

*Important
Bible Truths*



Harvestime Books

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Important Bible Truths

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These chapters are larger-print versions of a series of ten full-page newspaper ads which are currently being placed in local and large city newspapers.

Those ads may be obtained, on a donation basis, from the address at the bottom of this page. See the Introduction for additional information.

For God so loved the world,
That He gave His only begotten Son,
that whosoever believeth in Him
should not perish,
but have everlasting life.
— *John 3:16*

Contents

1 - How to Come to Christ and Stay Close to Him	
.....	page 5
2 - The Origin, Work, and Final Destruction of Satan	
.....	page 9
3 - The Snares Satan Uses to Destroy Your Children	
.....	page 13
4 - Jesus Will Help You Obey the Eternal Law of God	
.....	page 17
5 - The Ten Commandments: God's Moral Standard	
.....	page 21
6 - God Did not Change the Bible Sabbath to Sunday	
.....	page 25
7 - Where Did Sunday Sacredness Come From?	
.....	page 29
8 - Bible Facts about the Other Side of Death	
.....	page 33
9 - Bible Facts about the Death of the Wicked	
.....	page 37
10 - Bible Facts about Spiritism and Channeling	
.....	page 41

Introduction

The ten chapters in this booklet are taken from ten full-page newspaper ads, which are being placed in local and national newspapers.

The ads may be obtained from the publisher of this booklet on a donation basis. They are contained in two packets:

The **Sabbath Newspaper Ad Packet** has 62 pages and contains five ads:

- 1 - God Did not Change the Bible Sabbath to Sunday
- 2 - The Ten Commandments
- 3 - Where Did Sunday Sacredness Come From?
- 4 - Jesus Will Help You Obey the Eternal Law of God
- 5 - How to Come to Christ and Stay Close to Him

The sources for those ads are as follows: The second ad (Ten Commandments) is almost entirely taken from Exodus 20:3-17 and *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 305-309. The fifth ad is an abridgement of *Steps to Christ*, in the author's words. (You will also find this abridgement at the front of our 1888 edition of *Great Controversy*.) The others are taken from a collection of 32 Bible studies which will be released soon by Harvestime Books. (The entire collection, when printed, will be called *The Bible Says*.)

The **Death and Satan Newspaper Ad Packet** has 61 pages and five ads:

- 1 - Bible Facts about the Other Side of Death
- 2 - Bible Facts about the Death of the Wicked
- 3 - Bible Facts about Spiritism
- 4 - The Origin, Work, and Final Destruction of Satan
- 5 - The Snares Satan Uses to Destroy Your Children

Sources are as follows: The first three Bible studies are part of an unusually complete set of Bible

studies on what happens after death. The complete collection is entitled *Life Only in Christ* and can be obtained for \$5.00 for one, plus 1.50 for S&H.

The fourth ad consists of all of *Great Controversy*, chapter 29 (The Origin of Evil), which is the most sweeping panorama in the Spirit of Prophecy.

The fifth ad is all of *Great Controversy*, chapter 32 (The Snares of Satan), and is a remarkable exposé of Satan's devices to destroy mankind.

All of those ten newspaper ads have been included in the booklet you now have in hand, but with the following modifications:

- The ten topics have been rearranged for a better sequence of presentation.
- For this booklet, all of the ads have been enlarged in type size, to fit four 8½ x 11 pages.
- To the title, "The Ten Commandments," has been added, "God's Moral Standard."
- A few clarifying paragraphs have been added at the front of the Ten Commandments chapter and near the close before its quotation section.
- More stories have been added at the close of the chapter on spiritism and channeling.

This assemblage of ten chapters brings together the key issues and truths which need to be presented to the world at this time in history.

Each chapter study in this booklet fills four complete pages.

- You can xerox these pages and share them with others.
- You can cut them out of the book and share one chapter at a time.
- You can give someone the entire booklet.

And, of course, you can use many of these chapters as the basis for personal or group Bible studies.

How to Come to Christ and Stay Close to Him

HOW TO COME TO CHRIST

Nature and revelation alike testify of God's love. It is transgression of God's law - the law of love - that has brought woe and death. Yet even amid the suffering that results from sin, God's love is revealed. "God is love" is written upon every opening bud, upon every spire of springing grass.

Jesus came to live among men to reveal the infinite love of God. Love, mercy, and compassion were revealed in every act of His life; His heart went out in tender sympathy to the children of men. He took man's nature, that He might reach man's wants. The poorest and humblest were not afraid to approach Him. Such is the character of Christ as revealed in His life. This is the character of God.

It was to redeem us that Jesus lived and suffered and died. He became a "Man of Sorrows," that we might be made partakers of everlasting joy. But this great sacrifice was not made in order to create in the Father's heart a love for man, nor make Him willing to save. No, no! "God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son." John 3:16. The Father loves us, not because of the great propitiation, but He provided the propitiation because He loves us. None but the Son of God could accomplish our redemption.

What a value this places upon man! Through transgression the sons of man become subjects of Satan. Through faith in the atoning sacrifice of Christ the sons of Adam may become the sons of God. The matchless love of God for a world that did not love Him! The thought has a subduing power upon the soul and brings the mind into captivity to the will of God.

Man was originally endowed with noble powers and a well-balanced mind. He was perfect in his being, and in harmony with God. His thoughts were pure, his aims holy. But through disobedience, his powers were perverted, and selfishness took the place of love. His nature became so weakened through transgression that it was impossible for him, in his own strength, to resist the power of evil.

It is impossible for us, of ourselves, to escape from the pit of sin in which we are sunken. Our hearts are evil, and we cannot change them. There must be a power working from within, a new life from above, before men can be changed from sin to holiness. That power is Christ. His grace alone can quicken the lifeless faculties of the soul, and attract it to God, to holiness. To all, there is but one answer, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." John 1:29. Let us avail ourselves of the means provided for us that we may be transformed into His likeness, and be restored to fellowship with the ministering angels, to harmony and communion with the Father and the Son.

How shall a man be just with God? How shall the sinner be made righteous? It is only through Christ that we can be

brought into harmony with God, with holiness; but how are we to come to Christ?

Repentance includes sorrow for sin and a turning away from it. We shall not renounce sin unless we see its sinfulness; until we turn away from it in heart, there will be no real change in the life.

But when the heart yields to the influence of the Spirit of God, the conscience will be quickened, and the sinner will discern something of the depth and sacredness of God's holy law, the foundation of His government in heaven and on earth. Conviction takes hold upon the mind and heart.

The prayer of David, after his fall, illustrates the nature of true sorrow for sin. His repentance was sincere and deep. There was no effort to palliate his guilt; no desire to escape the judgment threatened inspired his prayer. David saw the enormity of his transgression; he saw the defilement of his soul; he loathed his sin. It was not for pardon only that he prayed, but for purity of heart. He longed for the joy of holiness, to be restored to harmony and communion with God. A repentance such as this is beyond the reach of our own power to accomplish; it is obtained only from Christ.

Christ is ready to set us free from sin, but He does not force the will. If we refuse, what more can He do? Study God's Word prayerfully. As you see the enormity of sin, as you see yourself as you really are, do not give up in despair. It was sinners that Christ came to save. When Satan comes to tell you that you are a great sinner, look to your Redeemer and talk of His merits. Acknowledge your sin, but tell the enemy that "Christ came into the world to save sinners" and that you may be saved (1 Timothy 1:15).

"He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy." Proverbs 28:13. The conditions of obtaining the mercy of God are simple and just and reasonable. Confess your sins to God, who only can forgive them, and your faults to one another. Those who have not humbled their souls before God, in acknowledging their guilt, have not yet fulfilled the first step of acceptance. We must be willing to humble our hearts and comply with the conditions of the Word of truth. The confession that is the outpouring of the inmost soul finds its way to the God of infinite pity. True confession is always of a specific character, and acknowledges particular sins. All confession should be definite and to the point. It is written, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9.

God's promise is, "Ye shall seek Me, and find Me, when ye shall search for Me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:13. The whole heart must be yielded, or the change can never be wrought in us by which we are to be restored to His likeness.

The warfare against self is the greatest battle that was ever fought. The yielding of self, surrendering all to the will of God, requires a struggle; but the soul must submit to God before it can be renewed in holiness.

In giving ourselves to God, we must necessarily give up all that would separate us from Him. There are those who profess to serve God while they rely upon their own efforts to obey His law, to form a right character and secure salvation. Their hearts are not moved by any deep sense of the love of Christ, but they seek to perform the duties of the Christian life as that which God requires of them in order to gain heaven. Such religion is worthless.

When Christ dwells in the heart, the soul will be so filled with His love, with the joy of communion with Him, that it will cleave to Him; and in the contemplation of Him, self will be forgotten. Love to Christ will be the spring of action. Such do not ask for the lowest standard, but aim at perfect conformity to the will of their Redeemer.

Do you feel that it is too great a sacrifice to yield all to Christ? Ask yourself the question, "What has Christ given for me?" The Son of God gave all - life and love and suffering - for our redemption. And can it be that we, the unworthy objects of so great love, will withhold our hearts from Him? What do we give up, when we give all? A sin-polluted heart, for Jesus to purify, to cleanse by His own blood, and to save by His matchless love. And yet men think it hard to give up all! God does not require us to give up anything that it is for our best interest to retain. In all that He does, He has the well-being of His children in view.

Many are inquiring, "How am I to make the surrender of myself to God?" You desire to give yourself to Him, but you are weak in moral power, in slavery to doubt, and controlled by the habits of your life of sin. Your promises and resolutions are like ropes of sand. You cannot control your thoughts, your impulses, your affections. The knowledge of your broken promises and forfeited pledges weakens your confidence in your own sincerity, and causes you to feel that God cannot accept you; but you need not despair.

What you need to understand is the true force of the will. This is the governing power in the nature of man, the power of decision, or of choice. Everything depends on the right action of the will. The power of choice God has given to men; it is theirs to exercise. You cannot change your heart, you cannot of yourself give to God its affections; but you can *choose* to serve Him. You can give Him your will; He will then work in you to will and to do according to His good pleasure. Thus your whole nature will be brought under the control of the Spirit of Christ; your affections will be centered upon Him, your thoughts will be in harmony with Him.

Desires for goodness and holiness are right as far as they go; but if you stop here, they will avail nothing. Many will be lost while hoping and desiring to be Christians. They do not come to the point of yielding the will to God. They do not *now choose* to be Christians.

Through the right exercise of the will, an entire change may be made in your life. You will have strength from above to hold you steadfast, and thus through constant surrender to God you will be enabled to live the new life, even the life of faith.

As your conscience has been quickened by the Holy Spirit, you have seen something of the evil of sin, of its power, its guilt, its woe; and you look upon it with abhorrence. It is peace that you need. You have confessed your sins, and in heart put them away. You have resolved to give yourself to God. Now go to Him, and ask that He will wash away your sins and give

you a new heart.

Then believe that He does this *because He has promised*. The gift which God promises us, we must believe we do receive, and it is ours. You are a sinner. You cannot atone for your past sins; you cannot change your heart and make yourself holy. But God promises to do all this for you through Christ. You *believe* that promise. You confess your sins and give yourself to God. You will to serve Him. Just as surely as you do this, God will fulfill His word to you. If you believe the promise, - God supplies the fact. Do not wait to *feel* that you are made whole, but say, "I believe it; it is so, not because I feel it, but because God promised."—*Summary of Steps to Christ, pages 9 to 51, in the author's own words.*

HOW TO STAY WITH CHRIST

Jesus says, "What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." Mark 11:24. There is a condition to this promise - that we pray according to the will of God. But it is the will of God to cleanse us from sin, to make us His children, and to enable us to live a holy life. So we may ask for these blessings, and believe that we receive them, and thank God that we *have* received them.

Henceforth you are not your own; you are bought with a price. Through this simple act of believing God, the Holy Spirit has begotten a new life in your heart. You are a child born into the family of God, and He loves you as He loves His Son.

Now that you have given yourself to Jesus, do not draw back, do not take yourself away from Him, but day by day say, "I am Christ's; I have given myself to Him," and ask Him to give you His Spirit and keep you by His grace. As it is by giving yourself to God, and believing Him, that you become His child, so you are to live in Him.

Here is where thousands fail; they do not believe that Jesus pardons them personally, individually. They do not take God at His Word. It is the privilege of all who comply with the conditions to know for themselves that pardon is freely extended for every sin. Put away the suspicion that God's promises are not meant for you. They are for every repentant transgressor.

Look up, you that are doubting and trembling; for Jesus lives to make intercession for us. Thank God for the gift of His dear Son.

"If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." 2 Corinthians 5:17.

A person may not be able to tell the exact time or place, or trace all the chain of circumstances in this process of conversion; but this does not prove him to be unconverted. A change will be seen in the character, the habits, the pursuits. The contrast will be clear and decided between what they have been and what they have become. Who has the heart? With whom are our thoughts? Of whom do we love to converse? Who has our warmest affections and our best energies? If we are Christ's, our thoughts are with Him. There is no evidence of genuine repentance unless it works reformation. The loveliness of the character of Christ will be seen in His followers. It was His delight to do the will of God.

There are two errors against which the children of God especially need to guard: The first is that of looking to their own works, trusting to anything they can do, to bring themselves into harmony with God. All that man can do without Christ is polluted with selfishness and sin. It is the grace of

Christ alone, through faith, which can make us holy.

The opposite and no less dangerous error is that belief in Christ releases men from keeping the law of God; that since by faith alone we become partakers of the grace of Christ, our works have nothing to do with our redemption.

Obedience is the fruit of faith. Righteousness is defined by the standard of God's holy law, as expressed in the ten commandments (Exodus 20:3-20). That so-called faith in Christ which professes to release men from the obligation of obedience to God, is not faith, but presumption. The condition of eternal life is now just what it always has been - just what it was in paradise before the fall of our first parents - perfect obedience to the law of God, perfect righteousness. If eternal life were granted on any condition short of this, then the happiness of the whole universe would be imperiled. The way would be open for sin, with all its train of woe and misery, to be immortalized.

Christ changes the heart. He abides in your heart by faith. You are to maintain this connection with Christ by faith and the continual surrender of your will to Him; and so long as you do this, He will work in you to will and to do according to His good pleasure.

The closer you come to Jesus, the more faulty you will appear in your own eyes; for your vision will be clearer. This is evidence that Satan's delusions are losing their power. No deep-seated love for Jesus can dwell in the heart that does not realize its own sinfulness. The soul that is transformed by the grace of Christ will admire His character. A view of our sinfulness drives us to Him who can pardon; and when the soul, realizing its helplessness, reaches out after Christ, He will reveal Himself in power. The more our sense of need drives us to Him and to the Word of God, the more exalted views we shall have of His character, and the more fully we shall reflect His image.

The change of heart by which we become children of God is in the Bible spoken of as birth. Again it is compared to the germination of the good seed sown by the husbandman. It is God who brings the bud to bloom and the flower to fruit. It is by His power that the seed develops.

As the flower turns to the sun, that the bright beams may aid in perfecting its beauty and symmetry, so should we turn to the Sun of Righteousness, that heaven's light may shine upon us, that our character may be developed into the likeness of Christ.

Do you ask, "How am I to abide in Christ?" In the same way as you received Him at first. "As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him." Colossians 2:6. By faith you became Christ's, and by faith you are to grow up in Him - by giving and taking. You are to give all, - your heart, your will, your service - give yourself to Him to obey all His requirements; and you must take all - Christ, the fullness of all blessing, to abide in your heart, to be your strength, your righteousness, your everlasting helper - to give you power to obey.

Consecrate yourself to God in the morning; make this your very first work. Let your prayer be, "Take me, O Lord, as wholly Thine. I lay all my plans at Thy feet. Use me today in Thy service. Abide with me, and let all my work be wrought in Thee." This is a daily matter. Each morning consecrate yourself to God for that day. Surrender all your plans to Him, to be carried out or given up as His providence shall indicate. Thus day by day you may be giving your life into the hands of God, and thus your life will be molded more and more after the life of Christ.

A life in Christ is a life of restfulness. There may be no ecstasy of feeling, but there should be an abiding, peaceful trust. When the mind dwells upon self, it is turned away from Christ, the source of strength and life. Hence, it is Satan's constant

effort to keep the attention diverted from the Saviour and thus prevent the union and communion of the soul with Christ.

When Christ took human nature upon Him, He bound humanity to Himself by a tie of love that can never be broken by any power, save the choice of man himself. Satan will constantly present allurements to induce us to break this tie - to choose to separate ourselves from Christ. But let us keep our eyes fixed upon Christ, and He will preserve us. Looking unto Jesus, we are safe. Nothing can pluck us out of His hand. All that Christ was to the disciples, He desires to be to His children today.

Jesus prayed for us, and He asked that we might be one with Him, even as He is one with the Father. What a union is this! Thus, loving Him and abiding in Him, we shall "grow up into Him in all things, which is the head, even Christ." Ephesians 4:15.

God is the source of life and light and joy to the universe. Wherever the life of God is in the hearts of men, it will flow out to others in love and blessing.

Our Saviour's joy was in the uplifting and redemption of fallen men. For this He counted not His life dear to Himself, but endured the cross, despising the shame. When the love of Christ is enshrined in the heart, like sweet fragrance it cannot be hidden. Love to Jesus will be manifested in a desire to work as He worked for the blessing and uplifting of humanity. It will lead to love, tenderness, and sympathy toward all the creatures of our heavenly Father's care. Those who are the partakers of the grace of Christ will be ready to make any sacrifice, that others for whom He died may share the heavenly gift. They will do all they can to make the world better for their stay in it. This spirit is the sure outgrowth of a soul truly converted. No sooner does one come to Christ than there is born in his heart a desire to make known to others what a precious friend he has found in Jesus. If we have tasted and seen that the Lord is good, we shall have something to tell. We shall seek to present to others the attractions of Christ and the unseen realities of the world to come. There will be an intensity of desire to follow in the path that Jesus trod.

And the effort to bless others will react in blessings upon ourselves. Those who thus become participants in labors of love are brought nearest to their Creator. The spirit of unselfish labor for others gives depth, stability, and Christlike loveliness to the character, and brings peace and happiness to its possessor. Strength comes by exercise. We need not go to heathen lands, or even leave the narrow circle of the home, if it is there that our duty lies, in order to work for Christ. With a loving spirit we may perform life's humblest duties "unto the Lord." Colossians 3:23. If the love of God is in the heart, it will be manifested in the life. You are not to wait for great occasions or to expect extraordinary abilities before you go to work for God. The humblest and poorest of the disciples of Jesus can be a blessing to others.

Many are the ways in which God is seeking to make Himself known to us and bring us into communion with Him. If we will but listen, Nature speaks to our senses without ceasing. God's created works will teach us precious lessons of obedience and trust.

No tears are shed that God does not notice. There is no smile that He does not mark. If we would but fully believe this, all undue anxieties would be dismissed. Our lives would not be so filled with disappointment as now; for everything, whether great or small, would be left in the hands of God.

God speaks to us through His providential works and through the influence of His Spirit upon the heart. God speaks to us in His Word. Here we have in clearer lines the revelation

of His character, of His dealings with men, and the great work of redemption. Fill the whole heart with the words of God. They are the living water, quenching your burning thirst. They are the living bread from heaven.

The theme of redemption is one that the angels desire to look into; it will be the science and the song of the redeemed throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity. Is it not worthy of careful thought and study now? As we meditate upon the Saviour, there will be a hungering and thirsting of soul to become like Him whom we adore.

The Bible was written for the common people. The great truths necessary for salvation are made as clear as noonday. There is nothing more calculated to strengthen the intellect than the study of the Scriptures. But there is little benefit derived from a hasty reading of the Bible. One passage studied until its significance is clear to the mind and its relation to the plan of salvation is evident, is of more value than the perusal of many chapters with no definite purpose in view and no positive instruction gained.

Keep your Bible with you. As you have opportunity, read it; fix the texts in your memory.

We cannot obtain wisdom without earnest attention and prayerful study. Never should the Bible be studied without prayer. Before opening its pages, we should ask for the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit, and it will be given. Angels from the world of light will be with those who in humility of heart seek for divine guidance. How must God esteem the human race, since He gave His Son to die for them and appointed His Holy Spirit to be man's teacher and continual guide!

Through nature and revelation, through His providence, and by the influence of His Spirit, God speaks to us. But these are not enough; we need also to pour out our hearts to Him. In order to commune with God, we must have something to say to Him concerning our actual life.

Prayer is the opening of the heart to God as to a friend. Not that it is necessary in order to make known to God what we are, but in order to enable us to receive Him. Prayer does not bring God down to us, but brings us up to Him.

Our heavenly Father waits to bestow upon us the fullness of His blessing. What a wonder it is that we pray so little! God is ready and willing to hear the sincere prayer of the humblest of His children. What can the angels of heaven think of poor helpless human beings, who are subject to temptation, when God's heart of infinite love yearns toward them, ready to give them more than they can ask or think, and yet they pray so little and have so little faith?

The darkness of the evil one encloses those who neglect to pray. The whispered temptations of the enemy entice them to sin; and it is all because they do not make use of prayer. Yet prayer is the key in the hand of faith to unlock heaven's storehouse, where are treasured the boundless resources of Omnipotence.

There are certain conditions upon which we may expect that God will hear and answer our prayers:

One is that we feel our need of help from Him. If we regard iniquity in our hearts, if we cling to any known sin, the Lord will not hear us; but the prayer of the penitent, contrite soul is always accepted. When all known wrongs are righted, we may believe that God will answer our petitions.

Another element of prevailing prayer is faith. When our prayers seem not to be answered, we are to cling to the promise; for the time of answering will surely come, and we shall

receive the blessing we need most. But to claim that prayer will always be answered in the very way and for the particular thing that we desire is presumption.

When we come to God in prayer, we should have a spirit of love and forgiveness in our own hearts.

Perseverance in prayer has been made a condition of receiving. We must pray always if we would grow in faith and experience.

We should pray in the family circle, and above all we must not neglect secret prayer, for this is the life of the soul. Family or public prayer alone is not sufficient. Secret prayer is to be heard only by the prayer-hearing God.

There is no time or place in which it is inappropriate to offer up a petition to God. In the crowds of the street, in the midst of a business engagement, we may send up a petition to God and plead for divine guidance.

Let the soul be drawn out and upward, that God may grant us a breath of the heavenly atmosphere. We may keep so near to God that in every unexpected trial our thoughts will turn to Him as naturally as the flower turns to the sun. Keep your wants, your joys, your sorrows, your cares, and your fears before God. You cannot burden Him; you cannot weary Him. He is not indifferent to the wants of His children.

We sustain a loss when we neglect the privilege of associating together to strengthen and encourage one another in the service of God. If Christians would associate together, speaking to each other of the love of God and the precious truths of redemption, their own hearts would be refreshed and they would refresh one another.

We must gather about the cross. Christ and Him crucified should be the theme of contemplation, of conversation, and of our most joyful emotion. We should keep in our thoughts every blessing we receive from God, and when we realize His great love we should be willing to trust everything to the hand that was nailed to the cross for us.

The soul may ascend nearer heaven on the wings of praise. As we express our gratitude, we are approximating to the worship of the heavenly hosts.

Many are at times troubled with the suggestions of skepticism. God never asks us to believe, without giving sufficient evidence upon which to base our faith. Disguise it as they may, the real cause of doubt and skepticism, in most cases, is the love of sin. We must have a sincere desire to know the truth and a willingness of heart to obey it.—*Summary of Steps to Christ, pages 51 to 111, in the author's own words.*

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT —

The Origin, Work, and Final Destruction of Satan

How DID evil begin? Why IS there sin anyway? Here is one of the most sweeping chapters in this entire book of the ages. Read that most amazing of stories—how sin began—

Although surrounded by continual selflessness, something happened. What could turn an angel of light into a devil—and do it right in the middle of heaven? This is something you will want to read. It will tell you why God had to wait—and the wonderful future in store for His children—because He did.

To many minds, the origin of sin and the reason for its existence are a source of great perplexity. They see the work of evil, with its terrible results of woe and desolation, and they question how all this can exist under the sovereignty of One who is infinite in wisdom, in power, and in love. Here is a mystery, of which they find no explanation. And in their uncertainty and doubt, they are blinded to truths plainly revealed in God's Word, and essential to salvation. There are those who, in their inquiries concerning the existence of sin, endeavor to search into that which God has never revealed; hence they find no solution of their difficulties; and such as are actuated by a disposition to doubt and cavil, seize upon this as an excuse for rejecting the words of Holy Writ. Others, however, fail of a satisfactory understanding of the great problem of evil, from the fact that tradition and misinterpretation have obscured the teaching of the Bible concerning the character of God, the nature of His government, and the principles of His dealing with sin.

It is impossible to so explain the origin of sin as to give a reason for its existence. Yet enough may be understood concerning both the origin and the final disposition of sin, to fully make manifest the justice and benevolence of God in all His dealings with evil. Nothing is more plainly taught in Scripture than that God was in nowise responsible for the entrance of sin; that there was no arbitrary withdrawal of divine grace, no deficiency in the divine government, that gave occasion for the uprising of rebellion. Sin is an intruder, for whose presence no reason can be given. It is mysterious, unaccountable; to excuse it, is to defend it. Could excuse for it be found, or cause be shown for its existence, it would cease to be sin. Our only definition of sin is that given in the Word of God; it is "the transgression of the law"; it is the outworking of a principle at war with the great law of love which is the foundation of the divine government.

Before the entrance of evil, there was peace and joy throughout the universe. All was in perfect harmony with the Creator's will. Love for God was supreme, love for one another impartial. Christ the Word, the only begotten of God, was one with the eternal Father,—one in nature, in character, and in purpose,—the only being in all the universe that could

enter into all the counsels and purposes of God. By Christ, the Father wrought in the creation of all heavenly beings. "By Him were all things created, that are in Heaven . . . whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers"; (Colossians 1:16) and to Christ, equally with the Father, all Heaven gave allegiance.

The law of love being the foundation of the government of God, the happiness of all created beings depended upon their perfect accord with its great principles of righteousness. God desires from all His creatures the service of love,—homage that springs from an intelligent appreciation of His character. He takes no pleasure in a forced allegiance, and to all He grants freedom of will, that they may render Him voluntary service.

But there was one that chose to pervert this freedom. Sin originated with him, who, next to Christ, had been most honored of God, and who stood highest in power and glory among the inhabitants of Heaven. Before his fall, Lucifer was first of the covering cherubs, holy and undefiled. "Thus saith the Lord God: Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering." "Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so; thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee." Ezekiel 28:12-15.

Lucifer might have remained in favor with God, beloved and honored by all the angelic host, exercising his noble powers to bless others and to glorify His Maker. But, says the prophet, "Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness." Ezekiel 28:17. Little by little, Lucifer came to indulge a desire for self-exaltation. "Thou hast set thine heart as the heart of God." "Thou hast said . . . I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation." "I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the Most High." Ezekiel 28:6; Isaiah 14:13, 14. Instead of seeking to make God supreme in the affections and allegiance of His creatures, it was Lucifer's endeavor to win their service and homage to himself. And, coveting the honor which the infinite Father had bestowed upon His Son, this prince of angels aspired to power which it was the prerogative of Christ alone to wield.

All Heaven had rejoiced to reflect the Creator's glory and to show forth His praise. And while God was thus honored, all had been peace and gladness. But a note of discord now marred the celestial harmonies. The service and exaltation of self, contrary to the Creator's plan, awak-

ened forebodings of evil in minds to whom God's glory was supreme. **The heavenly councils pleaded with Lucifer.** The Son of God presented before him the greatness, the goodness, and the justice of the Creator, and the sacred, unchanging nature of His law. God Himself had established the order of Heaven; and in departing from it, Lucifer would dishonor his Maker, and bring ruin upon himself. **But the warning, given in infinite love and mercy, only aroused a spirit of resistance. Lucifer allowed jealousy of Christ to prevail, and he became the more determined.**

Pride in his own glory nourished the desire for supremacy. The high honors conferred upon Lucifer were not appreciated as the gift of God, and called forth no gratitude to the Creator. He gloried in his brightness and exaltation, and aspired to be equal with God. He was beloved and revered by the heavenly host. Angels delighted to execute his commands, and he was clothed with wisdom and glory above them all. **Yet the Son of God was the acknowledged sovereign of Heaven, one in power and authority with the Father. In all the counsels of God, Christ was a participant, while Lucifer was not permitted thus to enter into the divine purposes.** "Why," questioned this mighty angel, "should Christ have the supremacy? Why is He thus honored above Lucifer?"

Leaving his place in the immediate presence of God, Lucifer went forth to diffuse the spirit of discontent among the angels. Working with mysterious secrecy, and for a time concealing his real purpose under an appearance of reverence for God, **he endeavored to excite dissatisfaction concerning the laws that governed heavenly beings, intimating that they imposed an unnecessary restraint.** Since their natures were holy, he urged that the angels should obey the dictates of their own will. He sought to create sympathy for himself, by representing that God had dealt unjustly with him in bestowing supreme honor upon Christ. **He claimed that in aspiring to greater power and honor he was not aiming at self-exaltation, but was seeking to secure liberty for all the inhabitants of Heaven, that by this means they might attain to a higher state of existence.**

God, in His great mercy, bore long with Lucifer. He was not immediately degraded from his exalted station when he first indulged the spirit of discontent, nor even when he began to present his false claims before the loyal angels. Long was he retained in Heaven. Again and again he was offered pardon, on condition of repentance and submission. **Such efforts as only infinite love and wisdom could devise, were made to convince him of his error. The spirit of discontent had never before been known in Heaven. Lucifer himself did not at first see whither he was drifting; he did not understand the real nature of his feelings. But as his dissatisfaction was proved to be without cause, Lucifer was convinced that he was in the wrong, that the divine claims were just, and that he ought to acknowledge them as such before all Heaven. Had he done this, he might have saved himself and many angels.** He had not at this time fully cast off his allegiance to God. Though he had forsaken his position as covering cherub, yet if he had been willing to return to God, acknowledging the Creator's wisdom, and satisfied to fill the place appointed him in God's great plan, he would have been re-instated in his office. **But pride forbade him to submit. He persistently defended his own course, maintained that he had no need of repentance, and fully committed himself, in**

the great controversy, against his Maker.

All the powers of his master-mind were now bent to the work of deception, to secure the sympathy of the angels that had been under his command. Even the fact that Christ had warned and counseled him, was perverted to serve his traitorous designs. To those whose loving trust bound them most closely to him, Satan had represented that he was wrongly judged, that his position was not respected, and that his liberty was to be abridged. **From misrepresentation of the words of Christ, he passed to prevarication and direct falsehood,** accusing the Son of God of a design to humiliate him before the inhabitants of Heaven. He sought also to make a false issue between himself and the loyal angels. **All whom he could not subvert and bring fully to his side, he accused of indifference to the interests of heavenly beings. The very work which he himself was doing, he charged upon those who remained true to God.** And to sustain his charge of God's injustice toward him, he resorted to misrepresentation of the words and acts of the Creator. **It was his policy to perplex the angels with subtle arguments concerning the purposes of God. Everything that was simple he shrouded in mystery,** and by artful perversion cast doubt upon the plainest statements of Jehovah. His high position, in such close connection with the divine administration, gave greater force to his representations, and many were induced to unite with him in rebellion against Heaven's authority.

God in His wisdom permitted Satan to carry forward his work, until the spirit of disaffection ripened into active revolt. It was necessary for his plans to be fully developed, that their true nature and tendency might be seen by all. Lucifer, as the anointed cherub, had been highly exalted; he was greatly loved by the heavenly beings, and his influence over them was strong. God's government included not only the inhabitants of Heaven, but all the worlds that He had created; and **Satan thought that if he could carry the angels of Heaven with him in rebellion, he could carry also the other worlds.** He had artfully presented his side of the question, employing sophistry and fraud to secure his objects. His power to deceive was very great, and by disguising himself in a cloak of falsehood he had gained an advantage. **Even the loyal angels could not fully discern his character, or see to what his work was leading.**

Satan had been so highly honored, and all his acts were so clothed with mystery, that it was difficult to disclose to the angels the true nature of his work. Until fully developed, sin would not appear the evil thing it was. Heretofore it had had no place in the universe of God, and holy beings had no conception of its nature and malignity. They could not discern the terrible consequences that would result from setting aside the divine law. **Satan had, at first, concealed his work under a specious profession of loyalty to God. He claimed to be seeking to promote the honor of God, the stability of His government, and the good of all the inhabitants of Heaven.** While instilling discontent into the minds of the angels under him, he had artfully made it appear that he was seeking to remove dissatisfaction. When he urged that changes be made in the order and laws of God's government, it was under the pretense that these were necessary in order to preserve harmony in Heaven.

In his dealing with sin, God could employ only righteousness and truth. Satan could use what God could not—flattery and deceit. He had sought to falsify the word

of God, and had misrepresented His plan of government before the angels, claiming that God was not just in laying laws and rules upon the inhabitants of Heaven; that in requiring submission and obedience from His creatures, He was seeking merely the exaltation of Himself. **Therefore it must be demonstrated before the inhabitants of Heaven as well as of all the worlds, that God's government was just, His law perfect.** Satan had made it appear that he himself was seeking to promote the good of the universe. The true character of the usurper, and his real object, must be understood by all. He must have time to manifest himself by his wicked works.

The discord which his own course had caused in Heaven, Satan charged upon the law and government of God. All evil he declared to be the result of the divine administration. He claimed that it was his own object to improve upon the statutes of Jehovah. Therefore it was necessary that he should demonstrate the nature of His claims, and show the working out of his proposed changes in the divine law. **His own work must condemn him. Satan had claimed from the first that he was not in rebellion. The whole universe must see the deceiver unmasked.**

Even when it was decided that he could no longer remain in Heaven, infinite wisdom did not destroy Satan. Since the service of love can alone be acceptable to God, the allegiance of His creatures must rest upon a conviction of His justice and benevolence. **The inhabitants of Heaven and of other worlds, being unprepared to comprehend the nature or consequences of sin, could not then have seen the justice and mercy of God in the destruction of Satan.** Had he been immediately blotted from existence, they would have served God from fear, rather than from love. The influence of the deceiver would not have been fully destroyed, nor would the spirit of rebellion have been utterly eradicated. **Evil must be permitted to come to maturity. For the good of the entire universe through ceaseless ages, Satan must more fully develop his principles,** that his charges against the divine government might be seen in their true light by all created beings, that the justice and mercy of God and the immutability of His law might forever be placed beyond all question.

Satan's rebellion was to be a lesson to the universe through all coming ages, a perpetual testimony to the nature and terrible results of sin. The working out of Satan's rule, its effects upon both men and angels, would show what must be the fruit of setting aside the divine authority. It would testify that with the existence of God's government and His law is bound up the well-being of all the creatures He has made. Thus the history of this terrible experiment of rebellion was to be a perpetual safeguard to all holy intelligences, to prevent them from being deceived as to the nature of transgression, to save them from committing sin, and suffering its punishment.

To the very close of the controversy in Heaven, the great usurper continued to justify himself. When it was announced that with all his sympathizers he must be expelled from the abodes of bliss, then the rebel leader boldly avowed his contempt for the Creator's law. He reiterated his claim that angels needed no control, but should be left to follow their own will, which would ever guide them right. **He denounced the divine statutes as a restriction of their liberty, and declared that it was his purpose to secure the abolition of law;** that, freed from this restraint, the hosts of Heaven might enter upon a more exalted, more glorious state

of existence.

With one accord, Satan and his host threw the blame of their rebellion wholly upon Christ, declaring that if they had not been reprov'd, they would never have rebelled. Thus stubborn and defiant in their disloyalty, seeking vainly to overthrow the government of God, yet blasphemously claiming to be themselves the innocent victims of oppressive power, **the arch-rebel and all his sympathizers were at last banished from Heaven.**

The same spirit that prompted rebellion in Heaven, still inspires rebellion on earth. Satan has continued with men the same policy which he pursued with the angels. His spirit now reigns in the children of disobedience. Like him they seek to break down the restraints of the law of God, and promise men liberty through transgression of its precepts. Reproof of sin still arouses the spirit of hatred and resistance. When God's messages of warning are brought home to the conscience, **Satan leads men to justify themselves, and to seek the sympathy of others in their course of sin. Instead of correcting their errors, they excite indignation against the reprov'er,** as if he were the sole cause of difficulty. From the days of righteous Abel to our own time, such is the spirit which has been displayed toward those who dare to condemn sin.

By the same misrepresentation of the character of God as he had practiced in Heaven, causing him to be regarded as severe and tyrannical, **Satan induced man to sin. And having succeeded thus far, he declared that God's unjust restrictions had led to man's fall, as they had led to his own rebellion.**

But the Eternal One Himself proclaims His character: "The Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty." Exodus 34:6, 7.

In the banishment of Satan from Heaven, God declared His justice, and maintained the honor of His throne. But when man had sinned through yielding to the deceptions of this apostate spirit, God gave an evidence of His love by yielding up His only begotten Son to die for the fallen race. In the atonement the character of God is revealed. The mighty argument of the cross demonstrates to the whole universe that the course of sin which Lucifer had chosen was in nowise chargeable upon the government of God.

In the contest between Christ and Satan, during the Saviour's earthly ministry, the character of the great deceiver was unmasked. Nothing could so effectually have uprooted Satan from the affections of the heavenly angels and the whole loyal universe as did his cruel warfare upon the world's Redeemer. The daring blasphemy of his demand that Christ should pay him homage, his presumptuous boldness in bearing Him to the mountain summit and the pinnacle of the temple, the malicious intent betrayed in urging Him to cast Himself down from the dizzy height, the unsleeping malice that hunted Him from place to place, inspiring the hearts of priests and people to reject His love, and at the last to cry, "Crucify Him! crucify Him!"—all this excited the amazement and indignation of the universe.

It was Satan that prompted the world's rejection of Christ. The prince of evil exerted all his power and cunning to destroy Jesus; for he saw that the Saviour's mercy and love, His compassion and pitying tenderness, were representing to the world the character of God. Satan contested every claim put forth by the Son of God, and employed

men as His agents to fill the Saviour's life with suffering and sorrow. The sophistry and falsehood by which he had sought to hinder the work of Jesus, the hatred manifested through the children of disobedience, his cruel accusations against Him whose life was one of unexampled goodness, all sprung from deep-seated revenge. **The pent-up fires of envy and malice, hatred and revenge, burst forth on Calvary against the Son of God, while all Heaven gazed upon the scene in silent horror.**

When the great sacrifice had been consummated, Christ ascended on high, refusing the adoration of angels until He had presented the request, "I will that they also, whom thou hast given Me, be with Me where I am." John 17:24. Then with inexpressible love and power came forth the answer from the Father's throne, "Let all the angels of God worship Him." Hebrews 1:6. Not a stain rested upon Jesus. His humiliation ended, His sacrifice completed, there was given unto Him a name that is above every name.

Now the guilt of Satan stood forth without excuse. He had revealed his true character as a liar and a murderer. It was seen that the very same spirit with which he ruled the children of men, who were under his power, he would have manifested had he been permitted to control the inhabitants of Heaven. **He had claimed that the transgression of God's law would bring liberty and exaltation; but it was seen to result in bondage and degradation.**

Satan's lying charges against the divine character and government appeared in their true light. He had accused God of seeking merely the exaltation of Himself in requiring submission and obedience from His creatures, and had declared that while the Creator exacted self-denial from all others, He Himself practiced no self-denial, made no sacrifice. **Now it was seen that for the salvation of a fallen and sinful race, the Ruler of the universe had made the greatest sacrifice which love could make;** for "God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself." 2 Corinthians 5:19. It was seen, also, that while Lucifer had opened the door for the entrance of sin, by his desire for honor and supremacy, **Christ had, in order to destroy sin, humbled Himself, and become obedient unto death.**

God had manifested His abhorrence of the principles of rebellion. All Heaven saw His justice revealed, both in the condemnation of Satan and in the redemption of man. Lucifer had declared that if the law of God was changeless, and its penalty could not be remitted, every transgressor must be forever debarred from the Creator's favor. He had claimed that the sinful race were placed beyond redemption, and were therefore his rightful prey. **But the death of Christ was an argument in man's behalf that could not be overthrown.** The penalty of the law fell upon him who was equal with God, and man was free to accept the righteousness of Christ, and by a life of penitence and humiliation to triumph, as the Son of God had triumphed, over the power of Satan. Thus God is just, and yet the justifier of all who believe in Jesus.

But it was not merely to accomplish the redemption of man that Christ came to the earth to suffer and to die. He came to "magnify the law" and to "make it honorable." Not alone that the inhabitants of this world might regard the law as it should be regarded; but it was to demonstrate to all the worlds of the universe that God's law is

unchangeable. **Could its claims have been set aside, then the Son of God need not have yielded up His life to atone for its transgression. The death of Christ proves it immutable.** And the sacrifice to which infinite love impelled the Father and the Son, that sinners might be redeemed, demonstrates to all the universe—what nothing less than this plan of atonement could have sufficed to do—that justice and mercy are the foundation of the law and government of God.

In the final execution of the Judgment it will be seen that no cause for sin exists. When the Judge of all the earth shall demand of Satan, "Why hast thou rebelled against Me, and robbed me of the subjects of My kingdom?" the originator of evil can render no excuse. Every mouth will be stopped, and all the hosts of rebellion will be speechless.

The cross of Calvary, while it declares the law immutable, proclaims to the universe that the wages of sin is death. In the Saviour's expiring cry, "It is finished," the death-knell of Satan was rung. The great controversy which had been so long in progress was then decided, and the final eradication of evil was made certain. The Son of God passed through the portals of the tomb, that "through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil." Hebrews 2:14. Lucifer's desire for self-exaltation had led him to say, "I will exalt my throne above the stars of God . . . I will be like the Most High." God declares, "I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth . . . and never shalt thou be any more." Isaiah 14:13, 14; Ezekiel 28:18, 19. When **"the day cometh that shall burn as an oven," "all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble; and the day that cometh shall burn them up,** saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch." Malachi 4:1.

The whole universe will have become witnesses to the nature and results of sin. And its utter extermination, which in the beginning would have brought fear to angels and dishonor to God, will now vindicate His love and establish His honor before a universe of beings who delight to do His will, and in whose heart is His law. Never will evil again be manifest. Says the Word of God, "Affliction shall not rise up the second time." Nahum 1:9. The law of God, which Satan has reproached as the yoke of bondage, will be honored as the law of liberty. **A tested and proved creation will never again be turned from allegiance to Him whose character has been fully manifested before them as fathomless love and infinite wisdom.**

—*Great Controversy, chapter 29*

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT —

The Snares Satan Uses to Destroy Your Children

Satan is determined to entrap everyone who would seek to become a Christian. And he wants their children as well. Many are caught everyday, not realizing how he operates.—

This chapter tells about Satan's tool box, for he has scores of devices to destroy souls—and yet most people are not even aware that such tools exist. Here are Satan's sixty-five snares.

The great controversy between Christ and Satan, that has been carried forward for nearly six thousand years, is soon to close; and the wicked one redoubles his efforts to defeat the work of Christ in man's behalf, and to fasten souls in his snares. To hold the people in darkness and impenitence till the Saviour's mediation is ended, and there is no longer a sacrifice for sin, is the object which he seeks to accomplish.

When there is no special effort made to resist his power, when indifference prevails in the church and the world, Satan is not concerned; for he is in no danger of losing those whom he is leading captive at his will. But **when the attention is called to eternal things, and souls are inquiring, "What must I do to be saved?" he is on the ground, seeking to match his power against the power of Christ, and to counteract the influence of the Holy Spirit.**

The Scriptures declare that upon one occasion, when the angels of God came to present themselves before the Lord, Satan came also among them, (Job 1:6) not to bow before the Eternal King, but to further his own malicious designs against the righteous. **With the same object he is in attendance when men assemble for the worship of God. Though hidden from sight, he is working with all diligence to control the minds of the worshippers.** Like a skillful general, he lays his plans beforehand. As he sees the messenger of God searching the Scriptures, he takes note of the subject to be presented to the people. Then he employs all his cunning and shrewdness to so control circumstances that the message may not reach those whom he is deceiving on that very point. The one who most needs the warning will be urged into some business transaction which requires his presence, or will by some other means be prevented from hearing the words that might prove to him a savor of life unto life.

Again, Satan sees the Lord's servants burdened because of the spiritual darkness that enshrouds the people. He hears their earnest prayers for divine grace and power to break the spell of indifference, carelessness, and indolence. Then with renewed zeal he plies his arts. He tempts men to the indulgence of appetite or to some other form of self-gratification, and thus benumbs their sensibilities, so that they fail to hear the very things which they most need to learn.

Satan well knows that all whom he can lead to neglect prayer and the searching of the Scriptures will be overcome by his attacks. **Therefore he invents every possible device to engross the mind.** There has ever been a class professing godliness, who, instead of following on to know the truth, make it their religion to seek some fault of character or error of faith in those with whom they do not agree. Such are Satan's right-hand helpers. Accusers of the brethren are not few; and they are always active when God is at work, and His servants are rendering Him true homage. They will put a false coloring upon the words and acts of those who love and obey the truth. They will represent the most earnest, zealous, self-denying servants of Christ as deceived or deceivers. It is their work to misrepresent the motives of every true and noble deed, to circulate insinuations, and arouse suspicion in the minds of the inexperienced. In every conceivable manner they will seek to cause that which is pure and righteous to be regarded as foul and deceptive.

But none need be deceived concerning them. It may be readily seen whose children they are, whose example they follow, and whose work they do. "Ye shall know them by their fruits." Matthew 7:16. Their course resembles that of Satan, the envenomed slanderer, "the accuser of our brethren." Revelation 12:10.

The great deceiver has many agents ready to present any and every kind of error to ensnare souls,—heresies prepared to suit the varied tastes and capacities of those whom he would ruin. **It is his plan to bring into the church insincere, unregenerate elements that will encourage doubt and unbelief, and hinder all who desire to see the work of God advance,** and to advance with it. Many who have no real faith in God or in His Word, assent to some principles of truth, and pass as Christians; and thus they are enabled to introduce their errors as scriptural doctrines.

The position that it is of no consequence what men believe, is one of Satan's most successful deceptions. He knows that the truth, received in the love of it, sanctifies the soul of the receiver; therefore **he is constantly seeking to substitute false theories, fables, another gospel.** From the beginning, the servants of God have contended against false teachers, not merely as vicious men, but as inculcators of falsehoods that were fatal to the soul. Elijah, Jeremiah, Paul, firmly and fearlessly opposed those who were turning men from the Word of God. That liberality which regards a correct religious faith as unimportant, found no favor with these holy defenders of the truth.

The vague and fanciful interpretations of Scripture, and the many conflicting theories concerning religious

faith, that are found in the Christian world, are the work of our great adversary to so confuse minds that they shall not discern the truth. And the discord and division which exist among the churches of Christendom are in a great measure due to the prevailing custom of wresting the Scriptures to support a favorite theory. Instead of carefully studying God's Word with humility of heart to obtain a knowledge of His will, many seek only to discover something odd or original.

In order to sustain erroneous doctrines or unchristian practices, some will seize upon passages of Scripture separated from the context, perhaps quoting half of a single verse as proving their point, when the remaining portion would show the meaning to be quite the opposite. With the cunning of the serpent, they entrench themselves behind disconnected utterances construed to suit their carnal desires. Thus do many willfully pervert the Word of God. **Others, who have an active imagination, seize upon the figures and symbols of Holy Writ, interpret to suit their fancy**, with little regard to the testimony of Scripture as its own interpreter, and then they present their vagaries as the teachings of the Bible.

Whenever the study of the Scriptures is entered upon without a prayerful, humble, teachable spirit, the plainest and simplest as well as the most difficult passages will be wrested from their true meaning. The papal leaders select such portions of Scripture as best serve their purpose, interpret to suit themselves, and then present these to the people, while they deny them the privilege of studying the Bible, and understanding its sacred truths for themselves. **The whole Bible should be given to the people just as it reads.** It would be better for them not to have Bible instruction at all than to have the teaching of the Scriptures thus grossly misrepresented.

The Bible was designed to be a guide to all who wish to become acquainted with the will of their Maker. God gave to men the sure word of prophecy; angels and even Christ Himself came to make known to Daniel and John the things that must shortly come to pass. Those important matters that concern our salvation were not left involved in mystery. They were not revealed in such a way as to perplex and mislead the honest seeker after truth. Said the Lord by the prophet Habakkuk, "Write the vision, and make it plain . . . that he may run that readeth it." Habakkuk 2:2. **The Word of God is plain to all who study it with a prayerful heart. Every truly honest soul will come to the light of truth.** "Light is sown for the righteous." Psalm 97:11. And no church can advance in holiness unless its members are earnestly seeking for truth as for hid treasure.

By the cry, Liberality, men are blinded to the devices of their adversary, while he is all the time working steadily for the accomplishment of his object. **As he succeeds in supplanting the Bible by human speculations, the law of God is set aside**, and the churches are under the bondage of sin while they claim to be free.

To many, scientific research has become a curse. God has permitted a flood of light to be poured upon the world in discoveries in science and art; but even the greatest minds, if not guided by the Word of God in their research, become bewildered in their attempts to investigate the relations of science and revelation.

Human knowledge of both material and spiritual things is partial and imperfect; therefore many are unable to har-

monize their views of science with Scripture statements. **Many accept mere theories and speculations as scientific facts, and they think that God's Word is to be tested by the teachings of "science falsely so called."** The Creator and His works are beyond their comprehension; and because they cannot explain these by natural laws, Bible history is regarded as unreliable. **Those who doubt the reliability of the records of the Old and New Testaments too often go a step farther, and doubt the existence of God, and attribute infinite power to nature.** Having let go their anchor, they are left to beat about upon the rocks of infidelity.

Thus many err from the faith, and are seduced by the devil. **Men have endeavored to be wiser than their Creator; human philosophy has attempted to search out and explain mysteries which will never be revealed**, through the eternal ages. If men would but search and understand what God has made known of Himself and His purposes, they would obtain such a view of the glory, majesty, and power of Jehovah, that they would realize their own littleness, and would be content with that which has been revealed for themselves and their children.

It is a masterpiece of Satan's deceptions to keep the minds of men searching and conjecturing in regard to that which God has not made known, and which He does not intend that we shall understand. It was thus that Lucifer lost his place in Heaven. He became dissatisfied because all the secrets of God's purposes were not confided to him, and he entirely disregarded that which was revealed concerning his own work in the lofty position assigned him. By arousing the same discontent in the angels under his command, he caused their fall. Now he seeks to imbue the minds of men with the same spirit, and to lead them also to disregard the direct commands of God.

Those who are unwilling to accept the plain, cutting truths of the Bible, are continually seeking for pleasing fables that will quiet the conscience. The less spiritual, self-denying, and humiliating the doctrines presented, the greater the favor with which they are received. These persons degrade the intellectual powers to serve their carnal desires. **Too wise in their own conceit to search the Scriptures with contrition of soul and earnest prayer for divine guidance, they have no shield from delusion.** Satan is ready to supply the heart's desire, and he palms off his deceptions in the place of truth. It was thus that the papacy gained its power over the minds of men; and by rejection of the truth because it involves a cross, Protestants are following the same path. **All who neglect the Word of God to study convenience and policy, that they may not be at variance with the world, will be left to receive damnable heresy for religious truth.** Every conceivable form of error will be accepted by those who willfully reject the truth. He who looks with horror upon one deception will readily receive another. The apostle Paul, speaking of a class who "received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved," declares, "For this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie, that they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness." 2 Thessalonians 2:11, 12. With such a warning before us, it behooves us to be on our guard as to what doctrines we receive.

Among the most successful agencies of the great deceiver are the delusive teachings and lying wonders of spiritualism. Disguised as an angel of light, he spreads his

nets where least suspected. If men would but study the Book of God with earnest prayer that they might understand it, they would not be left in darkness to receive false doctrines. But as they reject the truth, they fall a prey to deception.

Another dangerous error, is the doctrine that denies the divinity of Christ, claiming that He had no existence before His advent to this world. This theory is received with favor by a large class who profess to believe the Bible; yet it directly contradicts the plainest statements of our Saviour concerning His relationship with the Father, His divine character, and His pre-existence. It cannot be entertained without the most unwarranted wresting of the Scriptures. **It not only lowers man's conceptions of the work of redemption, but undermines faith in the Bible as a revelation from God.** While this renders it the more dangerous, it makes it also harder to meet. If men reject the testimony of the inspired Scriptures concerning the divinity of Christ, it is in vain to argue the point with them; for no argument, however conclusive, could convince them. "The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness unto him; neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." 1 Corinthians 2:14. **None who hold this error can have a true conception of the character or the mission of Christ, or of the great plan of God for man's redemption.**

Still another subtle and mischievous error is the fast spreading belief that Satan has no existence as a personal being; that the name is used in Scripture merely to represent men's evil thoughts and desires.

The teaching so widely echoed from popular pulpits, that the second advent of Christ is His coming to each individual at death, is a device to divert the minds of men from His personal coming in the clouds of heaven. For years Satan has thus been saying, "Behold, He is in the secret chambers" (Matthew 24:26); and many souls have been lost by accepting this deception.

Again, worldly wisdom teaches that prayer is not essential. Men of science claim that there can be no real answer to prayer; that this would be a violation of law, a miracle, and that **miracles have no existence.** The universe, say they, is governed by fixed laws, and God Himself does nothing contrary to these laws. Thus they represent God as bound by His own laws; as if the operation of divine laws could exclude divine freedom. Such teaching is opposed to the testimony of the Scriptures. Were not miracles wrought by Christ and His apostles? The same compassionate Saviour lives today, and He is as willing to listen to the prayer of faith as when He walked visibly among men. The natural co-operates with the supernatural. **It is a part of God's plan to grant us, in answer to the prayer of faith, that which He would not bestow did we not thus ask.**

Innumerable are the erroneous doctrines and fanciful ideas that are obtaining among the churches of Christendom. **It is impossible to estimate the evil results of removing one of the landmarks fixed by the Word of God.** Few who venture to do this stop with the rejection of a single truth. The majority continue to set aside one after another of the principles of truth, until they become actual infidels.

The errors of popular theology have driven many a soul to skepticism, who might otherwise have been a believer in the Scriptures. **It is impossible for him to accept doctrines which outrage his sense of justice, mercy, and benevolence; and since these are represented as the teaching of the Bible, he refuses to receive it as the Word of**

God.

And this is the object which Satan seeks to accomplish. There is nothing that he desires more than to destroy confidence in God and in His Word. Satan stands at the head of the great army of doubters, and he works to the utmost of his power to beguile souls into his ranks. **It is becoming fashionable to doubt.** There is a large class by whom the Word of God is looked upon with distrust for the same reason as was its Author—because it reproves and condemns sin. **Those who are unwilling to obey its requirements endeavor to overthrow its authority.** They read the Bible, or listen to its teachings as presented from the sacred desk, merely to find fault with the Scriptures or with the sermon. Not a few become infidels in order to justify or excuse themselves in neglect of duty. Others adopt skeptical principles from pride and indolence. Too ease-loving to distinguish themselves by accomplishing anything worthy of honor, which requires effort and self-denial, **they aim to secure a reputation for superior wisdom by criticising the Bible.** There is much which the finite mind, unenlightened by divine wisdom, is powerless to comprehend; and thus they find occasion to criticise. **There are many who seem to feel that it is a virtue to stand on the side of unbelief, skepticism, and infidelity.** But underneath an appearance of candor, it will be found that such persons are actuated by self-confidence and pride. Many delight in finding something in the Scriptures to puzzle the minds of others. Some at first criticise and reason on the wrong side, from a mere love of controversy. They do not realize that they are thus entangling themselves in the snare of the fowler. But having openly expressed unbelief, they feel that they must maintain their position. Thus they unite with the ungodly, and close to themselves the gates of Paradise.

God has given in His Word sufficient evidence of its divine character. The great truths which concern our redemption are clearly presented. By the aid of the Holy Spirit, which is promised to all who seek it in sincerity, every man may understand these truths for himself. God has granted to men a strong foundation upon which to rest their faith.

Yet the finite minds of men are inadequate fully to comprehend the plans and purposes of the Infinite One. We can never by searching find out God. We must not attempt to lift with presumptuous hand the curtain behind which He veils His majesty. The apostle exclaims, "How unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out!" Romans 11:33. We can so far comprehend His dealings with us, and the motives by which He is actuated, that we may discern boundless love and mercy united to infinite power. **Our Father in Heaven orders everything in wisdom and righteousness, and we are not to be dissatisfied and distrustful, but to bow in reverent submission. He will reveal to us as much of His purposes as it is for our good to know, and beyond that we must trust the Hand that is omnipotent, the Heart that is full of love.**

While God has given ample evidence for faith, He will never remove all excuse for unbelief. All who look for hooks to hang their doubts upon, will find them. And those who refuse to accept and obey God's Word until every objection has been removed, and there is no longer an opportunity for doubt, will never come to the light.

Distrust of God is the natural outgrowth of the unrenewed heart, which is at enmity with Him. But faith is inspired by the Holy Spirit, and it will flourish only as it is cherished. No man can become strong in faith without a

determined effort. **Unbelief strengthens as it is encouraged;** and if men, instead of dwelling upon the evidences which God has given to sustain their faith, will permit themselves to question and cavil, they will find their doubts constantly becoming more confirmed.

But those who doubt God's promises, and distrust the assurance of His grace, are dishonoring Him; and their influence, instead of drawing others to Christ, tends to repel them from Him. They are unproductive trees, that spread their dark branches far and wide, shutting away the sunlight from other plants, and causing them to droop and die under the chilling shadow. The life-work of these persons will appear as a never-ceasing witness against them. They are sowing seeds of doubt and skepticism that will yield an unfailling harvest.

There is but one course for those to pursue who honestly desire to be freed from doubts. Instead of questioning and caviling concerning that which they do not understand, **let them give heed to the light which already shines upon them, and they will receive greater light. Let them do every duty which has been made plain to their understanding, and they will be enabled to understand and perform those of which they are now in doubt.**

Satan can present a counterfeit so closely resembling the truth that it deceives those who are willing to be deceived, who desire to shun the self-denial and sacrifice demanded by the truth; but **it is impossible for him to hold under his power one soul who honestly desires, at whatever cost, to know the truth.** Christ is the truth, and the "light which lighteth every man that cometh into the world." John 1:9. The Spirit of truth has been sent, to guide men into all truth. And upon the authority of the Son of God it is declared, "Seek, and ye shall find." "If any man will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine." Matthew 7:7; John 7:17.

The followers of Christ know little of the plots which Satan and his hosts are forming against them. But He who sitteth in the heavens will overrule all these devices for the accomplishment of His deep designs. The Lord permits His people to be subjected to the fiery ordeal of temptation, not because He takes pleasure in their distress and affliction, but because this process is essential to their final victory. **He could not, consistently with His own glory, shield them from temptation; for the very object of the trial is to prepare them to resist all the allurements of evil.**

Neither wicked men nor devils can hinder the work of God or shut out His presence from His people, if they will, with subdued, contrite hearts, confess and put away their sins, and in faith claim His promises. Every temptation, every opposing influence, whether open or secret, may be successfully resisted, "not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts." Zechariah 4:6.

"The eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and His ears are open unto their prayers . . . And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good?" 1 Peter 3:12, 13. When Balaam, allured by the promise of rich rewards, practiced enchantments against Israel, and by sacrifices to the Lord, sought to invoke a curse upon His people, the Spirit of God forbade the evil which He longed to pronounce, and Balaam was forced to exclaim, "How shall I curse, whom God hath not cursed? or how

shall I defy, whom the Lord hath not defied?" "Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his!" When sacrifice had again been offered, the ungodly prophet declared: "Behold, I have received commandment to bless; and He hath blessed; and I cannot reverse it. He hath not beheld iniquity in Jacob, neither hath He seen perverseness in Israel; the Lord His God is with him, and the shout of a King is among them." "Surely there is no enchantment against Jacob, neither is there any divination against Israel. According to this time it shall be said of Jacob and of Israel, What hath God wrought!" Numbers 23:8, 10, 20, 21, 23. Yet a third altar was erected, and again Balaam essayed to secure a curse. But from the unwilling lips of the prophet, the Spirit of God declared the prosperity of His chosen, and rebuked the folly and malice of their foes: "Blessed is he that blesseth thee, and cursed is he that curseth thee." Numbers 23:8, 10, 20, 21, 23; 24:9.

The people of Israel were at this time loyal to God; and so long as they continued in obedience to His law, no power in earth or hell could prevail against them. **But the curse which Balaam had not been permitted to pronounce against God's people, he finally succeeded in bringing upon them by seducing them into sin.** When they transgressed God's commandments, then they separated themselves from Him, and they were left to feel the power of the destroyer.

Satan is well aware that the weakest soul who abides in Christ is more than a match for the hosts of darkness, and that, should he reveal himself openly, he would be met and resisted. **Therefore he seeks to draw away the soldiers of the cross from their strong fortification, while he lies in ambush with his forces, ready to destroy all who venture upon his ground. Only in humble reliance upon God, and obedience to all His commandments, can we be secure. No man is safe for a day or an hour without prayer. Especially should we entreat the Lord for wisdom to understand His Word.** Here are revealed the wiles of the tempter, and the means by which he may be successfully resisted. Satan is an expert in quoting Scripture, placing his own interpretation upon passages by which he hopes to cause us to stumble. **We should study the Bible with humility of heart, never losing sight of our dependence upon God.** While we must constantly guard against the devices of Satan, **we should pray in faith continually, "Lead us not into temptation."**

— *Great Controversy, chapter 33*

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT —

Jesus Will Help You Obey the Eternal Law of God

According to the Bible, the moral Ten Commandment Law of God is eternal and unchangeable. We are required to obey that law, but we can only do so through the enabling grace of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. This Bible study can change your life!

1 - DOES GOD HAVE A GOVERNMENT?

Psalm 103:19—“The Lord hath prepared His throne in the heavens; and His kingdom ruleth over all.”

Our heavenly Father is the king and ruler of the universe (*Jeremiah 10:6-7*). The Father shares the rulership of the whole creation with Christ, His Son. Christ, the Word, is called “King of kings and Lord of lords” (*Revelation 19:11-16*). Jesus is the active agent in all divine-human relations (*1 Corinthians 8:6*).

2 - CAN THERE BE ANY GOVERNMENT WITHOUT LAW?

Intelligent human beings cannot live together in peace without mutually accepted law. Belief in, and united, practice of good laws are the foundation of human society, the warp and woof of a happy and orderly society. If every man did as he pleased without respect to law, what would happen to peace, to morality, to public safety and decency?

3 - HOW IMPORTANT ARE THE LAWS OF GOD'S GOVERNMENT?

Psalm 89:14—“Justice and judgment are the habitation of Thy throne: mercy and truth shall go before Thy face.”

Since the law is an expression of God's loving character, we would expect the Bible to describe the law in similar language. Here is Paul's New Testament appraisal of the Ten Commandments:

Romans 7:12—“The law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.”

Romans 7:14—“For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin.”

The book of Revelation gives us a picture of the redeemed saints praising God. Here are their words: “Just and true are Thy ways, Thou King of saints” (*Revelation 15:3*). Those who understand the character of God can testify that He is just and true in all His ways.

Since God is still “the governor among the nations” as well as of the unfallen universe, His laws are still binding upon all rational creatures. He it is who issues these laws (*Isaiah 33:22*). These laws are laws of love. And they are just. The law of God is for the happiness and well-being of His creatures. Those who really love God desire to keep His laws (*1 John 5:3*).

4 - WHAT IS THE FUNDAMENTAL LAW OF GOD'S GOVERNMENT?

1. The law of Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:3-17) is the unchang-

ing, eternal, and moral law of God.

Dwight L. Moody wrote in his book:

“Now men may cavil as much as they like about other parts of the Bible, but I have never met an honest man that found fault with the Ten Commandments. Infidels may mock the Lawgiver and reject Him who has delivered us from the curse of the law, but they can't help admitting that the commandments are right . . . The people must be made to understand that the Ten Commandments are still binding, and that there is a penalty attached to their violation” (*Weighed and Wanting*, pp. 11, 16).

2. God's law is eternal in its nature.

Psalm 111:7-8—“The works of His hands are verity and judgment; all His commandments are sure. They stand fast for ever and ever, and are done in truth and uprightness.”

Concerning the fundamental law of the Ten Commandments, church leaders have said:

“The moral law is summarily comprehended in the Ten Commandments” (*Presbyterian Confession of Faith*, “*Shorter Catechism*,” question 41).

“The moral law doth forever bind all, as well justified persons as others, to the obedience thereof” (*In the Westminster Confession*, chapter 19, article 5).

John Calvin: “We must not imagine that the coming of Christ has freed us from the authority of the law; for it is the eternal rule of a devout and holy life, and must, therefore, be as unchangeable as the justice of God” (*Commentaries on the Gospels*, Vol. 1, p. 277).

“We believe that the law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of His moral government” (*Baptist Manual*, article 12).

3. The moral law was written on two tables of stone.

On the first were the first four commandments, showing our duty to God. On the second were the last six commandments, showing our duty to our fellowman. Spurgeon said: “If you love God with all your heart, you must keep the first table; and if you love your neighbor as yourself, you must keep the second table” (*The Perpetuity of the Law*, p. 5).

5 - ARE THE TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR ALL MEN IN ALL AGES?

1. The law was for man, from Adam to Christ.

The Ten Commandments were in force from Adam's time down through the millenniums of time. This can be proved by the New Testament.

Sin existed from the time of the fall of man, and sin is described by John as “the transgression of the law.” Said the apostle:

1 John 3:4—“Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.”

Now there must have been law at the time of the Fall, because there was sin at the Fall. Says Paul, “Where no law is, there is no transgression” (*Romans 4:15*).

Adam could not have sinned if he had no knowledge of the moral law. Yet Adam did sin; for, as Paul said, “By one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned” (*Romans 5:12*).

Not only did Adam sin by breaking the law, but Cain, his son, sinned too.

Genesis 4:6-7—“And the Lord said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.”

Abraham, long before Moses, knew God’s law. Moses himself wrote:

Genesis 26:5—“Because that Abraham obeyed My voice, and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws.”

In Moses’ time, the law of God was written by the Lord Himself upon two tables of stone and delivered to Moses, who gave them to Israel (*Deuteronomy 5:22; 10:4-5*).

To this day, the Ten Commandment law is held in sacred regard by Jews and Christians alike. The 119th psalm is a great song of praise to God for the law of love. “O how love I Thy law!” said the psalmist, “It is my meditation all the day” (*Psalms 119:97*).

Isaiah regarded the law as basic in testing all religious teaching. “To the law and to the testimony,” he said, “if they speak not according to this Word, it is because there is no light in them” (*Isaiah 8:20*).

Solomon knew that it was not possible to please God while despising the law, so He wrote:

Proverbs 28:9—“He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination.”

2. It was for Jesus, as the Son of man, and for men of His generation.

Isaiah the gospel prophet declared that, when Christ came into the world, He would honor the law of God. Here are his words: “He will magnify the law, and make it honourable” (*Isaiah 42:21*).

The psalmist had predicted that Christ’s attitude toward the law would be one of honor, love, and respect.

Psalms 40:7-8—“Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of Me, I delight to do Thy will, O my God: yea, Thy law is within my heart” (*Hebrews 10:7*).

Openly Christ declared to the people, “I have kept My Father’s commandments” (*John 15:10*). And He said, “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*). Knowing that He was under suspicion as a teacher of new doctrines, Christ declared in His Sermon on the Mount, “Think not that I am come to destroy the law” (*Matthew 5:17-19*). Christ made it plain that He did not come to abolish the Ten Commandments, but to teach men how to keep them.

3. It was for men in the time of the apostles.

We have already referred to Paul’s appraisal of the law. It is holy,

just, and good, he said. Moreover, Paul declared that faith established the law. It did not abolish it. The following text deals a death-blow to the doctrine of antinomianism (the doctrine that no moral law is necessary). It also shows that faith establishes the law.

Romans 3:31—“Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law.”

The New Testament writers understood that the law was to be the standard in the judgment. Said James:

James 2:10-12—“For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law. So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty.”

John was even more emphatic than James. He said:

1 John 2:4—“He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.”

Many sincere Christians are opposed to the law because they say that it frustrates the grace of God. They refer to Paul in order to support their views. But Peter said that Paul wrote “some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other Scriptures, unto their own destruction” (*2 Peter 3:16*).

Paul had no more right than any other human being to change or abolish the law of the living God. He testified publicly, in court, that he believed “all things which are written in the law” (*Acts 24:14*). “We establish the law,” said the apostle (*Romans 3:31*). That doesn’t sound like destroying the law, does it? Paul was a great theologian. Only those who misunderstand him misrepresent and misinterpret his words.

4. It is for God’s remnant people of the last days.

Nothing is more clearly revealed in all the pages of Holy Writ than the solemn truth that God will have a people on earth, just before the second coming of Christ, who will uphold and obey His holy law. In spite of persecution and difficulties, they will stand in defense of God’s truth.

Revelation 12:17—“And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.”

These people not only believe in the practice of the law of love, which is the law of Ten Commandments, but they also believe the gospel and have the faith of Jesus.

Revelation 14:12—“Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus” (*verses 13-15*).

The question for each of us to ask is, Am I one of God’s remnant people? If not, why not?

6 - WHY IS THERE GENERAL REBELLION AGAINST GOD’S HOLY LAW?

Romans 8:7—“The carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.”

Only by the new birth can the carnal mind and heart of man be changed. According to the new covenant promise (*Ezekiel 36:26-27*), God will write His law in our hearts (*Hebrews 8:10*). But we must be willing. Are we?

Society today lives in rebellion against God's law. Everyone acknowledges that it is a good law, but few people want to obey it. In America, thousands of homes break up every year in the divorce courts. Crime costs billions of dollars annually. Hundreds of murders take place every month. And many of these dastardly crimes are committed by youth. According to a committee of prominent jurists and statesmen, crime will carry the nation on to anarchy unless it is checked soon.

Some ministers and professed Christians oppose the law of God. If they fight the Ten Commandments, what can we expect of the people? Jesus said that if a man broke one of God's commandments and then taught others to do the same, he would be called least in the kingdom (*Matthew 5:19*). It is serious enough to disobey God, but nothing is more displeasing to the Lawgiver than leading others into rebellion. The false doctrine that men are not obligated to obey the Ten Commandments has weakened the forces of morality in the world and opened the floodgates of vice and crime. When rebellion reaches its limit, God will intervene.

Psalm 119:126—"It is time for thee, Lord, to work: for they have made void Thy law."

Those who have despised God's law have miscalculated His character. They will discover, in the final day of judgment, that He is a God of justice as well as mercy. Here are the words that He speaks to the despisers of His kingdom and His law:

Matthew 7:21-23—"Not every one that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Thy name? and in Thy name have cast out devils? and in Thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from Me, ye that work iniquity."

7 - WHAT PROMISE IS HELD OUT TO THOSE WHO ARE OBEDIENT?

Psalm 119:165—"Great peace have they which love Thy law: and nothing shall offend them."

The Christian who has a correct knowledge of God will love Him and His law. He will find peace in loving obedience. Isaiah declares that this peace and righteousness that all obedient followers of Jehovah enjoy is like "the waves of the sea."

Isaiah 48:18—"O that thou hadst hearkened to My commandments! then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea."

The test of discipleship is in obedience. The greatest honor and tribute we can pay to Christ is to willingly consent to the writing of His law of love upon the fleshly tablets of our hearts. Will you consent to this work of grace? Remember, Christ saves us from sin, and "sin is the transgression of the law" (*1 John 3:4*). Salvation then means deliverance from lawbreaking and the restoration of the human heart to the moral likeness of God. Jesus will do this for you if you consent. Will you not say with Christ, "I delight to do Thy will, O my God: yea, Thy law is within my heart" (*Psalm 40:8*)?

Now, let us see how grace makes possible obedience to God's commandments. It is a source of great encouragement. In it we will see the power of the grace of Christ and what it can do for our lives.

8 - WHAT ARE THE THREE TYPES OF LAWS IN THE BIBLE?

1. The civil laws of the Jewish nation.

The civil laws regulated a multitude of matters in connection with the operation of the nation of Israel. God gave these laws to meet the situation in their day. They covered such problems as health, sanitation, disease, crime, court procedure, etc. In their details they are not binding as civil obligations today, though many wise and fundamental principles are revealed therein, which would still be applicable.

2. The ceremonial, or sanctuary, laws were abolished at the cross.

The ceremonial, or sanctuary, laws governed the religious services of Israel and were symbols of the Messiah to come. They were for the Jews and all converts to the faith of Israel. These civil laws were written in a book (*Deuteronomy 31:24-26*) by Moses and placed in the ark of the Testament. It should be remembered that the ceremonial and civil laws were not written on the tables of stone, as were the Ten Commandments. So the ceremonial laws were temporary in nature and no longer necessary after the life and death of Christ to which it pointed. Here are Paul's words:

Colossians 2:14—"Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to His cross."

Colossians 2:17—"Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ."

3. The moral Ten Commandment law (*Exodus 20:1-17*).

The law of God was proclaimed from Mount Sinai, written on tables of stone, and preserved by Israel as the universal law of mankind.

Deuteronomy 10:4—"He wrote on the tables, according to the first writing, the Ten Commandments, which the Lord spake unto you in the mount out of the midst of the fire in the day of the assembly" (*Deuteronomy 5:22*).

The Ten Commandment law was then placed inside the ark.

9. WHAT DOES THE LAW DO FOR THE SINNER?

God uses the law to do for the sinner just what needs to be done. The sinner must realize that he is a sinner. The heavy hand of the law must be laid upon him, and he must be arrested in his course. Notice the following carefully:

1. It gives a knowledge of sin.

Romans 3:20—"By the law is the knowledge of sin" (*Romans 7:7*).

2. It brings guilt and condemnation.

Romans 3:19—"Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God."

3. It acts as a spiritual mirror.

James 1:23-25—"If any be a hearer of the Word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: for he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed" (*James 2:9-12*).

Without the law, the sinner is like a man who is afflicted with a deadly disease, that he doesn't know he has. Paul said, "I had not known sin, but by the law" (*Romans 7:7*).

Evangelist John Brown once said:

"The human heart cannot receive the healing thread of the gospel

unless it is first pierced by the needle of the law.”

10 - WHAT IS THE LAW UNABLE TO DO FOR THE SINNER?

The law cannot forgive. Law does not possess the power to forgive those who transgress its precepts. Only the Lawgiver can do that. Jesus died to redeem us from the curse of the law (*Galatians 3:13*). The law cannot keep the sinner from sinning because “the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be” (*Romans 8:7*).

The law only shows the sinner where he needs to change; but the law, itself, cannot change him. And so let us get three facts about the law very clear.

1. It cannot forgive or justify.

Romans 3:20—“By the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in His sight.”

2. It cannot keep from sin or sanctify.

Galatians 3:21—“Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law.”

3. It cannot cleanse or keep the heart clean (*Romans 9:3, 7-8*).

The law is limited in its ability to do all that needs to be done for the sinner. A wound cannot be sewed up with only a needle. The thread of the gospel must do that.

11 - WHAT DOES THE GRACE OF CHRIST DO FOR THE SINNER?

When the law of God and the Spirit of God have made the sinner conscious of his sin, he will then feel his need of Christ and go to the Saviour for pardon. The publican found it so (*Luke 18:13-14*). The woman taken in adultery felt condemned and ashamed. She needed sympathy and forgiveness, and Christ was ready to grant these to her. Then He said, “Sin no more.”

If we confess and put away sin, He will forgive (*1 John 1:9*). This is grace, or unmerited favor. This gracious love of Christ awakens love in the heart of the sinner, and he then desires to serve and obey God. Here are four elements of the saving grace of Christ:

1. It forgives and justifies.

Acts 13:38-39—“Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: and by Him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses” (*Luke 18:13-14*).

2. It saves from sin, or sanctifies.

Matthew 1:21—“She shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call His name Jesus: for He shall save His people from their sins.”

1 Corinthians 1:30—“But of Him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption.”

3. It inspires faith.

Ephesians 2:8-10—“By grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained

that we should walk in them.”

4. It brings God's power.

Romans 1:16—“I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”

Forgiveness of sin and power over sin came through the exercise of simple faith in God's promises and a full surrender of the heart to Him.

12 - HOW DOES A SINNER SAVED BY GRACE RELATE TO THE LAW?

1. The law becomes the standard of his life.

1 John 5:3—“This is the love of God, that we keep His commandments.”

2. He permits Christ to fulfill in him the righteousness of the law.

Romans 8:3-4—“God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”

3. Christ writes the law in his heart.

Hebrews 8:10—“This is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put My laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to Me a people” (*Psalms 119:11*).

To the surrendered, believing soul the law of God holds no terror. He is now free from its condemnation through Christ. In this sense he is “not under the law, but under grace” (*Romans 6:15*). He is not under the bondage of condemnation by the law.

He is now in a position to exercise that “faith which worketh by love” and purifies the soul (*Galatians 5:6*). This means a transformed life in harmony with the moral law of God.

John Wesley wrote in his Sermons:

“I cannot spare [to be apart from] the law one moment, no more than I can spare Christ . . . Each is continually sending me to the other,—the law to Christ, and Christ to the law. On the one hand, the height and depth of the law constrain me to fly to the love of God in Christ; on the other, the love of God in Christ endears the law to me ‘above gold and precious stones’ . . . This is perfect freedom; thus to keep His law, and to walk in all His commandments blameless” (*The Works of John Wesley, A.M. [3d. American ed.], Vol. 1, pp. 314-315*).

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT —

The Ten Commandments: God's Moral Standard

God's Moral Standard for mankind is the Ten Commandments. Regarding it, Jesus said:

"Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy but to fulfil." Matthew 5:17.

By ourselves, we cannot keep this holy law, but through the enabling grace of Christ, we can do all that God asks of us in His Inspired Scriptures.

"Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." Revelation 14:12.

Thank God that He has given us standards! Men today are destroying themselves because they refuse to obey the Ten Commandments. They are trying to take a different route to happiness, and only finding misery and suffering.

God's plan for us is far better than we can choose for ourselves. We cannot truly be good to ourselves or help others, unless we obey God.

On Mount Sinai, God gave the Ten Commandment law to the Hebrews, who had just been delivered from Egyptian slavery and idolatry, so they could tell all the world about Heaven's moral standard for mankind.

Jehovah revealed Himself, not alone in the awful majesty of the judge and lawgiver, but as the compassionate guardian of His people: "I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage." He whom they had already known as their Guide and Deliverer, who had brought them forth from Egypt, making a way for them through the sea, and overthrowing Pharaoh and his hosts, who had thus shown Himself to be above all the gods of Egypt—He it was who now spoke His law.

The law was not spoken at this time exclusively for the benefit of the Hebrews. God honored them by making them the guardians and keepers of His law, but it was to be held as a sacred trust for the whole world. The precepts of the Decalogue are adapted to all mankind, and they were given for the instruction and government of all. Ten precepts, brief, comprehensive, and authoritative, cover the duty of man to God and to his fellow man; and all based upon the great fundamental principle of love. "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy

strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself." Luke 10:27. See also Deuteronomy 6:4, 5; Leviticus 19:18. In the Ten Commandments these principles are carried out in detail, and made applicable to the condition and circumstances of man.

"Thou shalt have no other gods before Me."

Jehovah, the eternal, self-existent, uncreated One, Himself the Source and Sustainer of all, is alone entitled to supreme reverence and worship. Man is forbidden to give to any other object the first place in his affections or his service. Whatever we cherish that tends to lessen our love for God or to interfere with the service due Him, of that do we make a god.

**"Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image,
or any likeness of anything 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."**

The second commandment forbids the worship of the true God by images or similitudes. Many heathen nations claimed that their images were mere figures or symbols by which the Deity was worshiped, but God has declared such worship to be sin. The attempt to represent the Eternal One by material objects would lower man's conception of God. The mind, turned away from the infinite perfection of Jehovah, would be attracted to the creature rather than to the Creator. And as his conceptions of God were lowered, so would man become degraded.

"I the Lord thy God am a jealous God."

The close and sacred relation of God to His people is represented under the figure of marriage. Idolatry being spiritual adultery, the displeasure of God against it is fitly called jealousy.

**"Visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children
unto the third and fourth generation of them
that hate Me."**

It is inevitable that children should suffer from the

consequences of parental wrongdoing, but they are not punished for the parents' guilt, except as they participate in their sins. It is usually the case, however, that children walk in the steps of their parents. By inheritance and example the sons become partakers of the father's sin. Wrong tendencies, perverted appetites, and debased morals, as well as physical disease and degeneracy, are transmitted as a legacy from father to son, to the third and fourth generation. This fearful truth should have a solemn power to restrain men from following a course of sin.

“Showing mercy unto thousands of them that love Me, and keep My commandments.”

In prohibiting the worship of false gods, the second commandment by implication enjoins the worship of the true God. And to those who are faithful in His service, mercy is promised, not merely to the third and fourth generation as is the wrath threatened against those who hate Him, but to thousands of generations.

**“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.”**

This commandment not only prohibits false oaths and common swearing, but it forbids us to use the name of God in a light or careless manner, without regard to its awful significance. By the thoughtless mention of God in common conversation, by appeals to Him in trivial matters, and by the frequent and thoughtless repetition of His name, we dishonor Him. “Holy and reverend is His name.” Psalm 111:9. All should meditate upon His majesty, His purity and holiness, that the heart may be impressed with a sense of His exalted character; and His holy name should be uttered with reverence and solemnity.

**“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
Six days shalt thou labor, 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.”**

The Sabbath is not introduced as a new institution but as having been founded at creation. It is to be remembered and observed as the memorial of the Creator's work. Pointing to God as the Maker of the heavens and the earth, it distinguishes the true God from all false gods. All who keep the seventh day sig-

nify by this act that they are worshipers of Jehovah. Thus the Sabbath is the sign of man's allegiance to God as long as there are any upon the earth to serve Him. The fourth commandment is the only one of all the ten in which are found both the name and the title of the Lawgiver. It is the only one that shows by whose authority the law is given. Thus it contains the seal of God, affixed to His law as evidence of its authenticity and binding force.

God has given me six days wherein to labor, and He requires that their own work be done in the six working days. Acts of necessity and mercy are permitted on the Sabbath, the sick and suffering are at all times to be cared for; but unnecessary labor is to be strictly avoided. “Turn away thy foot from the Sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on My holy day; and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, honorable; and . . . honor Him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure.” Isaiah 58:13. Nor does the prohibition end here. “Nor speaking thine own words,” says the prophet. Those who discuss business matters or lay plans on the Sabbath are regarded by God as though engaged in the actual transaction of business. To keep the Sabbath holy, we should not even allow our minds to dwell upon things of a worldly character. And the commandment includes all within our gates. The inmates of the house are to lay aside their worldly business during the sacred hours. All should unite to honor God by willing service upon His holy day.

**“Honor thy father and thy mother:
that thy days may be long
upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.”**

Parents are entitled to a degree of love and respect which is due to no other person. God Himself, who has placed upon them a responsibility for the souls committed to their charge, has ordained that during the earlier years of life, parents shall stand in the place of God to their children. And he who rejects the rightful authority of his parents is rejecting the authority of God. The fifth commandment requires children not only to yield respect, submission, and obedience to their parents, but also to give them love and tenderness, to lighten their cares, to guard their reputation, and to succor and comfort them in old age. It also enjoins respect for ministers and rulers and for all others to whom God has delegated authority.

This, says the apostle, “is the first commandment with promise.” Ephesians 6:2. To Israel, expecting soon to enter Canaan, it was a pledge to the obedient, of long life in that good land; but it has a wider meaning, including all the Israel of God, and promising eternal life upon the earth when it shall be freed from the curse of sin.

“Thou shalt not kill.”

All acts of injustice that tend to shorten life; the spirit of hatred and revenge, or the indulgence of any passion that leads to injurious acts toward others, or causes us even to wish them harm (for “whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer”); a selfish neglect of caring for the needy or suffering; all self-indulgence or unnecessary deprivation or excessive labor that tends to injure health—all these are, to a greater or less degree, violations of the sixth commandment.

“Thou shalt not commit adultery.”

This commandment forbids not only acts of impurity, but sensual thoughts and desires, or any practice that tends to excite them. Purity is demanded not only in the outward life but in the secret intents and emotions of the heart. Christ, who taught the far-reaching obligation of the law of God, declared the evil thought or look to be as truly sin as is the unlawful deed.

“Thou shalt not steal.”

Both public and private sins are included in this prohibition. The eighth commandment condemns manstealing and slave dealing, and forbids wars of conquest. It condemns theft and robbery. It demands strict integrity in the minutest details of the affairs of life. It forbids overreaching in trade, and requires the payment of just debts or wages. It declares that every attempt to advantage oneself by the ignorance, weakness, or misfortune of another is registered as fraud in the books of heaven.

“Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.”

False speaking in any matter, every attempt or purpose to deceive our neighbor, is here included. An intention to deceive is what constitutes falsehood. By a glance of the eye, a motion of the hand, an expression of the countenance, a falsehood may be told as effectually as by words. All intentional overstatement, every hint or insinuation calculated to convey an erroneous or exaggerated impression, even the statement of facts in such a manner as to mislead, is falsehood. This precept forbids every effort to injure our neighbor’s reputation by misrepresentation or evil surmising, by slander or tale bearing. Even the intentional suppression of truth, by which injury may result to others, is a violation of the ninth commandment.

“Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor’s house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor’s wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbor’s.”

The tenth commandment strikes at the very root of all sins, prohibiting the selfish desire, from which springs the sinful act. He who in obedience to God’s law refrains from indulging even a sinful desire for that which belongs to another will not be guilty of an act of wrong toward his fellow creatures.

Such were the sacred precepts of the Decalogue,

spoken amid thunder and flame, and with a wonderful display of the power and majesty of the great Lawgiver. God accompanied the proclamation of His law with exhibitions of His power and glory, that His people might never forget the scene, and that they might be impressed with profound veneration for the Author of the law, the Creator of heaven and earth. He would also show to all men the sacredness, the importance, and the permanence of His law.

— *Exodus 20:3-17, with comments (PP 305-309)*

As we have observed, the Sabbath Commandment is right in the heart of the Ten Commandments. The Fourth Commandment is the one commandment of the Ten which connects us with our Maker, who alone can enable us to obey His law. Of all the Ten, only in the Sabbath Commandment do we find the name, title, and authority of God

Yet men have sought to change that commandment, by transferring the sacredness of the seventh day to the first day of the week. This fact has been acknowledged by many learned church leaders in various denominations:

Roman Catholic: “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.*

“You may search the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, and you will not find a single line authorizing the sanctification of Sunday. The Scriptures enforce the religious observance of Saturday, a day which we never sanctify.”—*James Cardinal Gibbon, The Faith of Our Fathers, chapter 8.*

“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.*

“Ques.—How prove you that the Church hath power to command feasts and holydays?

“Ans.—By the very act of changing the Sabbath into Sunday, which Protestants allow of [by observing it]; and therefore they fondly contradict themselves, by keeping Sunday strictly, and breaking most other feasts commanded by the same Church.”—*Henry Tuberville, An Abridgement of the Christian Doctrine (1833 papal approbation), p. 58.*

“The Catholic Church . . . by virtue of her divine mis-

sion, 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.*

Congregational: “It is quite clear that however rigidly or devotedly we may spend Sunday, we are not keeping Sabbath. The Sabbath was founded on a specific, divine command. We can plead no such command for the observance of Sunday. There is not a single line in the New Testament to suggest that we incur any penalty by violating the supposed sanctity of Sunday.”—*Dr. R.W. Dale, in The Ten Commandments, pp. 106-107.*

Baptist: “There was and is a commandment to keep holy the Sabbath day, but that Sabbath is not Sunday. It will, however, be readily said, and with some show of triumph, that the Sabbath was transferred from the seventh to the first day of the week . . . Where can the record of such a transaction be found? Not in the New Testament, absolutely not.”—*Dr. E.R. Hiscox (author of the Baptist Manual), report of his sermon at the Baptist Minister’s Convention, in New York Examiner, November 16, 1893.*

Presbyterian: “There is no word, nothing in the

New Testament about abstaining from work on Sunday. The observance of Ash Wednesday, or Lent, stands exactly on the same footing as the observance of Sunday. Into the rest of Sunday no Divine Law enters.”—*Canon Eytton, of Westminster, in The Ten Commandments.*

Episcopal: “The Bible commandment says on the seventh day thou shalt rest. That is Saturday. Nowhere in the Bible is it laid down that worship should be done on Sunday.”—*Phillip Carington, quoted in Toronto Daily Star, October 26, 1949.*

Anglican: “And where are we told in the Scriptures that we are to keep the first day at all? We are commanded to keep the seventh; but we are nowhere commanded to keep the first day. The reason why we keep the first day of the week holy instead of the seventh is for the same reason that we observe many other things, not because the Bible, but because the church, has enjoined it.”—*Issac Williams, Plain Sermons on the Catechism, Vol. 1, pp. 334, 336.*

Methodist: “It is true that there is no positive command for infant baptism. Nor is there any for keeping holy the first day of the week. Many believe that Christ changed the Sabbath. But, from His own words, we see that He came for no such purpose. Those who believe that Jesus changed the Sabbath base it only on a supposition.”—*Amos Binney, Theological Compendium, pp. 180-181, 171.*

Dwight L. Moody: “I honestly believe that this commandment is just as binding today as it ever was. I have talked with men who have said that it has been abrogated [abolished], but they have never been able to point to any place in the Bible where God repealed it. When Christ was on earth, He did nothing to set it aside . . . The Sabbath was binding in Eden, and it has been in force ever since. How can men claim that this one commandment has been done away with when they will admit that the other nine [adultery, murder, lying, theft, etc.] are still binding?”—*Dwight L. Moody (the well-known evangelist), Weighed and Wanting, 1898, pp. 46-47.*

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT —

God Did Not Change the Bible Sabbath to Sunday

FACT NUMBER ONE—The Sabbath was given to all mankind at the Creation of this world.

The seventh-day Sabbath was given to mankind on the seventh day of Creation Week.

“Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had made; and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had made.

“And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it He had rested from all His work which God created and made.”—*Genesis 2:1-3*.

God dedicated and set aside the Sabbath as a rest day—2,000 years before the first Jew. Abraham is considered by all to have been the first Jew. He lived about 2000 B.C. Biblical records indicate that the Creation of this world took place about 4000 B.C. So the Bible Sabbath is not Jewish! It is for mankind; it is for all the world.

“The Sabbath was made for man.”—*Mark 2:27*.

FACT NUMBER TWO—The Sabbath is a memorial of Creation and our salvation.

First, it is a memorial of Creation.

“It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel for ever: for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day He rested, and was refreshed.”—*Exodus 31:17*.

As a memorial of the Creation of this world, the Sabbath cannot pass away without first having this world pass away—and creating a new one! Our planet could not have a new or different Sabbath day, without having it first hurled into oblivion—and then a new planet created from nothing. But no such event has occurred.

Second, the Sabbath is a symbol of our salvation. When we keep it, we tell all the world that we belong to God and that we serve and obey Him. The seventh-day Sabbath is a sign of our conversion, sanctification, and salvation:

“Verily My Sabbaths ye shall keep: 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.”—*Exodus 31:13*.

“Moreover also 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.”—*Ezekiel 20:12*.

“And hallow My Sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between Me and you, that ye may know that I am the Lord your God.”—*Ezekiel 20:20*.

But what about Christ’s resurrection? Nowhere in Scripture were we told to keep any day in honor of Christ’s resurrection. To do so is unscriptural. On the contrary, to set aside the Creation and sanctification Sabbath of the Bible—for another day of the week—and excuse it by saying that we do so “in honor of Christ’s resurrection,”—is indeed to do a very daring thing. Who dare presume to set aside the Memorial of Creation and salvation for any reason! To knowingly do so, flies in the face of repeated, direct, Biblical commands by the God of heaven. To do so denies that He is our Creator and Redeemer.

If we abandon the Bible Sabbath and keep another day holy, in the Judgment what excuse can we offer? There is no Bible reason for keeping the first day of the week holy instead of the seventh day.

FACT NUMBER THREE—The people of God kept the Bible Sabbath before the Ten Commandments were given at Mount Sinai.

The Sabbath Truth was first given to our race in Eden before the fall of

man. It was given before sin existed, and apart from it. It was given to every man to link him to his God. And if Adam needed the Sabbath, we need it all the more today.

God’s people had it before Mount Sinai. Four chapters before the Ten Commandments were given on Mount Sinai, the God of heaven spoke in such a way that it is obvious that the seventh-day Sabbath was already well-known by the people of God—but not always well-kept: Read *Exodus 16*.

There are those who say that the seventh-day Sabbath was not commanded by God, nor kept by man before it was spoken from Mount Sinai in *Exodus 20*. But *Genesis 2:1-3* and *Exodus 16* prove otherwise.

FACT NUMBER FOUR—The seventh-day Sabbath Commandment lies in the very heart of the Moral Law of Ten Commandments.

“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*.

The Sabbath Commandment is part of the Moral Law of Ten Commandments. The Apostle James tells us that if we break any part of this law, we have broken it all (*James 2:10-12*). We cannot tear out the Fourth Commandment without setting aside all the others as well. They all stand together, because the God of Heaven put them all together.

We do not decide which day of the week is to be kept holy unto God; He alone is to do this. It is for Him to command; it is for us to obey.

Some say that *Genesis 2:1-3* is not a command for man to keep the Sabbath, and therefore we do not obey it. But *Exodus 16* and *20* clearly show that man is commanded to keep it holy. And who dare say that the Ten Commandments were only for the Jewish race? Are the rest of us permitted to lie, steal, cheat, and commit adultery? Are only the Hebrews to observe these ten moral principles?

The reason for the commandment is the Creation of this world: “For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth.” This is not something local, merely for a Semitic race;—it is a commandment for all in the entire world who shall bow down and worship their Creator in humble thankfulness for His plan to save them through the life and death of Jesus Christ. It was given at the Creation of this world, and was given to every man, woman, and child who shall live on this planet.

God wrote these Ten Commandments with His own finger (*Ex 31:18; Deut 9:10*). **He wrote them on the most enduring thing in the world,** and that is rock (*Ex 31:18*). And He wishes to write them also on our hearts.

“This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them.”—*Hebrews 10:16 (Heb 8:10; Jer 31:33)*.

And, if we will let Him, through the New Covenant He will write His holy law upon our hearts. To have the Ten Commandments written on our hearts means two things: First, a willingness to obey them and, second, letting God enable us to do so by the grace of Jesus, His Son. Obedience to God’s law is to become an integral part of our lives.

FACT NUMBER FIVE—The weekly seventh-day Sabbath is part of the Moral Law contained in the Ten Commandments. It will stand forever. The

yearly sabbaths were part of the ceremonial laws that prefigured, or foreshadowed, the death and ministry of Christ.

These “shadow laws,” such as Passover and the Wave Sheaf, which were a part of the ceremonial, or sacrificial, law would not endure past the death of Christ.

“For the [ceremonial] law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. For then would they not have ceased to be offered? . . . But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year. For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.”—*Hebrews 10:1-4*.

These ceremonial laws were not written on rock, but were contained in ordinances, written on parchment. The rock was to endure, but the ordinances that foreshadowed the death of Christ were to pass away at His death. It is for this reason that we do not today observe the yearly sabbaths of the Passover and the Wave Sheaf.

“Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to His cross . . . Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days. Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.”—*Colossians 2:14, 16-17*.

In the Greek it says, “or of the sabbaths.” **There is one weekly Sabbath; it comes down to us from the Creation of this world and will be kept in the New Earth (*Isa 66:22-23*). But the yearly sabbaths did not begin until Moses.** They foreshadowed and explained the coming death of Christ till it happened; and, at His death, they were nailed to His cross.

If the ordinances containing the yearly sabbaths had not been set aside at Calvary, we would need now to sacrifice animals on various occasions throughout the year. But we are not now to slay lambs; for Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed for us.

“Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.”—*John 1:29*.

“For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.”—*1 Corinthians 5:7*.

FACT NUMBER SIX—Christ’s disciples faithfully kept the Bible Sabbath, not Sunday.

The disciples had been with Jesus for three and a half years, and had listened closely to His teachings. What they did at the time of His death on Calvary shows what He taught them. The sacred importance of the seventh-day Sabbath was of such concern to them that they would not even prepare the body of Jesus properly for burial on Friday, lest they transgress the Fourth Commandment.

“And now when the even was come, because it was the preparation, that is, the day before the Sabbath . . . Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses beheld where He was laid.

“And when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint Him. And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun. And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre?”—*Mark 15:42, 47-16:3*.

For more on this, read *Luke 23:53-24:2*.

FACT NUMBER SEVEN—According to the New Testament, the Apostles of Jesus always kept the Bible Sabbath.

The Apostles kept the Bible Sabbath. Read *Acts 13:14; Acts 13:42; Acts 16:13; Acts 17:1-2*.

Paul supported himself by tentmaking; and then on the Sabbath, he would preach the gospel.

“Because he was of the same craft, he abode with them, and wrought: for by their occupation, they were tentmakers . . . And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks . . . He continued there a year and six months, teaching the Word of God among them.”—*Acts 18:3, 4, 11*.

Paul’s manner was the same as Christ’s custom: to keep the Bible Sabbath (*Acts 17:1-2; Luke 4:16*).

Paul never taught that the Moral Law was, or could be, set aside. It will ever govern the conduct of mankind:

“Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we

establish the law.”—*Romans 3:31*.

“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?”—*Romans 6:1-2*.

“What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.”—*Romans 7:7*.

Paul clearly saw that the problem was that we needed to obey the law; there was nothing wrong with the requirements of the law itself.

“Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.”—*Romans 7:12*.

“Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing, but [that which is important is] the keeping of the commandments of God.”—*1 Corinthians 7:19*.

The moral standard that governs mankind was not relaxed or destroyed by the death of Christ; for, indeed, it is through the merits of Christ’s sacrifice that we can be empowered to keep that law.

“Thou shalt call His name Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins.”—*Matthew 1:21*.

Jesus saves us from our sins, not in our sins. And since sin is the breaking of the Ten Commandments, it is obvious that He saves us by enabling us, strengthening us, to keep that law.

“Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.”—*1 John 3:4*.

The other Apostles saw this same great truth, that the moral standard that governs mankind was not relaxed or destroyed by the death of Christ:

“But be ye doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the Word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass. For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

“But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed . . . For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. For He that saith, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law. So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty . . . Faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works; shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.”—*James 1:22-25; 2:10-12, 17-18*.

“By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments: and His commandments are not grievous.”—*1 John 5:2-3*.

FACT NUMBER EIGHT—God predicted in Scripture that men would later try to change the Law of God—and especially the “time law.”

The Bible Sabbath is very important—for it is the very center of our worship of God! If men were later to try to change it to another day, we should surely expect a Bible prophecy saying that it would happen.

“And he [the little horn power] shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into His hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.”—*Daniel 7:25*.

The church of the Dark Ages was to rule the world for 1260 years, and during this time would try to tear out God’s holy Time Law, and put a counterfeit in its place. Oh, what blasphemy men can dream up, when they are tempted by Satan to gain religious control of their fellow men!

“For that day [the Second Coming of Christ] shall 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.”—*2 Thessalonians 2:3-4*.

God said:

“And hallow My Sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between Me and you, that ye may know that I am the Lord your God.”—*Ezekiel 20:20*.

After the New Testament was finished and the Apostles had died, men tried to transfer the sacredness from the seventh to the first day of the week. They tried to change the “time law.”

Roman Catholic: “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.*

“You may search the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, and you will not find a single line authorizing the sanctification of Sunday. The Scriptures enforce the religious observance of Saturday, a day which we never sanctify.”—*James Cardinal Gibbon, The Faith of Our Fathers, chapter 8.*

“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.*

“We hold upon this earth the place of God Almighty.”—*Pope Leo XIII, Encyclical Letter, June 20, 1894; The Great Encyclical Letters of Leo XIII, p. 304.*

“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.*

How important it is that we obey the commandments of God rather than the commandments of men?

“Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey?”—*Romans 6:16.*

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

“But in vain they do worship Me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.”—*Matthew 15:9.*

“How long halt ye between two opinions? If the Lord be God, follow Him; but if Baal, then follow him.”—*1 Kings 18:21.*

FACT NUMBER NINE—The seventh-day Sabbath, instituted by God at the Creation of this world, is the seal of His governmental authority.

God’s basic governmental code for mankind is the Ten Commandments. Of those ten, only the Sabbath commandment reveals the name of our Creator and Lawgiver.

Of all the commandments in the Decalogue, only the Fourth Commandment reveals the (1) name, (2) authority, and (3) dominion of the Author of this Law:

In six days, (1) the Lord (name) (2) made (office—the Creator) (3) heaven and earth (dominion or territory over which He rules). **This commandment alone contains the seal of God.**

Examine the notary seal of a notary public or any other legal seal. Each seal will always contain the above three identifying marks.

“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy . . . 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.*

The Sabbath commandment contains the seal of God, and the Sabbath itself—given in this commandment—is inseparably connected with this seal. For the Sabbath is the basis of all true worship of our Creator. And this worship lies at the heart of all our acknowledgment of His authority as our Creator and our God. The Sabbath is ever to be kept as a sign that we belong to Him. And the keeping of it brings us within the circle of this seal.

The seal is impressed in order that all may know the authority from whence it comes—and that all may know that it is not to be changed. **The seventh-day Sabbath comes from God. Let no man dare to tamper with it—for the seal of God is upon it.**

“Now, O king, establish the decree, and sign the writing, that it be not changed.”—*Daniel 6:8.*

“Bind up the testimony, seal the law among My disciples.”—*Isaiah*

8:16.

“It [the Sabbath] is a sign between Me and the children of Israel for ever: for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day He rested, and was refreshed.”—*Exodus 31:17.*

“And hallow My Sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between Me and you, that ye may know that I am the Lord your God.”—*Ezekiel 20:20.*

The Sabbath is a powerful sign of God’s creative power—not only of this earth, but within our lives as well. It requires the same power to clean our lives and redeem us as it did to create us in the first place.

“Create in me a clean heart, O God.”—*Psalms 51:10.*

“We are . . . created in Christ Jesus unto good works.”—*Ephesians 2:10.*

The Bible tells us there is to be a special sealing work in these last days, just before the return of Jesus in the clouds of heaven.

“And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels . . . saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, or the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.”—*Revelation 7:2-3 (Ezekiel 9:1-6).*

“And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with Him an hundred forty and four thousand, having His Father’s name written in their foreheads.”—*Revelation 14:1.*

The name of the Father is expressive of His character. When Moses asked to see the glory of God, the Lord passed by and told His name—that which He was like:

“The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth.”—*Exodus 34:6.*

And as we look at God’s holy law, we see another view of His character. It is a transcript of that character. It is God’s characteristics written on everlasting stone. He wants us to live it out in our lives.

When God writes His name on your forehead and right hand, this means He writes His law on your heart. This is the work of the new covenant (*Heb 8:10; 10:16; Jer 31:33*); and that work reaches its climax when God “seals in” His own people, just before He returns the second time in the clouds of heaven. What are those sealed ones like? They are fully obedient to the Law of God:

“And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.”—*Revelation 14:5.*

But in the final crisis before His return, there will be a people who will yield obedience to the beast instead of to God.

“And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, 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.”—*Revelation 14:9-10, 12*

“And he [the beast] causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads.”—*Revelation 13:16.*

In contrast with those who serve the beast and receive his mark, are those who in the last days will serve God and receive His seal. How can they be identified? God has told us in His Word. Here is a description of God’s remnant people at the end of time:

“And the dragon [Satan, working through his agents] was wroth with the woman [the true church], and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.”—*Revelation 12:17.*

And the third angel of Revelation 14, which warns men to not receive the mark of the beast, also tells them how to avoid receiving it—by keeping the commandments of God through the faith of Jesus Christ:

“And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, 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 . . . Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.”—*Revelation 14:9-10.*

The final crisis will be caused by a decree by the beast that all men must disobey a commandment of the law of God. The nations and churches of the world will not require men to steal or lie or commit adultery. The growing movement toward national Sunday laws is growing stronger every passing year. It is seen that in this point, and in this alone, will be found the heart of the crisis of Revelation 13 and 14.

The first angel of Revelation 14 calls on all men everywhere, today, to reverence God—by returning to the worship of the Creator of all things.

“And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people:

“Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come: and worship Him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.”—*Revelation 14:7*.

As the crisis nears, we must prepare for it.

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

Already we are facing Sunday closing laws on local levels. Men are prohibited from doing business on the first working day of the week, lest they be fined or imprisoned. And the situation will grow worse in the days just ahead.

“That the image of the beast should both speak, and cause [decree] that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: and that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark.”—*Revelation 13:15-17*.

But there is victory for those who will stand true to the God of heaven. There is overcoming power for those who will “keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus” (Rev 14:12).

“And I saw . . . them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God.”—*Revelation 15:2*.

FACT NUMBER TEN—God’s remnant people will keep the Bible Sabbath, and that holy day will be kept throughout eternity.

(1) **Even though there are over two thousand denominations today, the remnant people of God, living at the end of time, can be identified. God has identified them for us.** After speaking about how the antichrist power in the Dark Ages tried for centuries to destroy the people of God, **we are told how to identify them in these last days, just before Christ returns in the clouds for His own:**

“And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.”—*Revelation 12:17*.

And the third angel, after warning all men against receiving the mark of the beast, tells us clearly who will be the little group that will stand apart from this almost universal apostasy:

“Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.”—*Revelation 14:12*.

It will be an almost universal apostasy. All around us can be seen a rising tide of rebellion against the Ten Commandments. The colleges and universities teach that man is but an animal descended from worms and amoeba. The churches teach that God destroyed the Ten Commandments at Calvary, and that Jesus died to take sinners to heaven just as they are. Governmental agencies are relaxing moral restrictions and permitting gambling, abortion, homosexuality, and other vices.

This world is becoming a curse, but soon God will intervene. Prophecy tells us that before the end there will be a small company who will stand true to the commandments of God, by faith in Jesus Christ.

(2) And soon this present evil world will be ended suddenly by the return of Jesus Christ—and heaven will begin for the faithful.

And in that heaven the seventh-day Sabbath will be kept forever. God’s people suffered and died for it down here, and they will worship God on that holy day through all ages to come.

Revelation 21 and 22 tells us about this new life with Jesus, when sin has come to an end and the wicked are no longer alive.

“And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea . . . And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.”—*Revelation 21:1; 22:1*.

And then **we are told who will enter that beautiful new world:**

“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*.

But more: There is the promise that they will keep the holy Sabbath through all eternity:

“For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind . . . And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them. They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of My people, and Mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands . . . The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock; and dust shall be the serpent’s meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, saith the Lord . . .

“For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before Me, saith the Lord, so shall your seed and your name remain. And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one Sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before Me, saith the Lord.”—*Isaiah 65:17, 21-22, 25; 66:22-23*.

Now you have seen God’s plan for His people. And it is a wonderful one. It can begin for you right now. And it will continue on throughout eternity. Why not begin today—this very week? Ask God to forgive you for the past, and tell Him that, by His grace, you will worship your Creator on His day! This is the best decision you can make. Go to Him just now. He will help you make it.

And next Sabbath—begin that holy walk with God on His day, the holy day of Isaiah 58. Read that chapter and see the blessings He will add, if you will but let Him take over your life.

But think not that there will be no problems or trials. Satan will bring many upon you. He hates the Sabbath and all who will stand loyal to it. Yet if you will determine to be true to God and His Word, you will have strength from above to go through all that lies ahead.

And one day soon, if faithful to the end, you with the redeemed of all ages will rejoice on the sea of glass and will receive from the hand of Jesus the overcomer’s crown. And you will be given that new name, expressive of a new character. And you will begin a walk with Jesus that will last through all eternity to come.

“And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence come they?”

“And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said unto me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

“Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple: and He that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.

“They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.

“For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.”—*Revelation 7:13-17*.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT —

Where Did Sunday Sacredness Come From?

Why is Sunday kept as a sacred day of worship, when there is absolutely nothing about Sunday sacredness in the Bible?

About 300 years after the last book of the Bible was written, the changeover was made. Historians and leaders in the churches know the facts; you should too. Here they are—from the mouths of many religious and historical experts:

ROMAN CATHOLIC LEADERS SPEAK

“Sunday is a Catholic institution, and its claim to observance can be defended only on Catholic principles . . . From beginning to end of Scripture there is not a single passage that warrants the transfer of weekly public worship from the last day of the week to the first.”—*Catholic Press, Sydney, Australia, August, 1900.*

“Protestantism, in discarding the authority of the [Roman Catholic] Church, has no good reason for its Sunday theory, and ought logically to keep Saturday as the Sabbath.”—*John Gilmary Shea, in the American Catholic Quarterly Review, January 1883.*

“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, reported in the Elizabeth, N.J. News of March 18, 1903.*

“*Ques.*—Have you any other way of proving that the [Catholic] Church has power to institute festivals of precept [to command holy days]?”

“*Ans.*—Had she not such power, she could not have done that in which all modern religionists agree with her: She could not have substituted the observance of Sunday, the first day of the week, for the observance of Saturday, the seventh day, a change for which there is no Scriptural authority.”—*Stephen Keenan, Doctrinal Catechism, p. 176.*

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

“God simply gave His [Catholic] Church the power to set aside whatever day or days she would deem suitable as Holy Days. The Church chose Sunday, the first day of the week, and in the course of time added other days, as holy days.”—*Vincent J. Kelly, Forbidden Sunday and Feast-Day Occupations, p. 2.*

“Protestants . . . accept Sunday rather than Saturday as the day for public worship after the Catholic Church made the change . . . But the Protestant mind does not seem to realize that in accepting the Bible, in observing the Sunday, they are accepting the authority of the spokesman for the church, the Pope.”—*Our Sunday Visitor, February 5, 1950.*

“We hold upon this earth the place of God Almighty.”—*Pope Leo XIII, in an Encyclical Letter, dated June 20, 1894.*

“Not the Creator of Universe, in Genesis 2:1-3,—but the Catholic Church can claim the honor of having granted man a pause to his work every seven

days.”—*S.C. Mosna, Storia della Domenica, 1969, pp. 366-367.*

“The Pope is not only the representative of Jesus Christ, but he is Jesus Christ, hidden under veil of flesh.”—*The Catholic National, July 1895.*

“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 dated February 10, 1920.*

“We define that the Holy Apostolic See (the Vatican) and the Roman Pontiff hold the primacy over the whole world.”—*A Decree of the Council of Trent, quoted in Philippe Labbe and Gabriel Cossart, “The Most Holy Councils,” col. 1167.*

“It was the Catholic Church which, by the authority of Jesus Christ, has transferred this rest [from the Bible Sabbath] to the Sunday . . . Thus the observance of Sunday by the Protestants is an homage they pay, in spite of themselves, to the authority of the [Catholic] Church.”—*Monsignor Louis Segur, Plain Talk about the Protestantism of Today, p. 213.*

“We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday.”—*Peter Geiermann, CSSR, A Doctrinal Catechism, 1957 edition, p. 50.*

“We Catholics, then, have precisely the same authority for keeping Sunday holy instead of Saturday as we have for every other article of our creed, namely, the authority of the Church . . . whereas you who are Protestants have really no authority for it whatever; for there is no authority for it [Sunday sacredness] in the Bible, and you will not allow that there can be authority for it anywhere else.”—*The Brotherhood of St. Paul, “The Clifton tracts,” Volume 4, tract 4, p. 15.*

“The Church changed the observance of the Sabbath to Sunday by right of the divine, infallible authority given to her by her founder, Jesus Christ. The Protestant, claiming the Bible to be the only guide of faith, has no warrant for observing Sunday. In this matter the Seventh-day Adventist is the only consistent Protestant.”—*The Catholic Universe Bulletin, August 14, 1942, p. 4.*

The Bible is your only safe guide. Jesus can help you obey it. Trust God’s Word more than man’s traditions.

PROTESTANT LEADERS SPEAK

BAPTIST: “There was and is a command to keep holy the Sabbath day, but that Sabbath day was not Sunday. It will however be readily said, and with some show of triumph, that the Sabbath was transferred from the seventh to the first day of the week, with all its duties, privileges and sanctions. Earnestly desiring information on this subject, which I have studied for many years, I ask, where can the record of such a transaction be found? Not in the New Testament—absolutely not. There is no scriptural evidence of the change of the Sabbath institution from the seventh to the first day of the week.”—*Dr. E.T. Hiscox, author of the Baptist Manual.*

CONGREGATIONALIST: “It is quite clear that however rigidly or devoutly we may spend Sunday, we are not keeping the Sabbath . . . The Sabbath was founded on a specific divine command. We can plead no such command for the observance of Sunday . . . There is not a single line in the New

HISTORIANS SPEAK

HOW THE SABBATH WAS CHANGED TO SUNDAY

Testament to suggest that we incur any penalty by violating the supposed sanctity of Sunday.”—*Dr. R.W. Dale, The Ten Commandments, pp. 106-107.*

PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL: “The day is now changed from the seventh to the first day . . . but as we meet with no Scriptural direction for the change, we may conclude it was done by the authority of the church.”—*“The Protestant Episcopal Explanation of the Catechism.*

BAPTIST: “The Scriptures nowhere call the first day of the week the Sabbath . . . There is no Scriptural authority for so doing, nor of course, any Scriptural obligation.”—*The Watchman.*

PRESBYTERIAN: “There is no word, no hint in the New Testament about abstaining from work on Sunday. The observance of Ash Wednesday, or Lent, stands exactly on the same footing as the observance of Sunday. Into the rest of Sunday no Divine Law enters.”—*Canon Eyton, Ten Commandments.*

ANGLICAN: “And where are we told in the Scriptures that we are to keep the first day at all? We are commanded to keep the seventh; but we are nowhere commanded to keep the first day.”—*Isaac Williams, Plain Sermons on the Catechism, pp. 334, 336.*

METHODIST: “It is true that there is no positive command for infant baptism. Nor is there any for keeping holy the first day of the week. Many believe that Christ changed the Sabbath. But, from His own words, we see that He came for no such purpose. Those who believe that Jesus changed the Sabbath base it only on a supposition.”—*Amos Binney, Theological Compendium, pp. 180-181.*

EPISCOPALIAN: “We have made the change from the seventh to the first day, from Saturday to Sunday, on the authority of the one holy, catholic, apostolic church of Christ.”—*Bishop Seymour, Why We Keep Sunday.*

SOUTHERN BAPTIST: “The sacred name of the seventh day is Sabbath. This fact is too clear to require argument [Exodus 20:10, quoted] . . . On this point the plain teaching of the Word has been admitted in all ages . . . Not once did the disciples apply the Sabbath law to the first day of the week,—that folly was left for a later age, nor did they pretend that the first day supplanted the seventh.”—*Joseph Judson Taylor, The Sabbatic Question, pp. 14-17, 41.*

AMERICAN CONGREGATIONALIST: “The current notion, that Christ and His apostles authoritatively substituted the first day for the seventh, is absolutely without any authority in the New Testament.”—*Dr. Lyman Abbot, Christian Union, June 26, 1890.*

CHRISTIAN CHURCH: “Now there is no testimony in all the oracles of heaven that the Sabbath is changed, or that the Lord’s Day came in the room of it.”—*Alexander Campbell, Reporter, October 8, 1921.*

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST: “There is no direct Scriptural authority for designating the first day ‘the Lord’s Day.’ ”—*Dr. D.H. Lucas, Christian Oracle, January 23, 1890.*

BAPTIST: “To me it seems unaccountable that Jesus, during three years’ discussion with His disciples, often conversing upon the Sabbath question, discussing it in some of its various aspects, freeing it from its false [Jewish traditional] glosses, never alluded to any transference of the day; also, no such thing was intimated. Nor, so far as we know, did the Spirit, which was given to bring to their remembrance all things whatsoever that He had said unto them, deal with this question. Nor yet did the inspired apostles, in preaching the gospel, founding churches, counseling and instructing those founded, discuss or approach the subject.

“Of course I quite well know that Sunday did come into use in early Christian history as a religious day, as we learn from the Christian Fathers and other sources. But what a pity that it comes branded with the mark of paganism, and christened with the name of the sun god, then adopted and sanctified by the Papal apostasy, and bequeathed as a sacred legacy to Protestantism.”—*Dr. E.T. Hiscox, report of his sermon at the Baptist Minister’s Convention, New York Examiner, November 16, 1893.*

“There is scarcely anything which strikes the mind of the careful student of ancient ecclesiastical history with greater surprise than the comparatively early period at which many of the corruptions of Christianity, which are embodied in the Roman system, took their rise; yet it is not to be supposed that when the first originators of many of these unscriptural notions and practices planted those germs of corruption, they anticipated or even imagined they would ever grow into such a vast and hideous system of superstition and error as is that of popery.”—*John Dowling, History of Romanism, 13th Edition, p. 65.*

“It would be an error to attribute [the sanctification of Sunday] to a definite decision of the Apostles. There is no such decision mentioned in the Apostolic documents [that is, the New Testament].”—*Antoine Villien, A History of the Commandments of the Church, 1915, p. 23.*

“It must be confessed that there is no law in the New Testament concerning the first day.”—*McClintock and Strong, Cyclopaedia of Biblical, Theological and Ecclesiastical Literature, Vol. 9, p. 196.*

“Rites and ceremonies, of which neither Paul nor Peter ever heard, crept silently into use, and then claimed the rank of divine institutions. [Church] officers for whom the primitive disciples could have found no place, and titles which to them would have been altogether unintelligible, began to challenge attention, and to be named apostolic.”—*William D. Killen, The Ancient Church, p. xvi.*

“Until well into the second century [a hundred years after Christ] we do not find the slightest indication in our sources that Christians marked Sunday by any kind of abstention from work.”—*W. Rordorf, Sunday, p. 157.*

“The ancient Sabbath did remain and was observed . . . by the Christians of the Eastern Church [in the area near Palestine] above three hundred years after our Saviour’s death.”—*A Learned Treatise of the Sabbath, p. 77.*

“Modern Christians who talk of keeping Sunday as a ‘holy’ day, as in the still extant ‘Blue Laws,’ of colonial America, should know that as a ‘holy’ day of rest and cessation from labor and amusements Sunday was unknown to Jesus . . . It formed no tenant [teaching] of the primitive Church and became ‘sacred’ only in the course of time. Outside the church its observance was legalized for the Roman Empire through a series of decrees starting with the famous one of Constantine in 321, an edict due to his political and social ideas.”—*W.W. Hyde, Paganism to Christianity in the Roman Empire, 1946, p. 257.*

“The festival of Sunday, like all other festivals was always only a human ordinance, and it was far from the intentions of the apostles to establish a Divine command in this respect, far from them, and from the early apostolic church, to transfer the laws of the Sabbath to Sunday.”—*Augustus Neander, The History of the Christian Religion and Church, 1843, p. 186.*

“The [Catholic] Church took the pagan buckler of faith against the heathen. She took the pagan Roman Pantheon [the Roman], temple to all the gods, and made it sacred to all the martyrs; so it stands to this day. She took the pagan Sunday and made it the Christian Sunday . . . The Sun was a foremost god with heathendom. Balder the beautiful: the White God, the old Scandinavians called him. The sun has worshipers at this very hour in Persia and other lands . . . Hence the Church would seem to have said, ‘Keep that old pagan name. It shall remain consecrated, sanctified.’ And thus the pagan Sunday, dedicated to Balder, became the Christian Sunday, sacred to Jesus. The sun is a fitting emblem of Jesus. The Fathers often compared Jesus to the sun; as they compared Mary to the moon.”—*William L. Gilda, “Paschale Gaudium,” in The Catholic World, p. 58, March 1894.*

“The Church made a sacred day of Sunday . . . largely because it was the weekly festival of the sun;—for it was a definite Christian policy to take over the pagan festivals endeared to the people by tradition, and give them a Christian significance.”—*Authur Weigall, The Paganism in Our Chris-*

tianity, 1928, p. 145.

"Remains of the struggle [between the religion of Christianity and the religion of Mithraism] are found in two institutions adopted from its rival by Christianity in the fourth century, the two Mithraic sacred days: December 25, 'dies natalis solis' [birthday of the sun], as the birthday of Jesus,—and Sunday, 'the venerable day of the Sun,' as Constantine called it in his edict of 321."—*Walter Woodburn Hyde, Paganism to Christianity in the Roman Empire*, p. 60.

"It is not strange that Sunday is almost universally observed when the Sacred Writings do not endorse it? Satan, the great counterfeiter, worked through the 'mystery of iniquity' to introduce a counterfeit Sabbath to take the place of the true Sabbath. Sunday stands side by side with Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Holy (or Maundy) Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Sunday, Whitsunday, Corpus Christi, Assumption Day, All Soul's Day, Christmas Day, and a host of other ecclesiastical feast days too numerous to mention. This array of Roman Catholic feasts and fast days are all man made. None of them bears the divine credentials of the Author of the Inspired Word."—*M.E. Walsh*.

"Sun worship was the earliest idolatry."—*Fausset Bible Dictionary*, p. 666.

"Sun worship was one of the oldest components of the Roman religion."—*Gaston H. Halsberge, The Cult of Sol Invictus*, 1972, p. 26.

"'Babylon, the mother of harlots,' derived much of her teaching from pagan Rome and thence from Babylon. Sun worship—that led her to Sundaykeeping,—was one of those choice bits of paganism that sprang originally from the heathen lore of ancient Babylon: The solar theology of the 'Chaldeans' had a decisive effect upon the final development of Semitic paganism . . . [It led to their] seeing the sun the directing power of the cosmic system. All the Baals were thence forward turned into suns; the sun itself being the mover of the other stars—like it eternal and 'unconquerable' . . . Such was the final form reached by the religion of the pagan Semites, and following them, by that of the Romans . . . when they raised 'Sol Invictus' [the Invincible Sun] to the rank of supreme divinity in the empire."—*Franz F.V.M. Cummont, Astrology and Religion Among the Greeks and Romans*, p. 55.

"When Christianity conquered Rome, the ecclesiastical structure of the pagan church, the title and the vestments of the 'pontifex maximus,' the worship to the 'Great Mother' goddess and a multitude of comforting divinities . . . the joy or solemnity of old festivals, and the pageantry of immemorial ceremony, passed like material blood into the new religion,—and captive Rome conquered her conqueror. The reins and skills of government were handed down by a dying empire to a virile papacy."—*Will Durant, Caesar and Christ*, p. 672.

"The power of the Ceasars lived again in the universal dominion of the popes."—*H.G. Guinness, Romanism and the Reformation*.

"Like two sacred rivers flowing from paradise, the Bible and divine Tradition contain the Word of God, the precious gems of revealed truth. Though these two divine streams are in themselves, on account of their divine origin, of equal sacredness, and are both full of revealed truths, still, of the two, Tradition [the sayings of popes and councils] is to us more clear and safe."—*Di Bruno, Catholic Belief*, p. 33.

"Unquestionably the first law, either ecclesiastical or civil, by which the Sabbatical observance of that day is known to have been ordained, is the edict of Constantine, A.D. 321."—*Chamber's Encyclopedia*, article, "Sabbath."

Here is the first Sunday law in history, a legal enactment by Constantine I (reigned 306-337): "On the Venerable Day of the Sun ['Venerable die Solis'—the sacred day of the Sun] let the magistrates and people residing in cities rest, and let all workshops be closed. In the country, however, persons engaged in agriculture may freely and lawfully continue their pursuits; because it often happens that another day is not so suitable for grain-sowing or for vine-planting; lest by neglecting the proper moment for such operations the bounty of heaven should be lost—given the 7th day of March [A.D. 321], Crispus and Constanstine being consuls each of them for the second time."—*The First Sunday Law of Constantine I*, in "*Codex Justinianus*," lib. 3, tit.

12,3; trans. in *Phillip Schaff, History of the Christian Church*, Vol. 3, p. 380.

"This [Constantine's Sunday decree of March 321] is the 'parent' Sunday law making it a day of rest and release from labor. For from that time to the present there have been decrees about the observance of Sunday which have profoundly influenced European and American society. When the Church became a part of State under the Christian emperors, Sunday observance was enforced by civil statutes, and later when the Empire was past, the Church in the hands of the papacy enforced it by ecclesiastical and also by civil enactments."—*Walter W. Hyde, Paganism to Christianity in the Roman Empire*, 1946, p. 261.

"Constantine's decree marked the beginning of a long, though intermittent series of imperial decrees in support of Sunday rest."—*Vincent J. Kelly, Forbidden Sunday and Feast-Day Occupations*, 1943, p. 29.

"Constantine labored at this time untiringly to unite the worshipers of the old and the new into one religion. All his laws and contrivances are aimed at promoting this amalgamation of means melt together a purified heathenism and a moderated Christianity . . . Of all his blending and melting together of Christianity and heathenism, none is more easy to see through than this making of his Sunday law: The Christians worshiped their Christ, the heathen their sun-god [so they should now be combined]."—*H.G. Heggveit, Illustreret Kirkehistorie*, 1895, p. 202.

"If every Sunday is to be observed by Christians on account of the resurrection, then every Sabbath on account of the burial is to be regarded in execration [cursing] of the Jews."—*Pope Sylvester, quoted by S.R.E. Humbert, "Adversus Graecorum Calumnias," in J.P. Migne, Patrologie*, p. 143 [Sylvester (A.D. 314-337) was the pope at the time Constantine I was Emperor].

"All things whatsoever that were prescribed for the [Bible] Sabbath, we have transferred them to the Lord's day, as being more authoritative and more highly regarded and first in rank, and more honorable than the Jewish Sabbath."—*Bishop Eusebius, quoted in J.P. Migne, "Patrologie," p. 23, 1169-1172 [Eusebius of Caesarea was a high-ranking Catholic leader during Constantine's lifetime]*.

"As we have already noted, excepting for the Roman and Alexandrian Christians, the majority of Christians were observing the seventh-day Sabbath at least as late as the middle of the fifth century [A.D. 450]. The Roman and Alexandrian Christians were among those converted from heathenism. They began observing Sunday as a merry religious festival in honor of the Lord's resurrection, about the latter half of the second century A.D. However, they did not try to teach that the Lord or His apostles commanded it. In fact, no ecclesiastical writer before Eusebius of Caesarea in the fourth century even suggested that either Christ or His apostles instituted the observance of the first day of the week.

"These Gentile Christians of Rome and Alexandria began calling the first day of the week 'the Lord's day.' This was not difficult for the pagans of the Roman Empire who were steeped in sun worship to accept, because they [the pagans] referred to their sun-god as their 'Lord.'"—*E.M. Chalmers, How Sunday Came into the Christian Church*, p. 3.

The following statement was made 100 years after Constantine's Sunday Law was passed: "Although almost all churches throughout the world celebrate the sacred mysteries on the Sabbath every week, yet the Christians of Alexandria and at Rome, on account of some ancient tradition, have ceased to do this."—*Socrates Scholasticus, quoted in Ecclesiastical History*, Book 5, chap. 22 [written shortly after A.D. 439].

"The people of Constantinople, and almost everywhere, assemble together on the Sabbath, as well as on the first day of the week, which custom is never observed at Rome or at Alexandria."—*Hermias Sozomen, quoted in Ecclesiastical History*, vii, 19, in *A Select Library of Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers*, 2nd Series, Vol. 2, p. 390 [written soon after A.D. 415].

"Down even to the fifth century the observance of the Jewish Sabbath was continued in the Christian church, but with a rigor and solemnity gradually diminishing until it was wholly discontinued."—*Lyman Coleman, Ancient Christianity Exemplified*, chap. 26, sec. 2, p. 527.

"Contantine's [five Sunday Law] decrees marked the beginning of a long

though intermittent series of imperial decrees in support of Sunday rest.”—*A History of the Councils of the Church, Vol. 2, p. 316.*

“What began, however, as a pagan ordinance, ended as a Christian regulation; and a long series of imperial decrees, during the fourth, fifth, and sixth, centuries, enjoined with increasing stringency abstinence from labor on Sunday.”—*Hutton Webster, Rest Days, pp. 122-123, 270.*

Here is the first Sunday Law decree of a Christian council, given about 16 years after Constantine’s first Sunday Law of A.D. 321: “Christians shall not Judaize and be idle on Saturday [in the original: ‘sabbato’—shall not be idle on the Sabbath], but shall work on that day; but the Lord’s day they shall especially honour, and as being Christians, shall, if possible, do no work on that day. If, however, they are found Judaizing, they shall be shut out [‘anathema,’ excommunicated] from Christ.”—*Council of Laodicea, c. A.D. 337, Canon 29, quoted in C.J. Hefele, A History of the Councils of the Church, Vol. 2, p. 316.*

“The keeping of the Sunday rest arose from the custom of the people and the constitution of the [Catholic] Church. . . Tertullian was probably the first to refer to a cessation of affairs on the Sun day; the Council of Laodicea issued the first conciliar legislation for that day; Constantine I issued the first civil legislation.”—*Priest Vincent J. Kelly, Forbidden Sunday and Feast-Day Occupations, p. 203 [a thesis presented to the Catholic University of America].*

“About 590, Pope Gregory, in a letter to the Roman people, denounced as the prophets of Antichrist those who maintained that work ought not to be done on the seventh day.”—*James T. Ringgold, The Law of Sunday, p. 267.*

In the later centuries, persecution against believers in the Bible Sabbath intensified until very few were left alive. When the Reformation began, the true Sabbath was almost unknown.

“Now the [Catholic] Church . . . instituted, by God’s authority, Sunday as the day of worship. The same Church, by the same divine authority, taught the doctrine of Purgatory . . . We have, therefore, the same authority for Purgatory as we have for Sunday.”—*Martin J. Scott, Things Catholics Are Asked about, 1927, p. 236.*

“Of course the Catholic Church claims that the change [of the Sabbath to Sunday] 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.*

THE WEEKLY CYCLE HAS NEVER CHANGED

The seventh day of the week has never changed, so the Bible Sabbath of Jesus and His followers is still on the seventh day of the week!

The writings of historians, the records of chronographers, the languages of earth, the calendars of time, and the existence of the Jewish race—all testify to the fact that the weekly cycle on our calendars today is the same as in earlier centuries—going back to the time of Christ, to Moses, and beyond.

In the beginning, God gave us the weekly seven-day cycle, with the Sabbath as the last day. That pattern has never changed. The seventh day of the week today is the true Bible Sabbath. Our seventh day is the Sabbath which Jesus kept; it was the Sabbath in the time of Moses when the Ten Commandments were written down. Historians and scientists all agree that this is true.

If there had been any change in the weekly cycle, between the time of Creation and the time of Moses, a correction would have been made when the Ten Commandments were given to the Hebrews. From that time, on down to the present, there have always been Jews to testify as to the true Sabbath. It is the same seventh day of the week which is on our calendars. While all the other ancient races are now intermingled, the Jews have been kept separate so they could testify to the fact that our seventh day is the Bible Sabbath!

The yearly cycle has been changed. In 1582, the length of the year was changed to include the leap year. This changeover resulted in October 1582 having only 21 days! But each week remained the same seven days in length. Thursday, October 4, was followed by Friday, October 15. God has divinely protected the weekly cycle down through the ages. If He had not done this, it would be impossible to keep the Sabbath holy, as He has commanded. But, because He has, we have no excuse not to. The seventh day is a holy day; made holy by the command of God. All calendars agree: The seventh day is the Sabbath. Sunday is the first day; the day called “Saturday” in the English language is the Sabbath.

However, in 108 of the 160 languages of mankind, the seventh day is called “the Sabbath”! Did you know that? Dr. William Mead Jones of London prepared a chart proving this. (A copy of this chart can be obtained free of charge from the publisher of this book: Ask for “*The Chart of the Week*” [BS-28-29]. English is one of the few major languages in which the seventh day is not called “the Sabbath.”

Here are ten examples: Hebrew: Shabbath / Greek: Sabbaton / Latin: Sabbatum / Arabic: Assabit / Persian: Shambin / Russian: Subbota / Hindustani: Shamba / French: Samedi / Italian: Sabato / Spanish: Sabado.

“By calculating the eclipses, it can be proven that no time has been lost and the creation days were seven, divided into 24 hours each.”—*Dr. Hinkley, The Watchman, July 1926 [Hinkley was a well-known astronomer].*

“The human race never lost the septenary [seven day] sequence of week days and that the Sabbath of these latter times comes down to us from Adam, though the ages, without a single lapse.”—*Dr. Totten, professor of astronomy at Yale University.*

“Seven has been the ancient and honored number among the nations of the earth. They have measured their time by weeks from the beginning. The origin of this was the Sabbath of God, as Moses has given the reasons for it in his writings.”—*Dr. Lyman Coleman.*

“There has been no change in our calendar in past centuries that has affected in any way the cycle of the week.”—*James Robertson, Director American Ephemeris, Navy Department, U.S. Naval Observatory, Washington, D.C., March 12, 1932.*

“It can be said with assurance that not a day has been lost since Creation, and all the calendar changes notwithstanding, there has been no break in the weekly cycle.”—*Dr. Frank Jeffries, Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society and Research Director of the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, England.*

It is remarkable how complete is the Biblical and historical evidence corroborating the fact that the Bible Sabbath was given to us by the God of heaven. Let us keep the Sabbath that Jesus kept! He worshiped on the Bible Sabbath, and never told us to stop keeping it. No one else in the Bible said to either. The seventh day is the Sabbath, for God never changed it.

For a copy of the 256-page book, *Beyond Pitcairn*, explaining in remarkable detail about the Bible Sabbath, write to the publisher of this book. It is an extremely readable book.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT —

Bible Facts about The Other Side of Death

A well-known American said to his medical advisers when he was eighty years old, "I'll give you a million dollars for each year you can add to my life,"

Louis XIV was the wealthiest king France ever had. One day, when he asked what was in a building he could see from his palace window, one of his courtiers replied, "Sir, that is the Church of Saint Denis where your royal ancestors lie buried." The king immediately gave orders to build another palace—the fabulous Versailles—southwest of Paris, so he would no longer see that building.

What is death? What is on the other side of death? The Bible has answers. Here they are:

WHY IS THERE DEATH?

When God made Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, did He plan that this sinless pair, created in His own image, should die? No, it was not His plan. God created man to live. But God did not purpose that man should live if he sinned.

1. Did God warn Adam and Eve ahead of time that they would die if they sinned?

Genesis 2:17—"Of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."

As soon as man sinned, he would begin aging, dying, and committing more sins.

2. Satan, in the form of a serpent, lied to Eve. What did he tell her?

Genesis 3:4—"Ye shall not surely die."

Eve believed Satan instead of believing God, and ate the fruit. Adam joined her in disobedience. No sin is small; each is quickly followed by more.

3. What did God tell them?

Genesis 3:19—"Dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return."

God's sentence on sin is death. To partake of the Tree of Life after that would mean eternal life in sin. But God did not let them do that—because the sentence of disobedience was death.

4. How did God prevent them from becoming immortal sinners?

Genesis 3:22-24—"And now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever; therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the Garden of Eden . . . So He drove out the man; and He placed . . . a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life."

Because of sin, God has given each person a brief, probationary life of sixty or so years to test his choices and actions—and then comes death.

Ezekiel 18:4—"The soul that sinneth, it shall die."

Romans 5:12—"By one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin."

IS MAN IMMORTAL?

Because mankind sins, mankind is mortal, subject to death. So it is clear that man was originally created with the *possibility* of becoming immortal—and living forever. But he was not created with *inherent* immortality. He was subject to death, if he sinned. He did not have "natural immortality."

5. Is man immortal?

Job 4:17—"Shall mortal man be more just . . . than his Maker?"

6. Who only has immortality?

1 Timothy 6:16—" [God] who only hath immortality."

Only God has immortality, and the word, "immortal," is found only once in the Bible, and refers to God:

1 Timothy 1:17—"Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God."

So we have these Bible facts about mortal and immortal:

1. Man is mortal (*Job 4:17*).
2. God is immortal (*1 Tim 1:17*).
3. God only has immortality (*1 Tim 6:16*).
4. Man must seek for immortality (*Rom 2:7*).
5. Immortality is brought to light through the gospel (*2 Tim 1:10*).
6. Immortality will be bestowed upon those who are redeemed at the second coming of Christ (*1 Cor 15:51-55*).

In view of all this Bible evidence, why is it that some people believe that man has innate, or "natural," immortality? If that were true, he would not die. Yet people are dying all about us.

HOW WAS MAN CREATED?

7. How was man created?

Genesis 2:7—"The Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."

Let us follow the steps:

First, God made Adam's body from the elements in the dust of the ground.

Second, God breathed, into Adam's nostrils, the breath of life. There is no indication here of an "immortal spirit," and there never was a "spirit Adam." God simply breathed into Adam's nostrils the breath of life and he became alive—mortally live. Remember Genesis 3:22-24, quoted earlier. It was the Tree of Life that gave continuing immortality, and mankind had been barred from eating of it.

Third, “man became a living soul.” Body plus breath of life equals a living soul. Notice that God did not breath a living soul into man, but He breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and man then became a living soul.

By itself, Adam’s body had no life, and no other created being could give it to him. But God could give him life, which He did. Adam’s body, although perfect in every way, was lifeless—until God breathed that life into him.

But the warning had been given him that if he sinned, he would die. All around us, we see that men have life, but then they get old and die.

Before he was made, Adam had no living soul. It came as a result of the union of his body and the breath of the “spirit of life,” for “the body without the spirit is dead” (*James 2:26*).

WHAT ABOUT SOUL AND SPIRIT IN THE BIBLE?

The Hebrew and Greek words from which we translate our English words, *soul* and *spirit*, are found some 1,700 times in the Bible. Actually, the word, *soul*, as used in the Bible, does not always have exactly the same meaning. The same holds true for the word, *spirit*.

But this we know very clearly: Not once in the 1,700 places in the Bible, where the original words for *soul* and *spirit* are used,—are either of them said to be immortal, eternal, never dying, imperishable, indestructible, everlasting, or having immortality. In addition, not once are the dead represented as being capable of a conscious existence apart from the body.

WHAT ABOUT THE ANIMALS?

8. Do animals have “the breath of life?”

Genesis 7:15—“They went in unto Noah into the ark, two and two of all flesh, wherein is the breath of life.”

So it is clear that animals also possess the breath of life, “the breath of the spirit of life” (*Gen 7:22*, margin). Neither animals nor man are immortal; they both die (*Gen 7:21-22*; *Rev 16:3*).

9. Are animals “living souls”?

Genesis 1:30—“To every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life.”

The word here for “life” is “living soul” in the original Hebrew (see *Gen 1:30*, margin).

So, according to the Bible, animals have living spirits and souls as man does.

Is man then a mere animal? No, indeed. Adam was the masterpiece of creation. Man is “fearfully and wonderfully made” (*Ps 139:14*), only “a little lower than the angels” (*Ps 8:5*).

CAN WE THEN BE SAVED?

How tragic it is that man, created with such high privileges and opportunities, fell into sin—and became subject to death! But God had a plan to save him.

10. What was God’s plan to save man from sin?

John 3:16—“God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

Thank God for His inexpressible Gift! Through humble, sincere repentance for the sins which crucified Jesus Christ, and faith in Him, we can be accepted by the God of heaven—and enabled by

grace to obey all that He asks of us in His Inspired Writings! **2 Timothy 1:10**—“Jesus Christ . . . hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.”

1 John 5:12—“He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son hath not life.”

Is not that a most wonderful encouragement! There is hope for us! Through His enabling grace, we can be forgiven our sins and kept from falling back into them.

It takes the body and spirit of life—together—to make man a living soul. But it is not, by nature, an immortal soul. There is no such thing as a separate soul which can live apart from the body. Job refers to the breath of God within him: “The spirit of God is in my nostrils.” *Job 27:3*.

Paul writes, “The very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” *1 Thessalonians 5:23*. The body and spirit of life make man a living soul. Christ came to save the entire man. To do this, we must let Him sanctify all there is of us—body, soul, and spirit.

It is the way of the cross which leads to immortality. Let us follow Jesus in His sufferings, wherever it may lead. “Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.” *Revelation 2:10*.

By giving our life and all we have and are to Jesus—we will gain eternal life. “Whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for My sake shall find it.” *Matthew 16:25*.

Jesus says to us, “Come, follow Me. Choose rather to die—than to sin.” Through Christ, follow the narrow path to heaven and immortality.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A MAN DIES?

What happens *after* death? God has given us this information in His Book, the Bible.

11. What happened when man was created?

Genesis 2:7—“And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul.”

At that moment, man became a living, thinking, active being. Before then, he had not really existed.

During life, that breath remains in him. “The breath of the Almighty hath given me life.” *Job 33:4*. “The spirit of God is in my nostrils.” *Job 27:3*.

12. What happens when a man dies?

But when a man dies, the opposite of what happened at creation occurs:

Ecclesiastes 12:7—“Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.”

The breath of life departs, and the body returns to the ground.

First, the breath of life departs. The “spirit of life,” which God gives to all men, leaves that person.

Psalm 146:4—“His breath goeth forth.”

Ecclesiastes 12:7—“The spirit shall return to God who gave it.”

Second, when the breath of life leaves it, the body returns to the ground.

Psalm 146:4—“His breath goeth forth, he returneth to His earth.”

Ecclesiastes 12:7—“Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was.”

Genesis 3:19—“Dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.”

Psalm 104:29—"Thou hidest Thy face, they are troubled: Thou takest away their breath, they die, and return to their dust" (also Job 34:14-15).

Job 17:16—"Our rest together is in the dust" (also Job 3:11-18).

Isaiah 26:19—"They" dwell in the dust."

Isaiah 38:18-19—"For the grave cannot praise Thee, death cannot celebrate Thee . . . The living, the living, he shall praise Thee, as I do this day."

Acts 2:29, 34—"Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulcher is with us unto this day . . . For David is not ascended into the heavens."

A simple illustration will help explain this: The *creation of man* is like making a wooden box. The body is like the boards; the breath of life is like the nails. Put the nails into the boards, and you now have a box—which is like the living soul.

The *death of man* is the opposite: Remove the nails from the boards, and there is no more box.

Here it is from the Bible:

Creation: "God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." *Genesis 2:7*.

Death: "Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it." *Ecclesiastes 12:7*.

IS MAN CONSCIOUS AFTER DEATH?

13. Is a man awake after he dies?

Psalm 146:4—"His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish."

Ecclesiastes 9:5—"The living know that they shall die: but the dead know not anything."

Ecclesiastes 9:10—"There is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest."

14. Do his feelings and emotions cease also?

Ecclesiastes 9:6—"Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished."

When a man dies, his thoughts and knowledge cease. His feelings and emotions cease also.

For any given man, his thinking and feeling did not exist until God breathed life into him. When the electric current is turned off, the bulb is still there but the light is gone. At death, everything stops.

WHAT IS DEATH?

Death is like sound sleep. That is what the Bible teaches. The dead are entirely unconscious. Death is called "sleep" fifty-four times in the Scriptures.

Few passages are more obvious than *John 11:11-14*, where Jesus carefully explains to His disciples that death is really a sleep.

15. How did Jesus describe death?

John 11:11, 13-14—"Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep . . . Howbeit Jesus spake of his death . . . Then said Jesus unto them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead.'"

When Stephen was stoned to death, he "fell asleep" (*Acts 7:60*). Christ is called the firstfruits of them that slept (*1 Cor 15:20*); and in *verse 51* Paul says, "We shall not all sleep." Elsewhere, he writes that he would not have them ignorant concerning them which are asleep.

1 Thessalonians 4:13—"I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren,

concerning them which are asleep [dead]."

In *verse 14*, he speaks of them as asleep in Christ, and explains, in *verse 16*, that this means "dead in Christ."

16. Is there no awareness of anything in this sleep of death?

Psalm 6:5—"For in death there is no remembrance of Thee."

Psalm 115:17—"The dead praise not the Lord, neither any that go down into silence."

Ecclesiastes 9:5—"The dead know not anything."

Job 14:21—"His sons come to honour, and he knoweth it not; and they are brought low, but he perceiveth it not of them."

WHERE DID THE ERROR ORIGINATE?

Where then did mankind get this idea of "natural immortality"? It originated in ancient paganism. The Egyptians believed in the immortality of the soul, and gave the idea to the Greeks and Romans, who introduced it into Christianity in the third century, A.D.

But, remember, this idea did not originate with the Egyptians, but with Satan. God originally said, "Thou shalt surely die" if you sin (*Gen 2:17*). But, to contradict it and encourage mankind to sin, Satan said, "You shall not surely die" if you sin (*Gen 3:4*). The teaching that sinners will not die came from the devil. Eve sinned because of that lie. Millions since then have feared and worshiped the dead.

But, as we have learned, the truth is that, to prevent sinners from becoming immortal, God barred the way to the Tree of Life as soon as man sinned (*Gen 3:22-24*).

We know, from ancient Christian records, that almost no Christians accepted natural immortality until it was brought from paganism into the Christian church through liberal apostate Christians in Alexandria, Egypt, in the third century A.D. In later centuries, many returned to the Bible truth on this subject, including such men as Martin Luther, Isaac Watts, and John Milton.

Is there no solution to the problem of death? Yes, there is! It is acceptance of Christ and the coming resurrection!

WHAT IS THE PROMISE OF THE RESURRECTION?

Christ told His disciples that He would be raised to life (*Matt 16:21*), and afterward He was (*Luke 24:39*). The angel declared, "He is risen" (*Mark 16:6*)!

A wonderful Bible promise has been given to God's children that, just as Christ rose from the dead to life, so those who believe in Him shall also rise to life!

"All that are in the graves shall . . . come forth." *John 5:28-29*. "Christ . . . the first fruits of them that slept." *1 Corinthians 15:20*. "Afterward they that are Christ's at His coming." *Verse 23*.

17. What is the truth about the resurrection?

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18—"The Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first. 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."

18. Will Paul and all God's children receive their rewards then?

2 Timothy 4:8—"Henceforth, there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing."

The resurrection from the dead is the real hope of those who, when their beloved die, “sorrow not, even as others” (1 Thess 4:13). Christians who live to see the second coming of Christ will go to heaven “together with” the resurrected righteous. They will not prevent [in the Greek, go before] them which are asleep (verse 15).

The promise is that those who die, will not go to heaven before those who live to see Christ return in the clouds of heaven. “God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.” Hebrews 11:40. Even a thousand years after the death of David, Paul said he was still not in heaven: Acts 2:34—“For David is not ascended into the heavens.”

Indeed, Peter said that if there is not that resurrection,—then no Christians will go to heaven, and that is the end of it all (1 Cor 15:16-18)! Thank God that there will be a resurrection of the dead! 1 Corinthians 15:16, 18—“For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised . . . Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished.”

John 5:28-29—“All that are in the graves shall hear His voice, and shall come forth.”

An actual, bodily resurrection will occur at that time.

Job 19:25-26—“I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: and though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God.”

For the people of God who have died, the sleep of death will end at the resurrection; and, when raised to life, they will be caught up together with the living righteous to meet their Lord in the air—to be forevermore with Him.

19. Will our bodies be changed when Christ returns?

Philippians 3:21—“[Christ] shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body, according to the working whereby He is able even to subdue all things unto Himself.”

Man originally came from the dust of the earth; and, at the resurrection, he will arise from the dust again.

Man was originally created “a little lower than the angels” (Ps 8:5). But, after the second advent, it will be said of the redeemed:

Luke 20:36—“Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection.”

At the second advent of Christ, He will raise His own from the dead. Oh, glorious promise! Wonderful assurance!

WHAT WILL THE RESURRECTION BE LIKE?

Death is an enemy (1 Cor 15:26); but, on behalf of God’s faithful ones, it will be conquered at the second coming of Christ when He raises His beloved children from the dead. At that time, they will give a shout of victory over death!

20. When will we have victory over the grave and death?

1 Corinthians 15:51-58—“Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

“For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal

must put on immortality.

“So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

“O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?”

“The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”

HOW CAN WE RECEIVE THAT LIFE?

Sin brings death, not life. “The wages of sin is death.” Romans 6:23. In Christ alone is salvation; in Him alone is life!

Acts 4:12—“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”

Christ is the pathway to life. “I am the way, the truth, and the life.” John 14:6. It is only through Christ that we can have that life. “That whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” John 3:16.

John 10:27-28—“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me: and I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand.”

21. Who only can give us eternal life?

1 John 5:11—“This is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.”

22. What must we do to receive that life?

1 John 5:12—“He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.”

John 5:24—“He that heareth My Word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.”

John 6:53—“Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink His blood, ye have no life in you.”

We receive life by accepting and obeying Christ. *Rejoice in the fact! There is life only in Christ; and if we accept Christ and obey His Word, we can have that life!*

In view of such a destiny, it is our solemn, but happy duty to give our lives to God, and serve Him all our earthly days.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT —

Bible Facts about The Death of the Wicked

It is not true that sinners will burn forever in hellfire. The Bible teaches that, yes, the wicked will be punished, but only for a relatively short time—and then they will perish and no longer exist. No one sins enough, in this life, to deserve eternal burnings on his body!

Our God is a good, merciful God and will blot out, from existence, those who, in the final day of judgment, have been shown to not want the purity and harmony of heaven.

“If eternal hell is real, love is eternally frustrated and heaven will be a place of mourning and concern for the lost. Such joy and such grief cannot go together.”—*Gerald Kennedy, Reader’s Notebook, 1953, Harper & Row.*

Thank God that He is perfectly just and fair in all His dealings with His creatures! “The wages of sin is death,” said Paul (*Rom 6:23*). Death for the wicked will come quickly, and will mean the cessation of life—forever. This is the reward of the wicked.

What is the punishment of the wicked? Where will it take place? How long will it last? What will happen after it is ended? The Bible has answers. Here they are:

WHAT WILL BE THE END OF THE WICKED?

1. What will be the end of the wicked?

Romans 6:23—“For the wages of sin is death.”

Ezekiel 18:4—“The soul that sinneth, it shall die.”

The original Greek and Hebrew words for “death” and “die” mean to cease to exist, to perish.

That answers the question of Peter: “What shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God” (*1 Peter 4:17*)?—They will be blotted out of existence.

2. How complete will this death be?

2 Thessalonians 1:9—“Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction.”

The Greek word here is *olethros*, “destruction,” and is the same as the English word which means “to ruin, demolish, abolish, annihilate.”

3. In what other ways is the death of wicked described?

Luke 13:3—“Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.”

2 Peter 2:12—“But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption.”

The word, “perish,” means “to be destroyed, pass away, come to an end, be lost, to die.” The Greek word is *apollume*, “be destroyed.”

Psalms 37:20—“But the wicked shall perish, and the enemies of

the Lord shall be as the fat of lambs; they shall consume; into smoke shall they consume away.”

The word, “consume,” means “to destroy the substance of, especially by fire” or by decomposition.

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF HELL?

4. What are the three meanings of “hell” in the Bible?

(1) “Hell” sometimes means “the grave.”

Psalms 16:10—“Thou wilt not leave My soul in hell [*sheol*, Hebrew for the grave]; neither wilt Thou suffer Thine Holy One to see corruption.”

This verse is a prediction of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. He did not go into hellfire, but into the grave. In Acts 2:27, this scripture is quoted by Peter. The Greek word used there is *hades*, which also means the grave. In 1 Corinthians 15:55, *hades* is translated “the grave.”

(2) “Hell” can also mean a “place of burning.” In the New Testament, this word is *Gehenna*, or the “Valley of Hinnom,” and was a deep valley just south of Jerusalem, where the garbage was burned up. *Gehenna* is the burning hell.

(3) “Hell” represents “darkness.” In *2 Peter 2:4*, the Greek word is *Tartarus*, not *Gehenna* or *hades*.

2 Peter 2:4—“God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment.”

This is the darkness that enshrouded Satan and his angels, when they were cast out of the presence of God. This is the darkness which has come to earth, because of the presence of the prince of darkness (*Isa 60:2*).

WHERE DO ALL MEN GO AT DEATH?

According to the Bible, all men go to the grave (*sheol, hades*) at death. Four questions will explain it:

5. What is the house that all go to at death?

Job 30:23—“For I know that Thou wilt bring me to death, and to the house appointed for all living.”

6. What is this house of death?

Job 17:13—“If I wait, the grave [*sheol*] is mine house: I have made my bed in the darkness.”

7. At death, what happens?

Ecclesiastes 12:7—“Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.”

This is the opposite of creation, when God breathed into the life-

less body of Adam and he became alive.

Genesis 2:7—“And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.”

8. Does everyone go to the grave at death?

Psalm 89:48—“What man is he that liveth, and shall not see death? Shall he deliver his soul from the hand of the grave [*sheol*]?”

Ecclesiastes 9:2—“There is one event to the righteous, and to the wicked.”

Everyone goes to the grave at death; no one goes to hellfire. The best and the worst people die and go to the grave.

Yes, death is an “enemy” (1 Cor 15:26), and we sorrow when our loved ones go into the grave; but we can thank God that “blessed are the dead which die in the Lord” (Rev 14:13). They have the hope of the resurrection. We may also be thankful that the wicked are slumbering in silence and not screaming in continuous torture and agony.

WHEN WILL THE RIGHTEOUS DEAD COME OUT OF THE GRAVE?

9. At the second coming of Christ, God’s faithful ones will have victory over what?

1 Corinthians 15:55—“O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?”

The righteous dead come out of the grave, or *hades*, at the sound of the “last trump.”

10. Is that when the righteous gain immortality?

1 Corinthians 15:51-55—“Behold, I shew you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. . . So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?”

Jesus promised us that we would not go to heaven to be with Him until His second coming (John 14:1-3).

Christ’s promise will someday be fulfilled. At the sound of the “trump of God,” His own who have slept in silence, unconscious of the passing of time, will suddenly be wakened. Some have been in the graves for thousands of years, others for only a few years. But, to all, it will be as a moment—and they will come forth to radiant, immortal life. Paul said that was when he—and all God’s people—will be given eternal life.

2 Timothy 4:8—“Henceforth, there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing.”

The promise of the resurrection is very definite and very important.

1 Corinthians 15:16, 18—“For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised. . . Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished.”

WHEN WILL THE WICKED DEAD COME OUT OF THE GRAVE?

11. When are the wicked raised from their graves?

Revelation 20:5—“But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished.”

That is what the Bible teaches. The wicked will be raised from their graves a thousand years later. It is not until that time that “hell” (*hades*, or the grave) gives up its dead (Rev 20:13).

At the beginning of the millennium, Jesus raises His own from their graves and takes them to heaven. After a thousand years pass, they descend upon the earth with the Holy City, and then enter it. At this time, the wicked dead are raised, and Satan is thus able to again tempt and control the wicked (Rev 20:1-7).

At the end of the millennium, untold millions of dead are raised from the grave, or *sheol*. Satan goes out to deceive them and lead them in an attack on the City of God (Rev 20:5-9). But then they receive their final sentence from God.

WHERE ARE THE WICKED AND THE GRAVE CAST?

12. After they have been raised at the close of the millennium, where are the wicked and “hell” (the grave) cast?

Revelation 20:14-15—“And death and hell [*hades*, the grave] were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”

The wicked are cast into a literal lake of fire. Nine times Christ warns us about this “hell” of fire, this burning hell. This is the “place of burning,” the final *Gehenna*. It is mentioned 12 times in the New Testament.

IS EVERY PART OF MAN CAST INTO THIS FIRE?

13. Is the whole man—all of him—cast into this fire?

Matthew 10:28—“And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”

It is sin and yielding to Satan which we need to fear. The wicked will be completely destroyed in hellfire. Nothing will remain undestroyed.

Matthew 5:30—“And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell” (also Matt 18:8-9).

There is no fire in the grave. It is the place of quiet and unconsciousness. That is what the Bible teaches about what happens to man when he dies.

Psalm 146:4—“His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish.”

Ecclesiastes 9:5-6—“The living know that they shall die: but the dead know not anything. . . Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished.”

Psalm 6:5—“For in death there is no remembrance of Thee.”

Psalm 115:17—“The dead praise not the Lord, neither any that go down into silence.”

HOW LONG WILL THE WICKED BURN?

14. How long do the wicked burn in hellfire?

(1) Until body and soul are destroyed:

Matthew 10:28—“But rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”

(2) Until neither root nor branch is left:

Malachi 4:1—“For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.”

(3) Until they are devoured—and die the second death:

Revelation 20:9, 14—“And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them . . . And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.”

(4) The wicked burn “forever”—as long as life lasts.

Revelation 20:10—“And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.”

15. How long is “for ever”?

“For ever” may mean only as long as a man lives.

Exodus 21:2, 5-6—“If thou buy an Hebrew servant, six years he shall serve: and in the seventh he shall go out free for nothing . . . And if the servant shall plainly say, I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free: Then his master shall bring him unto the judges; he shall also bring him to the door, or unto the door post; and his master shall bore his ear through with an awl; and he shall serve him for ever.”

“For ever” could also mean a shorter period of time. Jonah afterward said that, while he was in the great fish he was shut up in “the earth with her bars about me for ever” (*Jonah 2:6*).

Jesus said about the wicked, “These shall go away into everlasting punishment” (*Matt 25:46*). He did not say, “punishing,” but “punishment.” The punishment was death, and it would have everlasting results.

16. What is the meaning of “everlasting” fire?

Everlasting or eternal fire—is fire which God uses to destroy everlastingly.

Matthew 25:41—“Then shall He say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from Me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.”

This fire is called “everlasting” (Greek: *aionion*, “age lasting”) because of its lasting effects.

17. Is there, in the Bible, an example of this kind of fire?

The fire which burned Sodom and Gomorrah was everlasting fire.

Jude 7—“Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of *eternal fire*.”

Those cities were burned to ashes about 2000 B.C.

2 Peter 2:6—“And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah *into ashes* condemned them with an overthrow, making them an example unto those that after should live ungodly.”

That is the kind of “everlasting punishment” the wicked receive. The death of those wicked will forever be a memorial to God’s hatred of sin. It is death with eternal results.

Matthew 25:46—“And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.”

This fire is called “unquenchable fire.”

Mark 9:43-44—“And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.”

18. Why is it called unquenchable fire?

This fire is called unquenchable (Greek: *asbestos*) because it cannot be *put* out, and not because it will not *go* out. The word simply means that no power will be able to quench this fire until it has consumed everything in the fire.

19. Is there an example, in the Bible, of unquenchable fire?

Jeremiah 17:27—“But if ye will not hearken unto Me to hallow the Sabbath day, and not to bear a burden, even entering in at the gates of Jerusalem on the Sabbath day; then will I kindle a fire in the gates thereof, and it shall devour the palaces of Jerusalem, *and it shall not be quenched*” (fulfilled in *Jer 52:12-13*; and for this reason: *2 Chron 36:14-21*).

Jerusalem is not burning today. Yet God said it would be destroyed by a fire, “and it shall not be quenched.” It was not quenched, but burned everything up and burned out. So shall the wicked be completely destroyed.

The “worm” is a symbol of complete and final destruction. In the Valley of Hinnom, the worms consumed what the fire did not destroy.

20. What is the “second death”?

Revelation 20:14-15—“And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”

It is quite clear that the wicked are going to be completely destroyed. It is called “death,” the “second death.” It is death, not life. At the first death the wicked went into the grave. The second death marks the final end of the sinner, the end of death, and the end of the grave. At that moment in time, God will be completely finished with sin, sinners, death, and the grave.

21. When will the wicked burn in hellfire?

The wicked are not suffering now. Peter tells us they are “*reserved*” unto the day of judgment, to be punished.

2 Peter 2:9—“The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished.”

This happens at the end of the millennium, after the wicked dead are raised.

Revelation 20:5—“But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished.”

They are not burning now, but are “reserved” till a later time. But when that time comes, the fire will do its work thoroughly and completely; they will be “devoured.”

Revelation 20:9—“Fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.”

The wicked are *reserved* unto the day of destruction (*2 Peter 3:7* with *Job 21:30*), and “they shall be *brought forth* to the day of wrath” (*Job 21:30*).

Jesus Himself said, “The tares are the children of the wicked one”

(*Matt 13:38*). And “as therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world” (*Matt 40*).

There is not a single, solitary sinner burning in hell today. Thank God for that! He is totally fair and just. When the punishment is finally meted out, it will be relatively brief.

And it will be thorough. So complete will be the destruction, that the wicked will be as though they had not been. (More on this later in this study.)

22. Where will hellfire burn?

The Bible is quite clear that it will burn on the surface of the earth.

Proverbs 11:31—“Behold, the righteous shall be recompensed in the earth: much more the wicked and the sinner.”

2 Peter 3:7—“But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.”

The present heavens and earth and sinners await the fire of the last day. The Greek for “perdition” is *apoleia*, “destruction.”

While hellfire is burning, the earth will temporarily become a fiery hell. Yet the repeated promise is that God’s people will inherit the earth.

Psalms 37:11—“The meek shall inherit the earth” (also *Matt 5:5; Isa 11:4*).

God’s children could not inherit the earth, if hellfire were forever burning on it.

Instead, when the fire goes out, God will remake the world more beautiful than before.

Revelation 21:1—“And I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away.”

23. Will this death be so complete that sin and sinners will never again exist?

It will be so complete that, as soon as the fire is ended, there will not be another sinner anywhere. Sin and sinners will be no more—forever. In Matthew 13:41-42, it is called a “furnace of fire.” What can be more destructive than a fiery furnace?

Psalms 37:10—“For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be.”

If the wicked were forever alive in hellfire, they would be continually sinning, hating, cursing. But sin and sinners will be no more. After a relatively short time, the lake of fire will stop burning, and there will be no more fire, because the sinners will all be forever perished.

Obadiah 16—“For as ye have drunk upon My holy mountain, so shall all the heathen drink continually, yea, they shall drink, and they shall swallow down, and *they shall be as though they had not been.*”

Nahum 1:9—“Affliction shall not rise up the second time.”

Proverbs 10:25—“As the whirlwind passeth, so is the wicked no more.”

As soon as the fire is out, God will make a new earth,—and only God’s faithful ones will dwell in it. The wicked will be gone forever.

2 Peter 3:13—“Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.”

24. Why will sin finally be ended?

It is a great mercy of God to finally bring this misery to an end. But when it finally occurs, all will see that God was just and right at each step in the great controversy between Christ and Satan.

God does not want to hurt or slay anyone; but it is His responsibility, as the Creator, to finally eliminate the hateful, rebellious, and wicked. That is why the destruction of the wicked is called “*His strange act.*”

Isaiah 28:21—“For the Lord shall rise up as in mount Perazim, He shall be wroth as in the valley of Gibeon, that He may do His work, His strange work; and bring to pass His act, His strange act.”

Through sin the wicked have forfeited the right to life and an immortal existence with God and the holy angels. Their destruction will be an act of love and mercy on the part of God. To perpetuate their lives would only be to perpetuate sin, sorrow, suffering, and misery.

Even death itself will then be at an end—cast into the lake of fire and destroyed (*Rev 20:14*).

The experience of sin will be over, and God’s original plan of peopling the earth with a race of holy, happy beings will be carried out (*2 Peter 3:13*).

HOW CAN WE AVOID HELLFIRE AND THE SECOND DEATH?

The unquenched flames of hell, *Gehenna*, which do not preserve, but consume whatever they feed on, aptly pictures what other Bible texts describe as the utter destruction of the wicked at the time of the final judgment.

25. How can we escape that final “everlasting destruction” and, instead, have eternal life with Christ?

2 Peter 3:14—“Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of Him in peace, without spot, and blameless.”

It is now that we must prepare for heaven. It is now that we must return to God, repent of our sins, and surrender our lives to Him. It is now that we must resist sin, through the enabling grace of Jesus Christ and, through that grace, obey the Ten Commandments.

No one found written in the Book of Life will be destroyed in the lake of fire (*Rev 21:8, 27; 22:15*).

Revelation 20:15—“And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”

God never intended that any human being suffer in hellfire. Christ tells us it was “prepared for the devil and his angels” (*Matt 25:41*). Christ died that we can have eternal life in and through Him.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT —

Bible Facts about Spiritism and Channeling

There are evil angels who try to destroy our peace and happiness, tempt us to sin, and keep us out of heaven. We must be aware of their devices, and be strong in the Lord to resist them.

How did sin begin? Is there a devil, and what is he like? How can we resist His advances? What is his most dangerous method?

THE TRUTH ABOUT SATAN

1. Who was the first sinner?

1 John 3:8—“He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning.”

Ezekiel 18:4—“The soul that sinneth, it shall die.”

Here we have the name of the original sinner. In Revelation, he is referred to as “the great dragon . . . that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan” (*Rev 12:9*). Isaiah refers to him as “Lucifer, son of the morning” (*Isa 14:12*). The time of his sin is “in the beginning.” This was sometime near the Creation, as recorded in the first chapter of Genesis.

Lucifer was created. The prophet, Ezekiel, presenting Satan under the symbol of the king of Tyrus, represents God as speaking to him of “the day that thou was created” (*Eze 28:13*).

Christ is the Creator; for God “created all things by Jesus Christ” (*Eph 3:9*). “For by Him [Christ] were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by Him, and for Him” (*Col 1:16*).

Thus Christ created the good angel who later made a devil out of himself.

2. Where was Lucifer created?

Luke 10:18—“I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.”

Undoubtedly, Lucifer was created in heaven.

Ezekiel 28:14—“Thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.”

3. What special gifts did Lucifer possess?

Ezekiel 28:12—“Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty.”

Lucifer was the wisest of the angels. In addition, he was “perfect in beauty.”

Apparently, Lucifer was also given an unusually beautiful voice. “The workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created” (*Eze 28:13*). “Tabret” means strings or chords. Apparently, Lucifer’s vocal chords were remark-

able.

4. What position did Lucifer occupy in heaven?

Ezekiel 28:14—“Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so.”

In the earthly tabernacle, the two covering cherubim were by the ark of the covenant, which symbolized the throne of God. Therefore, in heaven, Lucifer once stood by God’s throne.

5. How did sin begin?

Ezekiel 28:15—“Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.”

Sin is without reason or excuse. To excuse it is to defend it. Lucifer chose to sin, and his act will ultimately lead to the destruction of many. God cannot be charged with the origin of sin.

6. How did Satan begin his rebellion in heaven?

Here were the five steps down:

Ezekiel 28:17—“Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty. Thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness.”

Isaiah 14:13-14—“For thou hast said in thine heart . . . I will exalt my throne above the stars of God . . . I will be like the most High.”

Through pride, selfishness, and jealousy, Lucifer corrupted himself into a devil. Lucifer, the light bearer, became Satan, the adversary. He began to question the government and character of God. Satan had to resort to lying to do this. Like many today, he said God’s law could not be obeyed. Because of pride, he became filled with hatred.

John 8:44—“He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own; for he is a liar, and the father of it.”

A third of the angels were fascinated with his talk and united with Satan. Then he and his angels made war in heaven. They were determined to kill and conquer their way to rulership.

Revelation 12:7—“There was war in heaven: Michael and His angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels.”

Revelation 12:9—“The great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”

Proverbs 16:18—“Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.”

2 Peter 2:4—“God spared not the angels that sinned.”

7. What is Satan doing now, on earth, before he and his followers are finally destroyed?

The devil is determined to tempt, harass, and destroy. He wants to take as many souls as possible down to ruin with him.

Revelation 12:13—“And when the dragon [Satan] saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman [the true church].”

Satan especially wants to destroy those who love God and try to obey Him.

Revelation 12:17—“And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.”

8. What is the future of Satan, the fallen angel?

Isaiah 14:12—“How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!”

Satan, who ruined so many, will himself eventually be destroyed.

Ezekiel 28:16—“Thou hast sinned; therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.”

When Satan is finally destroyed, his followers will perish with him.

2 Thessalonians 2:10-12—“Because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: that they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”

9. Who alone is able to destroy the devil?

Hebrews 2:14—“Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He also Himself likewise took part of the same; that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil.”

Jesus Christ, who died to redeem those who would come to Him in repentance and putting away of their sins, will be the one who will destroy Satan.

10. How will Satan and his followers finally be destroyed?

Matthew 25:41—“Then shall He [Christ] say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from Me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.”

At the end of time, Christ will destroy Satan and his followers.

Malachi 4:1—“And the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.”

Satan is the root; his followers are the branches. That hellfire will consume them, and they will be gone forever.

11. How can we resist Satan's devices?

1 Peter 5:8-9—“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour; whom resist steadfast in the faith.”

12. When Satan tried to tempt Him, what was Christ's weapon?

“It is written” (*Matt 4:4-10*). We should study the Bible, obey it, and we will find it a powerful defense against the enemy. In the strength of Christ, we should obey the commands and claim the promises.

THE DEADLY POWER OF SPIRITUALISM

13. What is that great power of evil which we wrestle against?

Ephesians 6:12—“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness [margin: wicked spirits] in high places.”

14. What is Satan himself called?

“The god of this world” (*2 Cor 4:4*). “The prince of this world” (*John 14:30*). “The prince of the power of the air” (*Eph 2:2*).

15. How numerous are Satan's angels?

Mark 5:9—“And He asked him, What is thy name? And he answered, saying, My name is Legion; for we are many.”

A Roman legion, at that time, consisted of about 5,000 men.

16. What agency does Satan especially use to entrap and destroy souls?

Leviticus 19:31—“Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them; I am the Lord your God.”

“*Spiritualism*: A belief that departed spirits hold communion with mortals by means of physical phenomena, as by rapping or, during abnormal mental states, as in trances or the like, commonly manifested through a medium; spiritism” (*Webster's Dictionary*).

“*Spiritism*: The theory that mediumistic phenomena are caused by spirits of the dead” (*Webster*).

17. God warns us to have nothing to do with spiritualists.

Malachi 3:5—“And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers.”

The “channeling” of our own time is essentially the same as modern spiritualism, which is nothing more than ancient necromancy—pretended communication with the dead, but actually contact with, and guidance by, devils.

Jeremiah 27:9-10—“Therefore hearken not ye to . . . your enchanters, nor to your sorcerers . . . for they prophesy a lie unto you, to remove you far from your land.”

Deuteronomy 18:10-13—“There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the Lord; and because of these abominations the Lord thy God doth drive them out from before thee. Thou shalt be perfect with the Lord thy God.”

We are to have nothing to do with that which is an abomination to the Lord.

The devils give a little truth, mixed with a lot of lies, to catch someone's attention, so they can then capture and ruin him.

Galatians 5:20-21—“Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies . . . I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”

18. What is the basic lie upon which spiritualism is based?

God told Adam and Eve that, if they sinned and disobeyed Him, they would surely die.

Genesis 2:17—“Thou shalt surely die.”

But Satan lied. He told Eve that, if she sinned, she would live forever.

Genesis 3:4—“Ye shall not surely die.”

Spiritualism is based on Satan’s lie, that the dead are still alive, conscious, and able to return and speak to us.

19. What is the true state of the dead?

Ecclesiastes 9:5—“For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing.”

Psalms 146:4—“His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish.”

Job 14:20-21—“Thou changest his countenance, and sendest him away. His sons come to honour, and he knoweth it not; and they are brought low, but he perceiveth it not of them.”

Never again do the dead return to earth to take part in our lives.

Ecclesiastes 9:6—“Also their love, and the hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion for ever in any thing that is done under the sun.”

20. When mediums bring us spirits impersonating our departed loved ones, what should we call them?

Revelation 16:14—“For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles.”

21. How can we test the spirits, to know what they really are?

1 John 4:1—“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God.”

We are told to test the spirits, but against what standard are we to test them?

The test we are to apply is the Word of God and His law—the Ten Commandments. If they speak not according to this Word, we are not to hear them. Spirit mediums are licentious, and their spirits speak lies. We are to have nothing to do with them.

Isaiah 8:19-20—“And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? [instead of] for the living to the dead?

“To the law and to the testimony; if they speak not according to this Word, it is because there is no light in them.”

The mediums and psychics will want you to forsake the God of heaven and His holy Bible—and go after other gods. This will be a sign to you.

Deuteronomy 13:1-4—“If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, and the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the Lord your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Ye shall walk after the Lord your God, and fear Him, and keep His commandments, and obey His voice.”

22. What warning is given us that this terrible deception will especially exist in the last days?

1 Timothy 4:1—“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.”

We, who live in the last days, must be especially on guard. It is

imperative that we study God’s Word daily, pray, and plead for His guidance and protection.

23. How will Satan deceive men in these last days?

2 Corinthians 11:14-15—“And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness.”

Satan will work great wonders through his special agents. Yet those men will deny basic Bible truths about the plan of redemption and the importance of obedience to God’s Word.

Matthew 24:23-24—“Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.”

Satan will also, in the sight of men, bring down fire from the skies.

Revelation 13:13-14—“And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, and deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.”

Beware, beware! Satan’s devices captivate those willing to consider them. If any man comes to you with a message, purportedly from God, but which is not in the law or the testimony—flee from him.

2 Thessalonians 2:9-10—“Whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish.”

24. While many will be deceived by these wonders, the faithful will trust in God, obey His Inspired Writings, and look for Christ’s return.

Isaiah 25:9—“And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for Him, and He will save us. This is the Lord; we have waited for Him, we will be glad and rejoice in His salvation.”

Modern spiritualism is disguised under many names: parapsychology, channeling, occult sciences, clairvoyance, spiritism, witchcraft, wizardry, spiritual healing, hypnosis, magnetic healing, Silva mind control, yoga, mind dynamics, biofeedback training, psychic phenomena, etc.

Upon first encountering it, people sense that a superhuman power is present; and, fascinated, they dabble with it—until they are controlled by a will stronger than their own. You do not want anything to do with it! Read this:

A young man had lost both his mother and sister by death, and he was encouraged by a friend to visit a spirit medium. She told him his “departed ones” wanted to communicate with him. Soon he was regularly having visits with apparitions, purporting to be his mother and his sister. This continued on for several years.

Then he left for Australia, where he was converted to Christianity. Accepting the clear warnings of the Bible about Spiritualism, he rejected it outright.

But he could not disentangle himself from the spirits. He asked for the help of a Christian friend, “I cannot get away from those spirits,” he told him. “They wake me up three or four times in the night.”

So, to provide him with prayerful support, his friend moved in with him; and, each night in separate beds they slept in the same room.

Soon the strange beings entered the room, as usual, in the middle of the night. First, they would shake his bed, then they would start talking to him. They were usually semitransparent in appearance. One, he said, looked and sounded exactly like his mother. She would tell him of her affection for him. He would say, "I don't believe you," and turn his face the other way. The voice of his sister would come before him, saying that he was hurting his mother's heart.

Then he would get up, switch on a light, and start reading in the Bible. After a few minutes of silence, the book would be snatched from his hands and thrown across the room, with the words, "You'll read, will you?"

These were not beloved relatives, but devils.

Then he would go outside, take long walks, and discuss the situation with his friend. Eventually, the spirits stopped coming.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, the famous Sherlock Homes mystery writer, and one of the world's leading spiritualists: "The organized Spiritualist does not accept the atonement of Christ or the existence of sin" (*Wanderings of a Spiritualist*, p. 25). He predicted that Spiritualism, when it has taken over the world, "will sweep the world and make it a better place in which to live. When it rules over all the world, it will banish the blood of Christ" (*Cosmopolitan*, January 1918, p. 69)!

A young engineering company salesman boarded a ship at Sydney, Australia. He was to spend two weeks in New Zealand on business. But, on the ship, he met Doyle, who was on a worldwide lecture trip, to stir up interest in spiritism.

The young man told his cabin mate, a preacher, that he was going to talk to Doyle the next day. Although warned that, if he did, he would be caught, the young man laughed and resolutely said he would never become a spiritualist.

But, on his return from the interview the next day, the young man seemed like a changed person. The lies of Doyle and his spirits had won over the young man.

"Doyle told me," he said, "all about several ancestors I know nothing about. He said, because they were powerful mediums, I will be too—if I will join him. And this I am going to do!"

He remained with Arthur Conon Doyle throughout the five-day trip. Arriving in New Zealand, he telegraphed both a resignation to his company and a good-bye to his family.

It is well-known that Kaiser Wilhelm II, Hitler, and Mussolini conducted the two world wars, through the continual guidance of spirit mediums. It was the advice of devils which resulted in the terribly murderous decisions which were made.

God will protect from the devils, if you will yield your life to Him and trust and obey the Bible. But if you go seeking for the devils, you will be caught and captured.

A young Fijian woman living in Winembuka, about sixty miles from Suva, whose grandfather had been a devil priest, decided she would try to contact the power with whom he communed. This was to be just a bit of fun, or so she thought.

Unknown to her parents, she went to the edge of the village and tried to summon the spirits. Soon the villagers realized the woman was regularly doing it. Her parents, which were Christian, tried to dissuade her, but she would not listen to them. She said the being she spoke with appeared in the form of a great green snake. But it spoke as a person would.

But, eventually, the meetings became so gruesome that she realized she would be destroyed if she continued. She was face to face with a terrible power.

One day, she totally turned her back on it—and refused to go out and talk to the snake. A few days later, she fell to the ground, possessed by demons. In desperation, her family sent for their minister. By the time he and two other ministers had arrived, the girl had been laying on the ground for three days without eating or drinking.

When they tried to speak to her, she would scream at them, as though she were a wild animal. The men prayed earnestly. Then they ordered the evil spirits to come out of her.

Immediately, she turned toward them and glared like a cornered animal. Then she dropped to the floor; and, stretching out full length, with staring eyes and frothing mouth, she crawled across the room toward them slithering like a snake. Then she stopped, and went limp.

They bathed her face with water, and she sat up. "Where am I, and why are you here?" she asked. Then they told her what had happened. Turning to her parents, she asked forgiveness for her defiance of their counsel. Then, all together, they thanked God for casting out the evil spirits.

Never, never have anything to do with any form of spiritualism!

We will conclude with this incident: During World War II, a mother received word that her son was missing in action. Although warned by Christian friends not to do so, she went to spirit mediums where, each week, she spoke with her boy. Soon she gave up Christianity and threw away her Bible.

Then one day, her boy came home! He had not died after all! The lying spirits had only appeared to present him to her in the seances.

Few things are more dangerous than trying to making contact with evil spirits, and there are many ways in which this can be done. Cling to Jesus Christ, as your Saviour, and obey His Scriptures. There is no other way you can be safe in this life.

How thankful we can be that Christ is more powerful than the demons!

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