have accepted the words of the wily foe.

The enemy of all good has turned the signpost round, so that it points to the path of disobedience as the path of happiness. He has insulted Jehovah by refusing to obey a "Thus saith the Lord." He has thought to change times and laws. See Daniel 7:25.

It seems therefore to matter a great deal which day is observed as a day of rest and worship. If the Sabbath is rejected, the law changed, and a new or different day put in its place, the law is no longer God's as His signature

and seal has been removed and the law that is put in its place has the signature and authority of another.

In 1519 Dr Eck, Rome's champion in disputing with Luther and Carlstadt, said: "Concerning the authority of the church: The Scripture teaches: Remember that you keep Saturday; Six days shalt thou labor and do all thy work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God, etc. However, the church has transferred the observance from Saturday to Sunday by virtue of her own power, without Scripture, without doubt under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Concerning Holidays and Fast Days:- The Sabbath is commended in various places in the Scriptures, but there is no mention of cessation of the Sabbath and the institution of Sunday in the Gospels, or in Paul's writings, or in all the Bible; therefore this has taken place by the apostolic church instituting it without Scripture." Dr Eck's Enchiridon (1533).

Under the covenant of grace God requires from man just what he required in Eden, perfect obedience. The believing sinner, through his divine Substitute and Surety, renders obedience to the law of God. Christ kept the law perfectly, and through him the believer shall not perish, but have everlasting life. He says, "I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth." Mercy granted to man is the reward of the merit of Christ, "who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." Through the plan of salvation, God can be just, and yet be the justifier of him that believeth in Jesus.

The Psalmist says, "The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul." The apostle declares, "The law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good." Then for what reason should the Lord set aside his law to provide an escape for the sinner, or to make it possible for him to transgress with impunity? There is no reason, and the law of the Lord "endureth forever." In his sermon on the mount Jesus said: "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets; I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill.

For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in nowise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven; but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven."

Man can accomplish nothing good without God, and yet questions arise:

Ques. "Why do we observe Sunday instead of Saturday? **Ans.** We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic church, in the council of Laodicea (A.D. 366), transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday." *The Convert's Catechism of Catholic Doctrine* by Rev. Peter Geiermann C.S.S.R. p 50 (2nd ed. 1910).

Ques. "How prove you that the church hath power to command feasts and holidays? **Ans.** By the very act of changing the Sabbath into Sunday, which Protestants allow of; and therefore fondly contradict themselves, by keeping Sunday strictly and breaking most other feasts commanded by the same church." *An Abridgment of Christian Doctrine* (R. C.) Rev Henry Tuberville D. D, p 58 (Approved 1833).

Satan himself was educated and disciplined in the heavenly courts, and he has a knowledge of good as well as of evil. He mingles the precious with the vile, and this is what gives him his power of deceiving the sons of men.

Those who have the privilege of knowing these things and observe them are obliged to join in carrying a special message to the world. Men are being reminded that they are to be judged on the basis of their recognition of God as their Creator. As men become enlightened many take their stand and observe the true Sabbath. Sunday laws and other pressures will shortly cause this to become a clear cut issue as it was in the beginning. By their observance of one day or the other, men will declare their

The Ten Commandments As Given By God In Exodus 20:2-17

- I
Thou shalt have no other gods before me.
- II
Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness [of any thing] that [is] in heaven above, or that [is] in the earth beneath, or that [is] in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God [am] a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth [generation] of them that hate me; And showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.
- III
Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.
- IV
Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day [is] the sabbath of the LORD thy God: [in it] thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that [is] within thy gates: For [in] six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them [is], and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.
- V
Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.
- VI
Thou shalt not kill.
- VII
Thou shalt not commit adultery.
- VIII
Thou shalt not steal.
- IX
Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.
- X
Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that [is] thy neighbour's.

The Ten Commandments As Shown In Roman Catholic Catechism

- I
I [am] the LORD thy God. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.
(Second Commandment Removed and those following moved up)
- II
Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain.
- III
Remember thou keep holy the sabbath day. **(God's Seal Removed From 4th Commandment)**
- IV
Honour thy father and thy mother.
- V
Thou shalt not kill.
- VI
Thou shalt not commit adultery.
- VII
Thou shalt not steal.
- VIII
Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.
- IX
Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife.
- X
Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's goods.
(Last Commandment Split To Make Up Ten)

(Sunday, the cornerstone of Papal worship)

Clement, the head of the school of Alexandria, was born about A. D. 160, and died about A. D. 220. He wrote about A. D. 194, and is the first of the fathers who uses the term Lord's day in such a manner as to identify it with the first day of the week. And yet he expressly speaks of the Sabbath as a day of rest, and of the first day of the week as a day for labor! The change of the Sabbath and the institution of the so-called Christian Sabbath were alike unknown to him. Of the ten commandments, he speaks thus:

"We have the decalogue given by Moses, which, indicating by an elementary principle, simple and of one kind, defines the designation of sins in a way conducive to salvation," *The Instructor*, b. iii. chap. xii. *Testimony of the Fathers by J.N. Andrews.*

There is no record of a writer calling Sunday the Lord's day before him (Clement). *Truth Triumphant* p. 82.

The stronger the church at Rome grew, the greater was the emphasis placed upon Sunday. On the other hand, the churches which continued in apostolic Christianity clung as long as possible to the day which Jesus Christ and the apostles sanctified.

The Waldenses were so thoroughly a Bible people that they kept the seventh-day Sabbath as the sacred rest day for centuries. Two centuries after Pope Gregory I (A.D. 602) had issued the bull against the community of Sabbath keepers in the city of Rome, a church council which disclosed the extent of Sabbath keeping in that peninsula was held at Friaul, northern Italy (C.A.D. 791). Friaul was one of the three large duchies into which the Lombard kingdom had been originally organized.

This council, in its command to all Christians to observe the Lord's Day, testified to the wide observance of Saturday as follows: 'Further when speaking of that Sabbath which the Jews observe, the last day of the week, which also all peasants observe.' About one hundred years later (A.D. 865-867), when the sharp contest between the Church of Rome and the Greek Church over the newly converted Bulgarians and their observance of the Sabbath came to the front, the question again entered into the controversy, as can be seen in the reply of Pope Nicolas I to the one hundred six questions propounded to him by the Bulgarian king. *Truth Triumphant* p. 170.

The following quotation from John Mason Neale will reveal the difference in attitude toward the Sabbath between the Greek and the Latin Church: "The observance of Saturday is, as everyone knows, the subject of a bitter dispute between the Greeks and Latins. *A History of the Holy Eastern Church*, General Introduction, vol. 1,

p. 731.

The Waldenses in Bohemia. Erasmus testifies that even as late as about A.D. 1500 these Bohemians not only kept the seventh day scrupulously, but also were called Sabbatarians. Cox, *The Literature of the Sabbath Question*, vol. 2, pp. 201, 202.

Inconsistency is manifest in papal doctrine today, for *The Catholic Encyclopedia* says: "The Church, on the other hand, after changing the day of rest from the Jewish Sabbath, or seventh day of the week, to the first, made the Third Commandment refer to Sunday as the day to be kept holy as the Lord's Day." The Council of Trent (Session. VI, can. xix) condemns those who deny that the Ten Commandments are binding on Christians". *Truth Triumphant* p. 36.

"AND HE SHALL THINK TO CHANGE TIMES AND LAWS:" Daniel 7:25

It was on the Sabbath that the Lord of glory appeared to the exiled apostle. The Sabbath was as sacredly observed by John on Patmos as when he was preaching to the people in the towns and cities of Judea. He claimed as his own the precious promises that had been given regarding that day. "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day," John writes, "and heard behind me a great voice, (from Jesus, the Son of man. v. 13) as of a trumpet," Revelation 1:10.

"Wherefore the Son of man is Lord also of the Sabbath." These words are full of instruction and comfort. Because the Sabbath was made for man, it is the Lord's day. It belongs to Christ. For "all things were made by Him; and without Him was not anything made that was made." John 1:3. Since He made all things, He made the Sabbath. By Him it was set apart as a memorial of the work of creation. It points to Him as both the Creator and the Sanctifier. It declares that He who created all things in heaven and in earth, and by whom all things hold together, is the head of the church, and that by His power we are reconciled to God. For, speaking of Israel,

allegiance to the true God or to His great adversary.

In Mark 2:27, Jesus said, The Sabbath was made for man. Interestingly, Jesus further stated of Himself, therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the Sabbath. Therefore, mankind has no prerogative to change the Sabbath, the true day of worship, to any other day of the week. To add to the changed day of worship the name, the Lord's day, compounds the apostasy, for "the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever." 1 Peter 1:24.

THE LORD'S DAY

He said, "I gave them My Sabbaths, to be a sign between Me and them, that they might know that I am the Lord that sanctify them," — make them holy. Ezek. 20:12. Then the Sabbath is a sign of Christ's power to make us holy. And it is given to all whom Christ makes holy. As a sign of His sanctifying power, the Sabbath is given to all who through Christ become a part of the Israel of God.

While the worshipers of God will be especially distinguished by their regard for the fourth commandment, — since this is the sign of his creative power, and the witness to his claim upon man's reverence and homage, — the false worshipers will be distinguished by their efforts to tear down the Creator's memorial, to exalt the institution of Rome. It was in behalf of the Sunday, that popery first asserted its arrogant claims; and its first resort to the power of the State was to compel the observance of Sunday as "the Lord's day." But the Bible points to the seventh day, and not to the first, as the Lord's day. Said Christ, "The Son of man is Lord also of the Sabbath." The fourth commandment declares, "The seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord." And by the prophet Isaiah the Lord designates it, "My holy day." Mark 2:28; Isa. 58:13.

The claim so often put forth, that Christ changed the Sabbath, is disproved by his own words. In his sermon on the mount he said: "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets; I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of Heaven; but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of Heaven." Matt. 5:17-19.

"Your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God." 1 Corinthians 2:5.

"None of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand."

Daniel 12:10. It should be noted that the wise are not contrasted with the ignorant and unlearned. They are contrasted with the wicked. The issue is moral not mental.

It is the first and highest duty of every rational being to learn from the Scriptures what is truth, and then to walk in the light and encourage others to follow his example. We should day by day study the Bible diligently, weighing every thought and comparing Scripture with Scripture. With divine help we are to form our opinion for ourselves as we are to answer for ourselves before God.

THE LAST GREAT GLOBAL CONFLICT ON EARTH

"Karol Wojtyla (Pope John Paul II) was placed at the head of the world's only existing and fully operating georeligious institution: the universal organization of his Roman Catholic Church." *Keys of This Blood*, M. Martin (Jesuit, Vatican Insider), page 23.

"It took that Papacy and its institutional organization, the Roman Catholic Church, almost the whole of 2,000 years to attain its status and condition as a georeligion. . . With a political goal and structure? Yes, with a geopolitical goal and structure. For, in the final analysis, John Paul II as claimant Vicar of Christ does claim to be the ultimate court of judgment on the society of states as a society." *Ibid.* pages 374-375.

"For fifteen hundred years and more, Rome had kept as strong a hand as possible in each local community around the wide world." *Ibid.* page 22 Ultimate rule, however, will be far removed from the ordinary individual." *Ibid.* page 19.

"It is not too much to say, in fact, that the chosen purpose of John Paul's pontificate — the engine that drives his papal grand policy and that determines his day-to-day, year-by-year strategies — is to be the victor in that competition, now well under way. For the fact is that the stakes John Paul has placed in the arena of geopolitical contention include everything himself; his papal persona; the age old Petrine Office he

now embodies; and his entire Church Universal, both as an institutional organization unparalleled in the world and as a body of believers united by a bond of mystical communion." *Ibid.* page 17.

The Bible reveals, that Rome will come into global prominence and will war against God's people. See Revelation 13. Tampering with God's commandments and placing in their stead human traditions, is the work of Satan, and will divorce the religious world from God; for He declares, "Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." Galatians 6:7. "For the wages of sin [is] death." Romans 6:23.

The Sunday idol will be set up. Human laws will demand that it be worshiped as sacred and holy, thus putting it where God's holy Sabbath should be. Men will speak great swelling words, and exalt their power, placing themselves where God should be. Sitting in the temple of God, they strive to make themselves as God, showing themselves to be God.

At last, all earthly powers will be superseded by a kingdom set up by the God of heaven, which kingdom will never be destroyed. See Revelation 11:15. Then, God rewards the saints and destroys the wicked. Then is brought gloriously to view the temple of God in heaven, verse 19, and the ark, in which the Ten Commandments are contained. For the earthly ten commandments are but a copy of the heavenly.

The destruction of the wicked will include the destruction of sin. "For our God [is] a consuming fire." Hebrews 12:29.

Are we to stand in the supreme love of God or will we follow man's plan and eventually hear the words of Jesus, "depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels." Matthew 25:41.

THE LAST WARNING

It is of great consequence whether we are enlightened about God's word or not. When the Lord speaks, the heavens hear, and the earth ought to give ear to his word. The Lord

warns his people in the last days, and invites them to "follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth." He who despises this invitation despises God and his word, and the Lord will not let him go unpunished.

The doctrine that God's law has been abolished is one of Satan's devices to compass the ruin of the race.

There are those who hold that the Sabbath was given only for the Jews; but God has never said this. He committed the Sabbath to His people Israel as a sacred trust; but the very fact that the desert of Sinai, and not Palestine, was the place selected by Him in which to proclaim His law, reveals that He intended it for all mankind. The law of ten commandments is as old as creation. Therefore the Sabbath institution has no special relation to the Jews, any more than to all other created beings. God has made the observance of the Sabbath obligatory upon all men. "The sabbath," it is plainly stated, "was made for man." Let every one, therefore, who is in danger of being deceived on this point give heed to the Word of God rather than the assertions of men.

All the inhabitants of earth are soon to meet the great Lawgiver over His broken law. There are many, many in the popular churches who know little of the real meaning of the message for this time. The end is near. How many who have not sought their soul's salvation, will soon make the bitter lamentation, "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and my soul is not saved!"

When will men learn that God is God, not man, and that He does not change? Every calamity, every death, is a witness to the power of evil and to the truth of the living God. The Word of God is life, and it will abide forever. Through all eternity it will stand fast. How can man, knowing what God is and what He has done, choose Satan's way instead of God's way? There is only one path to Paradise restored, the path of obedience.

There is safety alone in taking the Scriptures as our guide of life and action. Says the prophet, "To

the law and to the testimony; if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." Martin Luther exclaimed, "The Bible, and the Bible alone, is the foundation of our faith." It is the work of the people of God to hold up the Bible as the standard of religion and the foundation of hope.

Yet the Archbishop of Reggio took the Protestants to task for adopting Catholic tradition. It is worthwhile pausing for a moment, to consider what Jesus had to say to the church leaders in His day. "Ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition. . . . In vain they do worship Me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." Matt. 15:6, 9. How painfully is the Lord Jesus Christ kept in the background! How his glory is veiled by the character and life of his representatives! Let the watchmen on the walls of Zion not join with those who are making of none effect the truth as it is in Jesus. Let them not join the confederacy of infidelity, popery, and Protestantism in exalting tradition above Scripture, reason above revelation, and human talent above the divine influence and the vital power of godliness.

The question of most vital importance for this time is, "Who is on the Lord's side? Who will unite with the angel in giving the message of truth to the world? Who will receive the light that is to fill the whole earth with its glory?" Those who cherish the light that they have, will receive more. Increasing light will shine about the souls who yield to the softening, subduing grace of Christ; and those who love the light, will be saved from the delusions of Satan. He will strive with intense energy to exhibit, through his miracle-working power, signs and wonders that will seem to eclipse the work that God will do in the earth. And all will be deceived except those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life. We need light now at every step, lest we be swept away with the error of the wicked.

The substitution of the false for the true is the last act in the drama. When this substitution becomes universal, God will reveal himself. When the

laws of men are exalted above the laws of God, when the powers of this earth try to force men to keep the first day of the week, know that the time has come for God to work. He will arise in His majesty, and will shake terribly the earth. "He will come out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the world for their iniquity. The earth shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain." Isaiah 26:11.

Let no one yield to temptation and become less fervent in his attachment to God's law because of the contempt placed upon it; for that is the very thing that should make us pray with all our heart and soul and voice, "It is time for thee, Lord, to work: for they have made void thy law." Therefore, because of the universal contempt, I will not turn traitor when God will be most glorified and most honored by my loyalty.

GOD'S TRUTH IS NEVER POPULAR

The whole world is filled with hatred of those who proclaim the binding claims of the law of God, and the church which is loyal to Jehovah must engage in no ordinary conflict. "We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." Eph. 6:12.

Noah was a preacher of righteousness; but all his warnings were despised by the generation to whom they were addressed. Truth will never be popular with the world; for the world is at enmity with God's law. The world is full of sin, full of falsehood, full of transgression. Jesus preached the truth faithfully, affectionately, earnestly, practicing self-denial; and did the world flock to his banner? — No; when did truth ever meet with more stern and positive rejection than at the time of Christ?

Even if there is no one within a hundred miles of you who observes the Sabbath, the whole universe of heaven is in sympathy with you. Christ your Saviour and the heavenly angels are round about you. If you will call upon God in every time of

need. He will be your helper. Practice the truth in your home. "Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord."

Christ said, "I have kept My Father's commandments, and abide in His love." Christ is testing us today to see if we will be obedient to the law of God as He was, and be fitted up for the society of heavenly angels. God wants a loyal people. Rebellion originated in heaven; but it is not to be found there again. Are we willing to inquire for the way of the Lord to do justice and judgment, to seek mercy, and to walk humbly with our God? Will we accept the promise, "Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you" for He has builded for us a city, and He is not ashamed to call us brethren. He will gather the strangers and pilgrims to Himself.

So far as his opportunities extend, every one who has received the light of truth is under the same solemn and fearful responsibility as was the prophet of Israel, to whom the word of the Lord came, saying: "Son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at my mouth, and warn them from me. When I say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Nevertheless, if thou warn the wicked of his way to turn from it; if he do not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul." Eze. 33:7-9.

The true followers of Christ do not wait for truth to become popular. Being convinced of their duty, they deliberately accept the cross, with the apostle Paul counting that "our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;" 2 Cor. 4:17.

We should choose the right because it is right, and leave consequences with God. To men of principle, faith, and daring, the world is indebted for its great reforms. By such men the work of reform for this time must be carried forward.

Thus saith the Lord: "Hearken unto me, ye that know righteousness, the

people in whose heart is my law; fear ye not the reproach of men, neither be ye afraid of their revilings. For the moth shall eat them up like a garment, and the worm shall eat them like wool; but my righteousness shall be forever, and my salvation from generation to generation." Isa. 51:7, 8.

UNFORGIVEN TRANSGRESSION OF THE LAW OF GOD HAS DIRE CONSEQUENCES — MAKE NO MISTAKE

And as Jesus sat upon the mount of Olives over against the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew asked Him privately, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign when all these things shall be fulfilled? Concerning the destruction of Jerusalem and of the end of the world. See Mark 13:3-37.

Jesus, looking down to the last generation, saw the world involved in a deception similar to that which caused the destruction of Jerusalem. The great sin of the Jews was their rejection of Christ; the great sin of the Christian world would be their rejection of the law of God, the foundation of his government in Heaven and earth. The precepts of Jehovah would be despised and set at naught.

"Whilst the Pharisees of old kept the *true Sabbath*, our modern Pharisees, counting on the credulity and simplicity of their dupes, *have never once in their lives kept the true Sabbath* which their divine Master kept to His dying day, and which His apostles kept, after His example, for thirty years afterward, according to the Sacred Record." *Catholic Mirror*, Sept. 23, 1893.

To secure popularity and patronage, legislators will yield to the demand for a Sunday law. By the decree enforcing the institution of the papacy in violation of the law of God nations will disconnect fully from righteousness. As the approach of the Roman armies was a sign to the disciples of the impending destruction of Jerusalem, so may this apostasy be a sign to us that the

limit of God's forbearance is reached. Likewise, the decree enforcing the papal sabbath, will be a warning to those at that time to leave the cities at once. Today, In view of the crisis looming ahead all who accept the warning of this tabloid should make orderly plans to leave the large cities at the soonest possible time.

Bible history is to be repeated. Calamities will come, calamities most awful, most unexpected; and these destructions will follow one after another.

The Lord will not suddenly cast off all transgressors, or destroy entire nations, but He will punish cities and places where men have given themselves up to the possession of satanic agencies. Strictly will the cities of the nations be dealt with, and yet they will not be visited in the extreme of God's indignation because some souls will yet break away from the delusions of the enemy, and will repent and be converted like Nineveh of old.

Unbelievably, thousands of cities full of transgression, and sinful in the extreme, will be destroyed by earthquakes, by fire, by flood. All the world will be warned that there is a God who will display His authority as God. His unseen agencies will cause destruction, devastation, and death.

All the churches in our land need to call to mind the dealings of God with His ancient people. Ceremonial worship is of no value to them. Truth has long been covered up by tradition and falsehood. When the Lord sends to them His servants with a warning message, let them consider the message, studying their Bibles.

There was a coming out, a decided separation from the wicked, an escape for life. So it was in the days of Noah; so with Lot; so with the disciples prior to the destruction of Jerusalem; and so it will be in the last days. Again the voice of God is heard in a message of warning, bidding His people separate themselves from the prevailing iniquity. Serious times are before us, and there is great need for families to get out of the cities into the country, where you can be alone with God, to learn His will and way. In a little while all God's people

will leave the cities. Remember, not one Christian perished in the destruction of Jerusalem. Christ had given his disciples warning, and all who believed his words watched for the promised sign.

The state of corruption and apostasy that in the last days would exist in the religious world, was presented to the prophet John in the vision of Babylon, "that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth." Revelation 17:18. Before its destruction the call is to be given from heaven, "Come out of her, My people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues." Revelation 18:4. As in the days of Noah and Lot, there must be a marked separation from sin and sinners. There can be no compromise between God and the world, no turning back to secure earthly treasures. "Ye cannot serve God and mammon." Matthew 6:24.

Jesus wept over Jerusalem, because of the guilt and obstinacy of his chosen people. He weeps also over the hard-heartedness of those who, professing to be co-workers with him, are content to do nothing. Are those who appreciate the value of souls carrying, with Christ, a burden of heaviness and constant sorrow mingled with tears for the wicked cities of the earth? The destruction of these cities, almost wholly given up to idolatry, is impending.

The Lord will show before a world transgressing His holy law, that He is God, and beside Him there is none else.

WILL GOD HAVE A HOLY PEOPLE?

God has commanded us, "Ye shall be holy: for I the LORD your God [am] holy." Leviticus 19:2.

Holiness is agreement with God.

As Jehovah is holy, He requires His people to be holy, pure, undefiled; for without holiness no man shall see the Lord. (Hebrews 12:14) Those who worship Him in sincerity and truth will be accepted by Him.

The Lord purifies the heart very much as we air a room. We do not

close the doors and windows, and throw in some purifying substance; but we open the doors and throw wide the windows, and let heaven's purifying atmosphere flow in. The Lord says, "He that doeth truth cometh to the light." The windows of impulse, of feeling, must be opened up toward heaven, and the dust of selfishness and earthliness must be expelled. The grace of God must sweep through the chambers of the mind, the imagination must have heavenly themes for contemplation, and every element of our nature must be purified and vitalized by the Spirit of God.

Satan may be telling you that it is not best for you to cease sinning; you have gone so far in disobedience and transgression that it is no use for you to try to come back to God. While you may feel the full disgrace of your sins is upon you, Jesus the sin-pardoning Saviour seeks entrance into your heart.

If you will come to God just as you are, without one plea but that He has died to save the chiefest of sinners, you will find pardon even in this the eleventh hour of this earth's history. Man must cooperate with God. Christ did not die to have the power to cover transgression unrepented of and unconfessed. Not all sins are to be confessed publicly, but some are to be confessed alone to God and the parties that have been injured.

Christ is the perfection of divine character. He is the model we are to follow. Peter's words are full of meaning: "As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance; but as He which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy." 1 Peter 1:14-16.

God will test all, even as He tested Adam and Eve, to see whether they will be obedient. Our loyalty or disloyalty will decide our destiny. Since the fall of Adam, men in every age have excused themselves for sinning, charging God with their sin, saying that they could not keep His commandments. This is the insinuation Satan cast at God in

heaven. But the plea, "I cannot keep the commandments," need never be presented to God; for before Him stands the Saviour, the marks of the crucifixion upon His body, a living witness that the law can be kept. It is not that men cannot keep the law, but that they will not.

Reference is made to the translation of the saints at the second coming of Jesus: "Then we which are alive [and] remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Wherefore comfort one another with these words." 1Thess. 4:17, 18.

A TIME TO TAKE SIDES

In the last days of this earth's history the voice that spoke from Sinai is still declaring, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." (Ex. 20:3). Man has set his will against the will of God, but he cannot silence the word of command. The human mind cannot evade its obligation to a higher power. Theories and speculations may abound; men may try to set science in opposition to revelation, and thus do away with God's law; but stronger and still stronger comes the command, "Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve." (Matt. 4:10).

Those who died before the light was given upon the law of God and the claims of the fourth commandment were not guilty of the sin of violating the seventh-day Sabbath. The wisdom and mercy of God in dispensing light and knowledge at the proper time, as the people need it, is unsearchable. Previous to His coming to judge the world in righteousness, He sends forth a warning* to arouse the people and call their attention to their neglect of the fourth commandment, that they may be enlightened, and may repent of their transgression of His law, and prove their allegiance to the great Lawgiver. He has made provision that all may be holy and happy if they choose. Sufficient light has been given to this generation, that we may learn

what our duties and privileges are, and enjoy the precious and solemn truths in their simplicity and power.

* If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive [his] mark in his forehead, or in his hand,

The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:

And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name. Rev. 14:9-11.

The commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus are testing us. If we are faithful and obedient, God will delight in us, and bless us as His own chosen peculiar people. When perfect faith and perfect love and obedience abound, working in the hearts of those who are Christ's followers, they will have a powerful influence. Light will emanate from them, dispelling the darkness around them, refining and elevating all who come within the sphere of their influence, and bringing to a knowledge of the truth all who are willing to be enlightened and to follow in the humble path of obedience.

Satan is busily laying his plans for the last mighty conflict, when all will take sides. Put away your non-committal position. Your testing time has come, and you must take sides with Christ or against Him.

"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with Him in glory." Colossians 3:1, 2, 4.

APPENDIX I

Church leaders acknowledge that the seventh-day Sabbath is the only true Sabbath which God gave to mankind, and that it was the Church (the Roman Catholic Church) which attempted to transfer the sacredness

to Sunday.

In the Fourth Commandment, the God of heaven gave a direct command to mankind. It is recorded in Exodus 20:8-11.

Here are several additional statements confirming the unfortunate fact that an attempt was made to change the commandment, — to cancel the sacredness which God applied to the seventh-day, and, in its place, make the first day of the week sacred.

"It is well to remind the Presbyterians, Baptists, Methodists, and all other Christians, that the Bible does not support them anywhere in their observance of Sunday. Sunday is an institution of the Roman Catholic Church, and those who observe the day observe a commandment of the Catholic Church."—Priest Brady, in an address at Elizabeth, N.J., March 17, 1903, reported in the Elizabeth, N.J. News of March 18, 1903.

"Reason and common sense demand the acceptance of one or the other of these alternatives: either Protestantism and the keeping holy of Saturday, or Catholicity and the keeping holy of Sunday. Compromise is impossible."— *The Catholic Mirror*, Dec. 23, 1893.

"The observance of Sunday by the Protestants is a homage they pay, in spite of themselves, to the authority of the [Catholic] Church."—Monsignor Louis Segur, *Plain Talk About the Protestantism of Today*, 1868, p. 213.

"The Catholic Church . . . by virtue of her divine mission, changed the day from Saturday to Sunday."— *Catholic Mirror*, official organ of Cardinal Gibbons, September 23, 1893.

"The Pope can modify [change] the Divine Law."—Ferraris, *Ecclesiastical Dictionary*.

"We hold upon this earth the place of God Almighty."—Pope Leo XIII, in an encyclical letter, dated June 20, 1894, *The Great Encyclical Letters of Leo XIII*, p. 304.

"If Protestants would follow the Bible, they should worship God on the Sabbath day. In keeping the Sunday they are following a law of the Catholic Church."—Albert Smith,

Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, replying for the Cardinal, in a letter of February 10, 1920.

"Prove to me from the Bible alone that I am bound to keep Sunday holy. There is no such law in the Bible. It is a law of the holy Catholic Church alone. The Bible says 'Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.' The Catholic Church says, No. By my divine power I abolish the Sabbath day and command you to keep holy the first day of the week. And lo! The entire civilized world bows down in reverent obedience to the command of the Holy Catholic Church."—Priest Thomas Enright, CSSR, President of Redemptorist College, Kansas City, Mo., in a lecture at Hartford, Kansas Weekly Call, February 22, 1884, and *The American Sentinel*, a New York Roman Catholic journal, in June 1893, p. 173.

"Of course the Catholic Church claims that the change was her act . . . and the act is a MARK of her ecclesiastical power."—From the office of Cardinal Gibbons, through Chancellor H.F. Thomas, November 11, 1895.

"Sunday is our mark or authority... the church is above the Bible, and this transference of Sabbath observance is proof of that fact." *Catholic Record* of London, Ontario, September 1, 1923.

"Most Christians assume that Sunday is the biblically approved day of worship. The Catholic Church protests that it transferred Christian worship from the biblical Sabbath (Saturday) to Sunday, and that to try to argue that the change was made in the Bible is both dishonest and a denial of Catholic authority. If Protestantism wants to base its teachings only on the Bible, it should worship on Saturday." *Rome's Challenge* www.immaculateheart.com/maryonline Dec 2003.

"The Protestants of the world, the Adventists excepted, with the same Bible as their cherished and sole infallible teacher, by their practice, since their appearance in the sixteenth century, with the time-honored practice of the Jewish people before their eyes, have rejected the day

named for His worship by God, and assumed, in apparent contradiction of His command, a day for His worship never once referred to for that purpose, in the pages of that Sacred Volume." *Catholic Mirror*, Sept. 2, 1893.

The Bible Sabbath is not Jewish. It belongs to God.

Bible Prophecy (Daniel 7:25.) and history both testify to the fact that the Roman Catholic Church changed the Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday.

Sunday cannot be part of the New Covenant because Sunday keeping began after the blood of Jesus was shed. Matthew 26:28. After death, you cannot add to a covenant. Galatians 3:15.

"And when they had brought them, they set them before the council . . . Pe-



(This message is going around the world. Moscow above.)

ter and the other apostles answering, said: We ought to obey God, rather than men." Acts 5:27, 29.

Not every one that says to me, Lord, Lord, will enter into the kingdom of heaven; only he that does the will of my Father in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, Lord, Lord, did we not prophesied in thy name? and in your name have cast out demons? and in your name do many works of power? Then I will declare to them, "I never knew you: go away from me, you who work against God's law." Matthew 7:21-23 TNT

APPENDIX II

"FOR HE WHO COMES TO GOD MUST BELIEVE THAT HE IS, AND THAT HE IS A REWARDER OF THOSE WHO DILIGENTLY SEEK HIM." (Hebrews 11:6).

The world is soon to be judged. A righteous God must avenge the death of his Son. Today men are choosing



Popular Delusion EXPOSED



Barabbas, and saying, Crucify Christ. They will do this in the person of his saints. They will go over the same ground as the Jewish priests and rulers did in their treatment of Christ. He, the Son of God, an innocent man, was murdered because he told men truths that it did not please them to hear. Yet he was the Son of the infinite God.

Those who today despise the law of Jehovah, showing no respect for his commandments, are taking sides with the great apostate. They proclaim to a sin-corrupted world that the law of God is null and void. Those who declare this as truth deceive the people, and have virtually nailed the law of Jehovah to the cross between two thieves.

All the evil that existed in the Jewish nation is apparent today. The salt has lost its savor. The very ones who condemn and despise the Jewish nation because they refused to see in Christ all the specifications of prophecy, are in a similar deception. They have nailed to the cross the law of God, which made a necessity the gift of God's Son to the world. They have crucified the law of God, the foundation of His government in

heaven and in earth.

Satan is seeking to destroy the force of the Ten Commandments, urging his agents to declare that Christ nailed them to his cross. The cross is an immutable argument of the unchangeable character of the law of God. Christ died in order that a way might be provided for saving the sinner, in meeting the demands of the broken law. The law was written with the finger of God upon tables of stone, and John saw the temple of God open in heaven, and in the temple the ark of his covenant. "I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened;" Rev. 15:5. The word of God is to be of supreme authority. The Lord says, "My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips." Ps. 89:34.

Many in the Christian world do not see that it was only the ceremonial law which was abrogated at the death of Christ. They claim that the moral law was nailed to the cross. Heavy is the veil that darkens their understanding. The hearts of many are at war with God. They are not subject to His law. Only as they shall come into harmony with the rule of His government can Christ be of any avail to them. They may talk of Christ as their Saviour; but He will finally say

to them, I know you not. You have not exercised genuine repentance toward God for the transgression of His holy law, and you cannot have genuine faith in Me, for it was My mission to exalt God's law.

The moral law was never a type or a shadow. It existed before man's creation, and will endure as long as God's throne remains. God could not change or alter one precept of His law in order to save man; for the law is the foundation of His government. It is unchangeable, unalterable, infinite, and eternal. In order for man to be saved, and for the honor of the law to be maintained, it was necessary for the Son of God to offer Himself as a sacrifice for sin. He who knew no sin became sin for us. He died for us on Calvary. His death shows the wonderful love of God for man, and the immutability of His law.

Redemption is regeneration, or recreation. (2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 2:10). The power that created the heavens and the earth is the same power that redeems, sanctifies, and saves. Hence the seventh-day Sabbath is not simply a memorial of the great power of Jesus Christ in creation, but it is also a sign of Christ's power to save us from sin in redemption, or recreation. Sabbath keeping is a sign of our acceptance of God's

power working through Christ for our salvation from sin. The observance of the seventh-day Sabbath is an acknowledgment of Jesus Christ as our Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier. The Sabbath stands as a memorial of creation, a sign of redemption, a seal of sanctification.

The law and the gospel are in perfect harmony. Each upholds the other. In all its majesty the law confronts the conscience, causing the sinner to feel his need of Christ as the propitiation for sin. The gospel recognizes the power and immutability of the law. "I had not known sin, but by the law," Paul declares. The sense of sin, urged home by the law, drives the sinner to the Saviour. In his need man may present the mighty arguments furnished by the cross of Calvary. He may claim the righteousness of Christ; for it is imparted to every repentant sinner. God declares, "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out." "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all righteousness." 1 John 1:9.

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